

■ May Day 2017 pull-out - an introduction to May Day plus ten pages of greetings

The real origins of May Day



Engraving of the Haymarket protest meeting and its bloody conclusion after police attacked

Dave Nellist
Socialist Party national committee

May Day has been a public holiday in the UK since 1978. But its real origins lie in the great struggles in America by working people for shorter working hours at the end of the 19th century, and the martyrdom of union leaders executed 130 years ago.

The centre of the movement for an eight-hour working day was Chicago, where some factories imposed an 18-hour day. An eight-hour law had actually been passed by the US congress in 1868. However, over the next 15 years, it was enforced only twice.

But over that same period workers began to take matters into their own hands. For example, in 1872 100,000 workers in New York struck and won

an eight-hour day, mostly for building workers.

In the autumn of 1885, a leading union, the Knights of Labor, announced rallies and demonstrations for the following May - on the slogan of "eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for what we will."

Their radicalism and success in key railroad strikes had led to membership growth. From 28,000 in 1880, the Knights of Labor grew to 100,000 in 1885. In 1886 they mushroomed to nearly 800,000. The capitalists were increasingly frightened at the prospect of widespread strikes.

On 1 May 1886, the first national general strike in American history took place, with 500,000 involved in demonstrations across the country. As a direct consequence, tens of thousands saw their hours of work substantially reduced - in many cases down to an eight-hour day with

no loss in pay.

The employers lost no time in executing their revenge. The New York Sun, as direct as its modern British namesake, advocated "a diet of lead for hungry strikers"!

Two days later, on 3 May, 500 police herded 300 scabs through a picket line at the Chicago factory of farm machinery firm International Harvester. When the pickets resisted, the police opened fire and several workers died.

Haymarket

A protest meeting was organised for the following evening in Haymarket Square. Towards its end, in the pouring rain, with only a couple of hundred workers left, the police arrived to break it up.

The meeting had been orderly, but suddenly a bomb was thrown into the ranks of the police. Seven officers were killed and 66 injured.

The police turned their guns on

the workers, wounding most of the demonstrators, and killing several. It was never established who threw the bomb - an 'anarchist,' or a police 'agent provocateur.' At the subsequent trial of the union leaders the prosecution said it was irrelevant, and the judge agreed.

Police raids rounded up hundreds of union activists throughout the country. Eight union leaders were put on trial. Seven of them had not been at the demonstration and the eighth was the speaker on the platform, so none of them could have thrown the bomb.

Legality was never the aim of that trial; revenge was. The Chicago Tribune of the day gave the game away with the headline: "Hang an organiser from every lamp-post."

The trial began on 21 June.

Instead of choosing a jury by picking names from a box - the normal method - it was rigged by a special bailiff, nominated by the prosecutor.

He ensured the jury was made up of "such men as the prosecutor wants" - a practice echoed by today's jury selection in Ireland's Jobstown protest trial!

On 19 August that jury duly returned a verdict of guilty. Before sentence was formally announced, the defendants were allowed to make statements.

One of the eight, August Spies, a leader of the anarchist International Working People's Association, made a powerful speech: "Your Honour," he began, "in addressing this court I speak as the representative of one class to the representative of another..."

"If you think that by hanging us you can stamp out the labour movement... the movement from which the downtrodden millions, the millions who toil in want and misery expect salvation - if this is your opinion, then hang us!"

"Here you will tread upon a spark, but there and there, behind you - and in front of you, and everywhere, flames blaze up. It is a subterranean fire. You cannot put it out."

On 11 November 1887, four of the union leaders were executed.

International protests followed. Huge meetings were addressed in England and Wales by Eleanor Marx, George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde and William Morris. 200,000 people in Chicago lined the streets for the funerals.

Day of solidarity

From that day on, 1 May has grown to an international day of solidarity among working people.

In 1889, the founding meeting in Paris of what became known as the Second International passed a resolution calling for a "great international demonstration" to take place the following year. The call was a resounding success.

On 1 May 1890, May Day demonstrations took place in the United States and most countries in Europe.

Friedrich Engels joined half a million workers in Hyde Park in London on 3 May, and reported:

"As I write these lines, the working class of Europe and America is holding a review of its forces; it is mobilised for the first time as one army, under one flag, and fighting for one immediate aim: an eight-hour working day."

As workers have emerged from tyranny and repression in whatever country, they have adopted May Day as theirs. Its true history will undoubtedly inspire a new generation of socialists, as it has done so often in the past.

■ Every year on May Day, the Socialist prints messages of solidarity from across the workers' movement. This year, we have a record 99 greetings across ten pages, raising over £5,200 for socialist ideas.



Socialist Party members on the PCS DWP group executive

Send Mayday greetings to the Socialist
Re-elect a fighting socialist Left Unity leadership

So that we can continue to fight to:

- Stop austerity
- Stop attacks on jobs and services
- Stop the DWP office closures
- Build the campaign for the alternative and for a fair, supportive and properly resourced social security system

Fran Heathcote Dave Semple
Dave Burke Sarah Spencer
Janice Godrich Carrie-Anne Watkins
John Mcinally Katrine Williams
Sian Ruddick



The Professional Trades Union for Prison, Correctional & Secure Psychiatric Workers

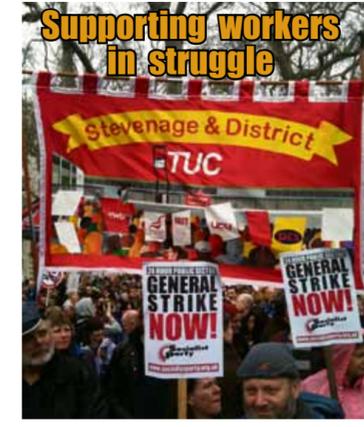
Fraternal May Day Greetings from the POA NEC

Mike Rolfe national chair
Steve Gillan general secretary



Swansea and District NUJ sends May Day greetings.

Standing up for local news and journalists. You can't have local news without local journalists!




Cardiff and Valleys Socialist Party branches send solidarity and greetings to socialists everywhere and to all working people fighting against austerity, racism and oppression.

*Rise, like lions after slumber
In unvanquishable number!*

**Cardiff East, Cardiff West
Caerphilly & Newport branches**

May Day greetings from PCS Left Unity NEC comrades

★ Fighting to defend members and protect vital public services

Janice Godrich, PCS president



Socialist Party members in CWU send May Day greetings to workers around the world

- ★ End the abuse of agency workers
- ★ End offshoring
- ★ For the nationalisation of the postal and telecommunication industries



Socialist Party members on the NSSN steering committee send May Day greetings

- ★ Support the strikes - resist the Tory Trade Union Act

May Day greetings from Socialist Students. Fight fees, fight cuts - for a socialist education system!



May Day Greetings from Swansea Trades Council

In memory of our comrade Bernard Roome, long-time Trades Council secretary, CWU activist and Socialist Party member.

'Firm in principle, flexible in tactics'




Socialist Party members in the RMT send greetings to transport workers around the world



Annual May Day march & rally

UNITE TO FIGHT AUSTERITY & DIVISION!

REAL JOBS FOR REAL WAGES

SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2017

Assemble 12.00 Noon
Queen Street/Churchill Way
March to Temple of Peace
Cardiff

Speakers include:
Janice Godrich (President, PCS)
Owen Herbert (RMT South Wales and South West Regional Secretary)
Eric Ngalle Charles (Black Lives Matter)
Cerith Griffiths (RMT Wales secretary)
Dave Bartlett (Secretary, Cardiff Trades Union Council)
Chair: Katrine Williams (President, Cardiff Trades Union Council)

Solidarity with the garment workers of Bangladesh and the green-activists in their fight to save the Sunderbans and environment from government sponsored corporations. Deep condolence to the family of Taslima Aktar who died at her sewing machine of cardiac failure following "severe respiratory distress" in December 2016.

The Phulbari Solidarity Group



Socialist Party members in Equity May Day greetings to artists and culture workers around the world

- ★ End unpaid and low-paid work - for a living wage in the arts
- ★ Fight for socialism!

Lee Armstrong
Neil Gore
Charlie Hendren
James Ivens
Aiden James
Lily Levin
Julian Moore-Cook



IPSWICH DISTRICT TUC

SUNDAY 30TH APRIL ALEXANDRA PARK
ADMISSION FREE

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
John McDonnell Shadow Chancellor
Megan Dobney SERTUC Regional Secretary
Hugo Pierre Black Lives Matter UK
Paula Peters DPAC (Disabled People Against the Cuts)
Plus speakers from Unison & Unite

THREE STAGES OF LIVE MUSIC
STALLS • FOOD • RIDES

LOVE MUSIC • LOVE MAY DAY • HATE RACISM

@ipswichmayday



Swansea Socialist Party - supporting TUSC no-cuts candidates in this May's council elections

- Fight all the cuts!



MAY DAY GREETINGS!

May Day greetings from Socialist Party members on UNISON's national executive council, health service group executive, and local government service group executive: (all in a personal capacity)

April Ashley, Vicki Perrin, Jacqui Berry, Hugo Pierre, Dave Auger, Gary Freeman, Angie Waller, John Malcolm, Helen Couchman, Adrian O'Malley, Steve Bell, Jane Armitage

- Fight the jobs and services slaughter nationally. Branches must not be left to fight cuts alone
- Labour councils should set legal no-cuts budgets
- Co-ordinated action to fight 1% pay cap
- Oppose the Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs)
- Renationalise the NHS
- Defend attacks on migrant workers - stop divide and rule and the 'race to the bottom'
- Fight for £10 an hour minimum wage
- Support mass council house building
- Elect a government for the millions not the millionaires




May Day greetings to all workers from Tamil Solidarity

- ★ Unite together against terror, racism and divisive propaganda
- ★ International solidarity



Solidarity greetings from Youth Fight for Jobs. £10 hr now! Scrap zero-hour contracts!



- Socialist greetings to the labour and trade union movement around the world
- We pledge to continue to provide an efficient service of all publications in print

See our website or send for printed lists

leftbooks.co.uk
PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD
Phone 020 8988 8789
Fax 020 8988 8787

the Activist



Solidarity from Usdaw Activist - Socialist Party members in Usdaw

- Building a Broad Left challenge in Usdaw to 'partnership' policies
- For shop workers' rights not retailers' profits



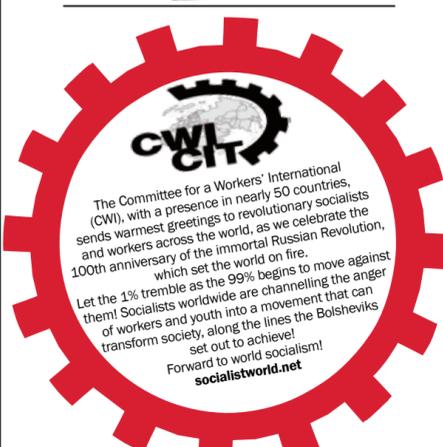
- ★ Workers of the world unite!
- ★ Solidarity with the oppressed - No to war and racism!



Socialist Party branches in St Austell, Plymouth, Exeter and Torbay & Devon

"The East is Red"

Greetings from the Eastern region of the Socialist Party



The Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), with a presence in nearly 50 countries, sends warmest greetings to revolutionary socialists and workers across the world, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the immortal Russian Revolution, which set the world on fire.

Let the 1% tremble as the 99% begins to move against them! Socialists worldwide are channelling the anger of workers and youth into a movement that can transform society, along the lines the Bolsheviks set out to achieve!

Forward to world socialism!
socialistworld.net



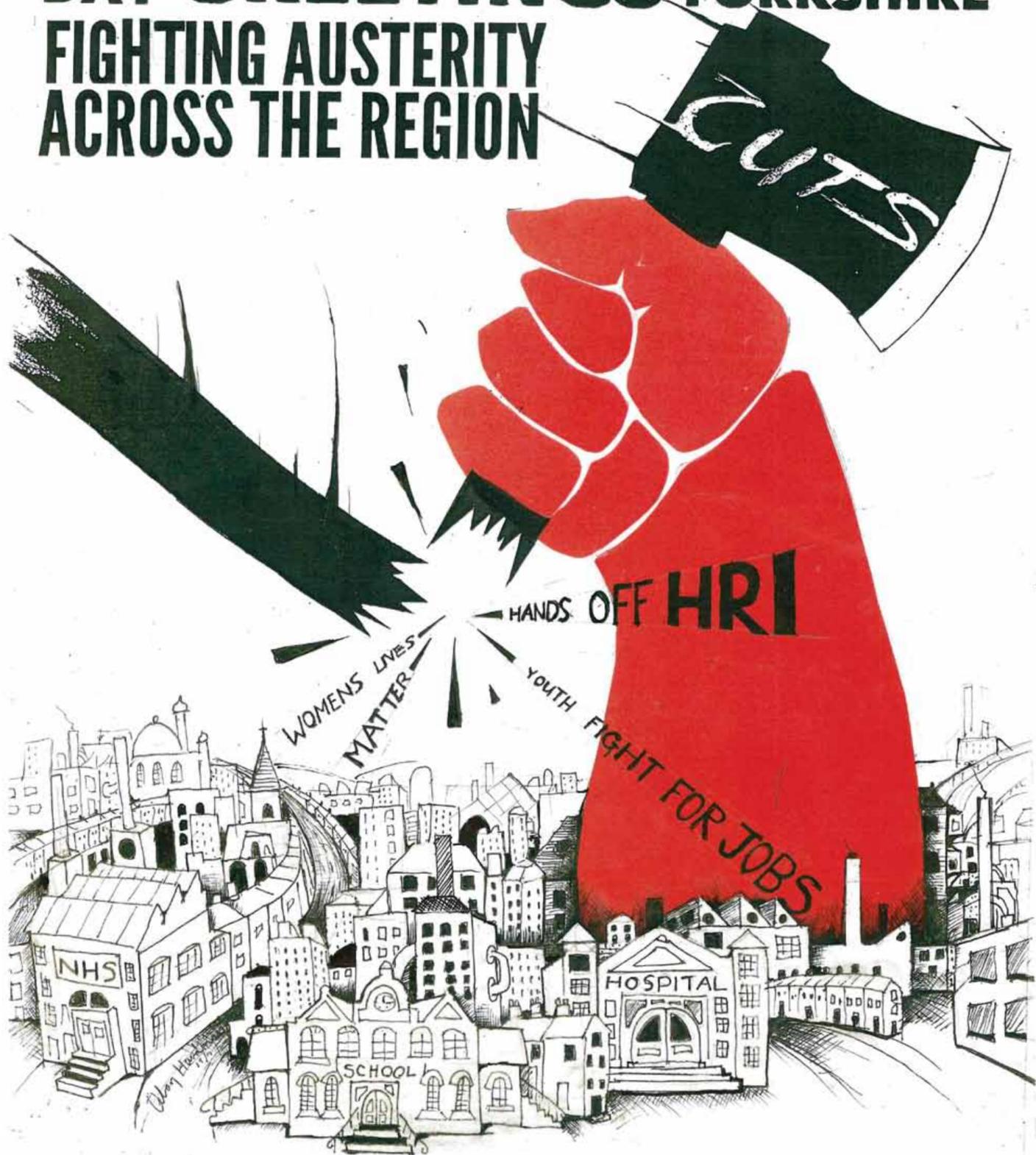
- ◆ Defend migrants' rights
- ◆ No to racist attacks
- ◆ Unite to fight the bosses



Solidarity greetings to the Socialist on May Day from the Socialist Party disabled people and carers' group

MAY DAY GREETINGS FROM YORKSHIRE

FIGHTING AUSTERITY ACROSS THE REGION




Southern

- Solidarity with all those internationally fighting capitalist austerity, racism and war
- Celebrate the Bolshevik victory of 1917 and build a mass party for worldwide socialism!
- From Socialist Party members and supporters in Aylesbury, Basingstoke, Bracknell, Isle of Wight, Oxford, Reading, Portsmouth, Southampton and Staines

LEEDS TUC MAY DAY MARCH AND RALLY

MAY DAY PAY DAY

PAY RISE - £10 PER HOUR NOW AND LIVING WAGE FOR ALL!

SPEAKERS INCLUDING:
TOSH McDONALD ASLEP, PRESIDENT
RICHARD BURTON MP, LEEDS EAST (INVITED)

ASSEMBLE 11:30AM, MARCH 12 NOON
SATURDAY 29TH APRIL, OUTSIDE ART GALLERY
VICTORIA GARDENS, THE HEADROW, LEEDS, LS1 3AA

www.leadstuc.wordpress.com f Leeds TUC t @LeedsTUC



NUT

- May Day greetings from Hull NUT
- Teachers of the world unite
- You have nothing to lose but your workload

GMB

GMB@WORK

Fraternal greetings and solidarity with the Jobstown defendants - GMB Beverley branch



Unite the Union from Hull GE025

- Direct employment for all construction workers
- No to bogus self-employment
- Defend and expand 'NAECI' our national agreement

May Day greetings from Hull TUC

- Victory to the Jobstown protesters
- Victory to workers in struggle everywhere



Leeds University and Beckett Socialist Students

NO TO SKY-HIGH FEES!
FIGHT FOR HELP EDUCATION
socialist students

■ May Day greetings from Southampton City Councillor Keith Morrell

■ Defend local authority services and jobs!



Bracknell Unite members send May Day Greetings to socialists everywhere!



Friends of Leeds Labour

- Greetings to the Socialist
- For a democratic, anti-austerity Labour Party

From the Edmund Street day centre campaign in Bradford, solidarity to comrades in other campaigns who are still fighting like ourselves for better and decent conditions for the homeless people of this city

- South Yorkshire Freedom Riders
- Fighting for free local train travel for everyone over 60

YOUTH FIGHT FOR JOBS

May Day greetings from Yorkshire Youth Fight for Jobs

- Scrap zero-hour contracts
- For a £10 an hour minimum wage
- Unionise the unorganised



Greetings from Calderdale Trade Union Council

the Socialist May Day greetings 2017

the Socialist May Day greetings 2017



Camden RMT no 3
 ■ Workers of the world unite
 ■ NO TO DOO



Usdaw
 Union of Shop, Distribution and Allied Workers

Solidarity from supporters in Usdaw east London retail branch
 Secretary: Richard Groves
 Chair: Scott Jones



NUJ
 NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS

May Day greetings from NUJ London magazine branch
 nujlmb.org.uk

MAY DAY GREETINGS TO WORKERS OF THE WORLD FROM HACKNEY COUNCIL WORKERS AND HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL MEMBERS

■ VICTORY TO THE PICTURE HOUSE WORKERS AND ALL WORKERS IN STRUGGLE

Peter Coleman - Unison private sector ■ Martin Cootes - Unison admin Hackney local government branch ■ Sandra Hall - NUT secretary ■ Clementina Arya - Unison libraries ■ Margaret Sinn - Unison libraries ■ Steve Edwards - Unite convenor ■ Norman Sagers - adults and childrens convenor ■ Karen Lynn - joint branch secretary, Unison ■ Andy Clifford - steward, parks Unison ■ Dionne Thompson - education convenor Unison ■ Marvin Hay - steward Unison ■ Meriyam Abdul - Unison ■ Sharmila Thyagarajan - Unison ■ Osei Mensah - libraries ■ Brian Debus - branch chair, Unison ■ Lee Ray - joint branch secretary Unison ■ Jean Howard - Unison service centre ■ Ger Mason - Unison ■ Doug Holton - Equity, Hackney trades council ■ Mick Gosling treasurer, Hackney Trades Council



This advert sponsored by all of the above in a personal capacity

unite the UNION

GPM&IT London print branch

■ May Day greetings to all celebrating the centenary year of the greatest event in international workers' history, the 1917 October Russian Revolution

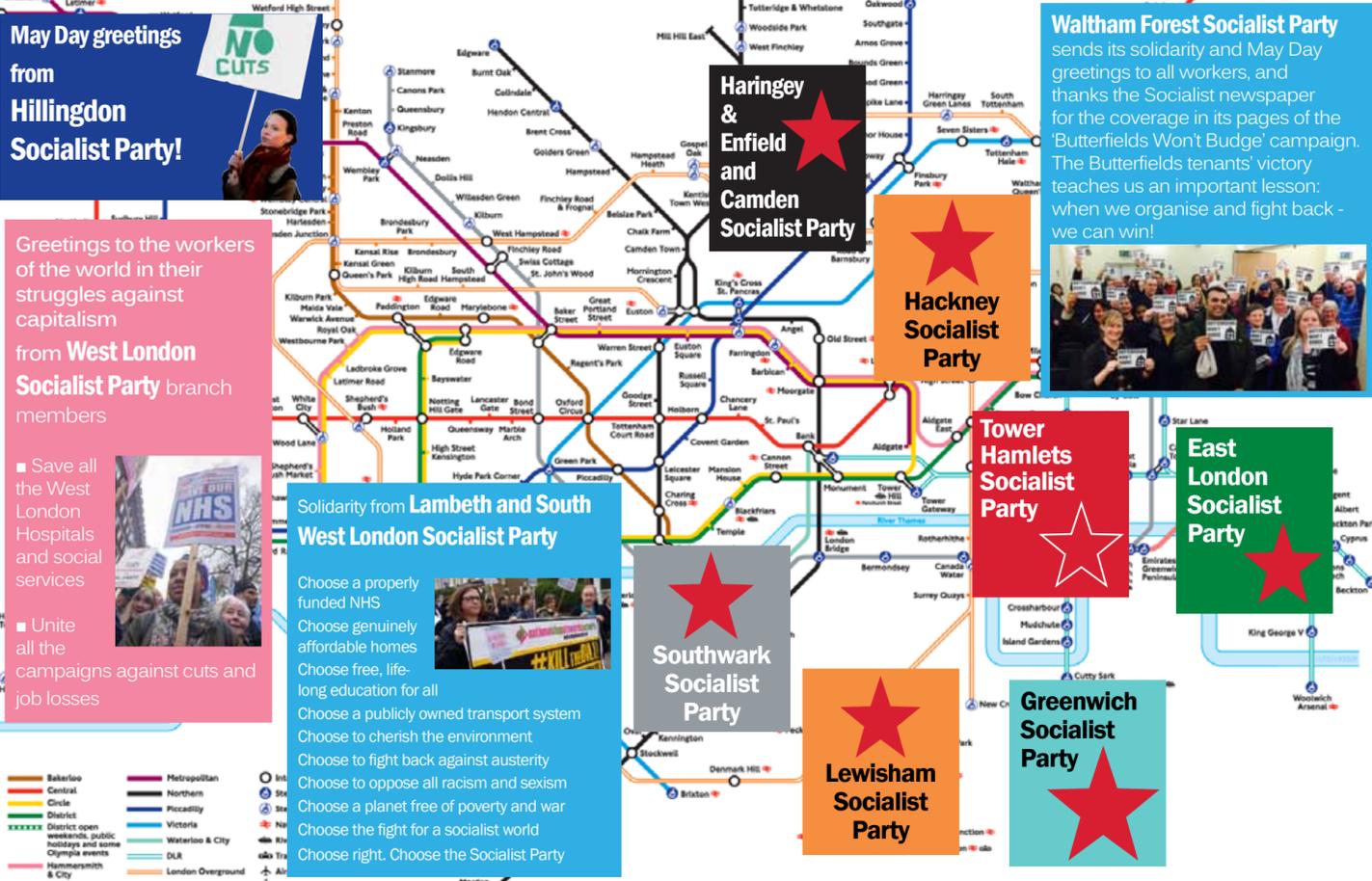
■ Campaigning to keep Unite a fighting left union and a Sun free zone

■ Unity, solidarity, internationalism

Chair: Mick Cotter Secretary: Tommy Murphy



Comradely greetings from all reps and activists at **Greenwich Unite branch 1/2050**, fighting for jobs and services in Greenwich and in solidarity with all of our brothers and sisters in struggle everywhere

May Day greetings from Hillingdon Socialist Party!

Greetings to the workers of the world in their struggles against capitalism from **West London Socialist Party** branch members

■ Save all the West London Hospitals and social services

■ Unite all the campaigns against cuts and job losses

Solidarity from **Lambeth and South West London Socialist Party**

Choose a properly funded NHS
 Choose genuinely affordable homes
 Choose free, life-long education for all
 Choose a publicly owned transport system
 Choose to cherish the environment
 Choose to fight back against austerity
 Choose to oppose all racism and sexism
 Choose a planet free of poverty and war
 Choose the fight for a socialist world
 Choose right. Choose the Socialist Party

Haringey & Enfield and Camden Socialist Party

Hackney Socialist Party

Tower Hamlets Socialist Party

East London Socialist Party

Southwark Socialist Party

Lewisham Socialist Party

Greenwich Socialist Party

Waltham Forest Socialist Party sends its solidarity and May Day greetings to all workers, and thanks the Socialist newspaper for the coverage in its pages of the 'Butterfields Won't Budge' campaign. The Butterfields tenants' victory teaches us an important lesson: when we organise and fight back - we can win!



Join the movement!
MARCH FOR HOMES 2
 24 June 2017

Pay Up!

Campaigning for decent pay and a **£10 an hour National Minimum Wage**.

Pay Up!

Pay Up!

Demanding **rent control, mass building of council housing** whilst challenging against social cleansing and the Housing Act.



unite the UNION Housing Workers
 JOBS AND HOMES FOR ALL

Remembering the general strike in the US for an 8-hour day in 1886 as we challenge excessive workloads today, while housing associations' surpluses soar to £3 billion.

Affiliated to **Tamil Solidarity, Campaign Kazakhstan, and Solidarity with People of Turkey**. Inspired by the US \$15ph campaign and standing with 'Jobstown Not Guilty'.

www.housingworkers.org




Solidarity from Socialist Students at Wanstead Sixth Form and City & Islington college

May Day greetings from Goldsmiths Socialist Students

Greetings from Socialist Students at Kings College London



Solidarity from **AFC Militant (Socialist Party XI)**. Kick the fat cats out of football! Reclaim the game!

Want to get involved, or if you are in a team that wants to take us on, email paulcallanan@socialistparty.org.uk

Cu violas babilii kun homoj tra la tuta mondo pri socialismo? Lemu Esperanto!
 Do you want to chat with people all over the world about socialism? Learn Esperanto!

> You can find out more at lemu.net and esperanto.org.uk
 Peter Redfarm




Waltham Forest Trades Council sends May Day greetings to workers fighting back everywhere

We say:

- Decent homes for all!
- Defend the NHS!
- Stop the attacks on the unemployed!
- Don't let the racists divide us!

In 1917 Russian workers and peasants overthrew the capitalists and landlords.
Workers of the world can do it again!

Waltham Forest Trades Council



"When the management don't come into work nobody notices and we just carry on. When workers don't come into work everybody notices because nothing gets done" - a Whipps Cross porter

- Get the greedy privateers off our backs
- Renationalise all privatised public services
- For a fully funded, democratically accountable Socialist NHS

May Day greetings from **Whipps Cross hospital Socialist Party** members and supporters



Solidarity greetings to workers worldwide from North West Socialist Party



Salford Against The Cuts
 Fighting ALL Cuts
 Labour: we need anti-austerity actions as well as words!

■ May Day greetings from **Liverpool 47 group of socialist councillors 1983-87**

Who still stand as a magnificent example to those Labour councils who carry out every cut demanded by the Tories. We refused to cut and fought back successfully for resources which Thatcher had stolen from Liverpool. We call on Jeremy Corbyn to empower the membership to deselect right-wing MPs and call on Labour councillors to vote against cuts.

Our record includes:
 ■ 5,000 new houses built
 ■ 6 new sports centres
 ■ 2,000 new jobs and existing jobs saved
 ■ £60 million won back from the Tories

We say NO to the capitalist EU and YES to solidarity of the European working class
 Onward to a new mass party of the working class

Solidarity greetings from Salford TUSC
 Fighting Cuts and Supporting Workers in Struggle

UNISON
 the public service union

Socialist Party supporters in Salford City Unison

Send May Day greetings to trade unionists everywhere
 Campaigning for legal no-cuts budgets

Merseyside Pensioners' Association

Greetings to all those fighting austerity from Merseyside Pensioners' Association

■ **Pendleton Students Collective, Salford**

Sends May Day greetings to students and workers everywhere

Happy May Day from Unison members who read the Socialist in Coventry - fight for socialism!



Coventry CWU branch sends May Day greetings to readers of the Socialist

No to Austerity
 For the Re-Nationalisation of Royal mail & the telecommunications industry under democratic workers control and management.
 For socialist change and a socialist world!

Socialist Party

Socialist greetings from the Socialist Party's South East region - Brighton, Medway, Canterbury, Folkestone and Dover

Greetings to all readers of the Socialist from Medway Trade Union Council

- No to austerity
- No to racism
- Defend the NHS

COVENTRY TRADES UNION COUNCIL
 "UNITY IS STRENGTH"

■ **Coventry TUC sends May Day solidarity for 2017**

Join us for our rally: 'Shout out against austerity'
 11 am Saturday 29 April at Broadgate, Coventry City Centre with John McNally vice-president PCS, plus local speakers.

"Workers of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains"

May Day greetings from Unite branch NW/127404 Merseyside Civil Engineering

- Fighting for better terms and conditions in the construction sector
- Against bogus self employment, umbrella companies and blacklisting

■ **Brighton Unemployed Workers Centre Ltd**

Brings May Day greetings to all those fighting poverty, racism, imperialism and oppression. Oppose all benefit cuts and attacks on the employed and unemployed. We say:

- Oppose all attacks on claimants, disabled people and the low-paid
- No to privatisation and PFI
- No to imperialism's wars
- Fighting poverty amidst plenty
- For international socialism

Bill North - chairperson
 Andy Richards - secretary
 Tony Greenstein - treasurer
 4 Crestway Parade, The Crestway, Brighton BN1 7BL, 01273 540 717

Socialist Party

May Day greetings from the West Midlands region of the Socialist Party

RMT

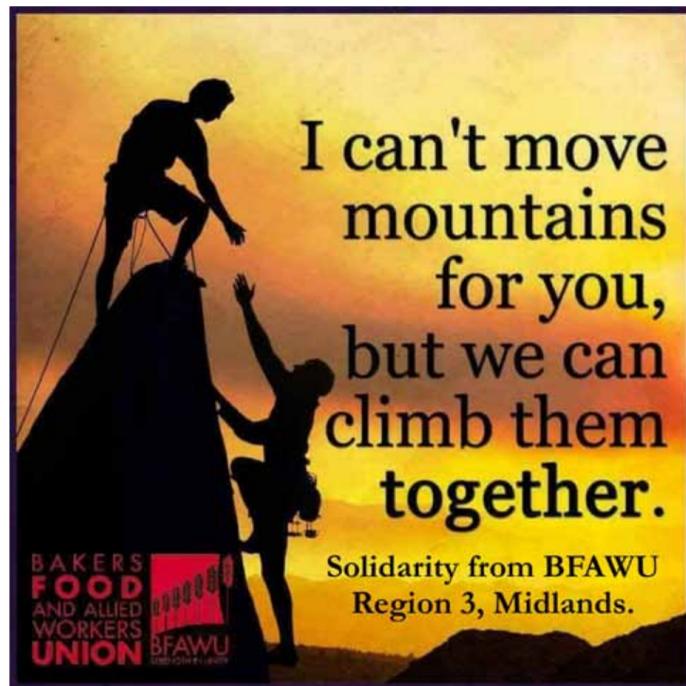
RMT Birmingham rail branch sends greetings to all workers fighting to protect and improve their jobs, pay and conditions. Full support to the guards and drivers who are fighting to keep the guard on the train. Solidarity!

THE CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB
 1888

PRESTON EMERALD CELTIC SUPPORTERS CLUB
 Preston Emerald Celtic Supporters send solidarity greetings to all trade unionists and socialists

BOLTON TRADES COUNCIL
 1866-2016

Bolton Trades Council sends May Day greetings to trade unionists everywhere. Fight austerity! Save the NHS!



pcs Solidarity with our brothers and sisters in struggle from Socialist Party PCS members in Leicestershire



Solidarity greetings from LEYH Unite lift and escalator branch

Plymouth and District Trade Union Council invites you to celebrate May Day with the trade union and labour movement at Devonport Guildhall, 12 noon until 11pm

Visit plymouthinunison.org.uk/event/plymouth-tuc-international-workers-day-festival for details

Speaker: Matt Wrack, general secretary, FBU

Paid for by Plymouth in Unison in memory of Simon Gomery

100 years since the Bolshevik revolution

Long live Lenin and Trotsky and the Bolsheviks as we approach the dawn of democratic socialism

Bill and Marilyn Buchanan

★ Leicester
★ Nottingham

socialist students



In the centenary year of the great Russian revolution we send May Day greetings to all sections of the CWI and to the workers of the world

We echo Lenin's words upon his arrival in Petrograd in April 1917: "There is one, and only one, kind of internationalism in deed; working wholeheartedly for the development of the revolutionary movement and the revolutionary struggle in one's own country and supporting (by propaganda, sympathy and material aid) such, and only such, a struggle and such a line in every country without exception."

We remain guided by Trotsky's approach that: "It is not enough for a revolutionist to have correct ideas. Correct ideas have already been set down in Capital and the Communist Manifesto. But that has not prevented false ideas from being broadcast. It is the task of the party to weld together the correct ideas with the mass labour movement. Only in this manner can an idea become a driving force." (June 1934)

Fighting for workers' rights and organising for socialism in Bristol, Gloucester, Stroud, Cheltenham, Lydney, Taunton, Swindon, Warminster, Exeter, Exmouth, Sidmouth, Torquay, Paignton, Brixham, Teignmouth, Plymouth, St. Austell, Truro, Penzance, Poole, Bournemouth and Weymouth.

MAY DAY - GREETINGS

CWI-CIT

TUSC

Celebrating the Anniversary of the great Russian Revolution

NORTHERN REGION

To all Socialists, CWI members and Workers around the world.

Socialist Party Bristol South - May Day greetings

TUSC AGAINST CUTS

Derby TUSC supporters