

Newsletter

of the *Alliance for Green Socialism* – July 2011
www.greensocialist.org.uk



LEEDS AGS: GARDEN PARTY SATURDAY 16th JULY 2011

2pm to 5pm

in Bron & Iain's wonderful garden at
41A The Drive, Roundhay, LS8 1JQ
only £5 / £3 (kids free)

including excellent two-course meal, plants, raffle,
books, clothes, bric-a-brac, games, information
drinks of all kinds including Ossett Brewery real ale
convivial company

SUNSHINE GUARANTEED

The most enjoyable afternoon of the year

NORTH LONDON AGS

SUNDAY 10th July 2011

2pm

Lucas Arms, Grays Inn Road, WC1X 8QZ
(five minutes from Kings Cross station)

The Truth about Nuclear Energy

speaker:

Dr Ian Fairlie

EPPING FOREST GREEN & DEMOCRATIC LEFT: FUND-RAISING SOCIAL

SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2011

8pm till late

Cottage Loaf pub

with a brilliant line-up of talent

guest of honour:

Bob Archer

30th June strikes & protests

A significant group of public sector trade unions held a coordinated strike on Thursday 30th June.

Hundreds of thousands of members of the civil service PCS, the teachers' NUT and ATL, and the lecturers' UCU went on strike to oppose a massive government attack on their pension rights.

There were well-attended protest rallies in support of the unions on this issue and against the whole range of cuts and privatisations proposed by the coalition. The AGS participated in support.

The Labour Party's shameful contribution was to condemn these trade unionists for going on strike. When will the unions stop funding a party that betrays them at every turn?

Other unions threaten action later in the year. Those out on strike on 30th say they will strike again if the government makes no meaningful concessions.

It remains unclear whether these actions will amount to a coordinated and effective resistance to the cuts, or just a series of defensive actions on specific issues such as pensions.

COULD YOU HELP?

The AGS hopes to have a presence at a number of events over the late summer and autumn - either a stall or leafletting.

Tolpuddle Dorset 15-17 Jul

Labour Conf. Liverpool 25-29 Sep

If you might be able to help, please get in touch with Juliet Boddington (details overleaf).

Alliance for Green Socialism,
Freepost NEA 5794, Leeds LS7 3YY
www.greensocialist.org.uk

Secretary: Celia Foote

celiafoote195@btinternet.com 0113 262 4667

Newsletter editor: Mike Davies

info@greensocialist.org.uk 07811 384888

"Green Socialist" Editor: Bryn Glover

editor@greensocialist.org.uk 01756 730205

GREEK BAILOUT: WHO IS BEING BAILED OUT?

The European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund have “bailed out” Greece once again, despite the country’s failure to meet the original bailout conditions. Why?

The bailout is presented as help for the Greek people, government and economy. Yet everyone who can count knows that Greece cannot possibly pay back the loans. The “austerity measures” being forced on the country merely guarantee its future default. How can a nation being pushed deeper and deeper into recession possibly pay off debts that will soon approach twice its GDP?

The reason for the bailout is to transfer the liability for Greece’s debts from private to public hands. Every billion lent by the IMF & ECB goes to paying off debts owed to private banks and corporations, while transferring the bad debts to public bodies. The taxpayer pays off the banks and assumes the debts. When Greece eventually defaults, it will be Greek, European and international taxpayers who take much of the hit, instead of the banks and funds that made the original loans.

The reason for the associated “austerity” is the same in Greece as in Britain. It cuts wages, cuts benefits, and cuts jobs, weakening the working class. The privatisations transfer wealth & power from the people to private hands.

Despite the cleverness of the finance capitalists in shuffling off debt from themselves to the taxpayer, it is not clear that their smoke and mirrors act will save the financial system from collapse when Greece (and others such as Portugal, and Ireland, and Spain, and ...) default.

Meanwhile our financial wizards have created an artificial commodities bubble that rivals the housing bubble whose collapse generated the 2008 crisis. They are naturally concerned to extract maximum profit from the deeply rotten financial system before it falls about our ears.

Meetings of the national committee are normally open to any member to observe. Meetings are on Saturdays, most often at the Calthorpe Arms on Grays Inn Road, Kings Cross, London.

13 Aug 2011 Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Rd, London	13:15
15 Oct 2011 Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Rd, London	12:00
10 Dec 2011 Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Rd, London	13:15
25 Feb 2012 Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Rd, London	12:00

AGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sat 14 Apr 2012 London

12 May 2012 Calthorpe Arms, Grays Inn Rd, London	13:15
--	-------

AGS STALLS

The AGS runs stalls at national events and national demonstrations; at local events; and on the street, particularly during elections.

These stalls carry AGS literature, including leaflets, books and both current and back issues of Green Socialist. Sometimes they also have things for sale, such as plants, intended mainly to draw people in to the stall.

The stalls also provide a visible AGS presence, typically with posters, bunting, & balloons.

STORY-BOARDING: 19 JULY

You don’t have to be unusually clever to understand the broad outline of “what is going on” in capitalist politics and economics. Yet most people do not understand and often do not care. It’s hard to get through to them

The Leeds AGS members’ meeting on 19 July will start work on “story-boarding” such communication. The intention is to build the foundations for, perhaps, a range of communication tools to try to win people away from acceptance of capitalism as “inevitable” and to a socialist and environmental alternative.

Contributions in advance welcomed. Visitors welcomed.

7.30pm Tue 19 July, Leeds TUC, 88 North St, LS2 7PN

2011 National Committee members

Chair	Mike Davies	m.davies@greensocialist.org.uk	07811 384888
Secretary	Celia Foote	celiafoote195@btinternet.com	0113 262 4667
Treasurer	Malcolm Christie	m_s_christie@yahoo.com	0113 293 1948
Membership	Juliet Boddington	juliet.boddington@btinternet.com	01947 605992
GS Editor	Bryn Glover	brynelaine@theglovers.orangehome.co.uk	01756 730205
Press	<i>vacant</i>		
directly elected	Bob Archer	bobarcher46@btinternet.com	020 8522 1156
directly elected	Ronald Corbin	ronald.corbin@talktalk.net	01200 426391
directly elected	Steve Radford	steve@offbeat.karoo.co.uk	01482 447240
coopted	Mike Butler	miketowyn@btinternet.com	01745 344093
Chichester	Simon Boxley	tinderbox@gn.apc.org	01730 821464
Epping Forest GDL	Pete Relph		020 8508 1817
Leeds	<i>vacant</i>		
North London	Eddie Adams	samstjohn2003@yahoo.co.uk	020 8964 9531
Rugby RGA	Liz Peck	lilibet.peck@ntlworld.com	01788 335534
Sheffield	Brian Turley	briturl@googlemail.com	0114 250 7315
Socialist Alliance	Toby Abse	t.abse@gold.ac.uk	020 7373 7881