

JACKDAW

Revolutionary class struggle news



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FREE

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SYSTEM CHANGE NOT CLIMATE CHANGE!



INSIDE

*Against
Immigration Camps*

Another Spiv in No.10

The Brexit Party

Is Labour the Solution?

*No War But
The Class War*

Atos

Essex Libraries

Workplace Notes

And more...



VOICE OF THE ANARCHIST COMMUNIST GROUP

Jackdaw issue 6

Jackdaw is the bulletin of the Anarchist Communist Group, which we aim to publish quarterly. Copies can be found in various radical bookshops and social centres or are handed out at meetings, demos or street distributions. If you missed issues 1-5, you can download these from our website www.anarchistcommunism.org as pdf documents.

Yet Another Spiv in No. 10

Boris Johnson, unsurprisingly, was elected the new leader of the Conservative Party and is now the Prime Minister. He is yet another who has become Prime Minister without a general election. He was elected by 92,153 Conservative members, which represents 0.13 per cent of the population. Following the recent by-election, where the Tories lost their seat to the LibDems, he now heads a government that has a working majority of one.

Not only that, he heads a Conservative Party with a shrinking membership, one that is drastically divided by both positions over the EU and personal enmities, with the possibility of pro-Remain Tory MPs jumping ship to join the LibDems or to help construct a new centrist party. All of this means that Johnson's leadership is very shaky. He has the task of somehow delivering Brexit by October 31st.

Not only does this divided Tory Party mean that he has little room to manoeuvre, but he also faces the opposition of the manufacturing wing of British big business, totally opposed to a no-deal Brexit which would affect their profits and their markets.

Old Etonian

This old Etonian is also widely hated by many for his lying, racism, misogyny and homophobia and his attacks on the working class. When he was Mayor of London, 600 firefighters were sacked and 10 fire stations closed down, contributing to the fatalities in the Grenfell fire.

In addition to this, Johnson faces the escalating situation in the Gulf. He is seen as an ally of Trump and has the support of **Trump's far right minion, Steve Bannon**. It is unclear what his position will be over attitudes towards Iran but it is quite likely that he will get behind any moves by the Trump administration to carry out military measures against the Teheran regime.

Johnson has stated that he is prepared to do a trade deal with the US, and that this could take place even before Brexit. This would mean increasing privatisation and marketisation, with what's left of the NHS being de-



stroyed and replaced by a so-called health care system similar to the American model. Johnson has campaigned using right populist slogans and this is likely to continue under his leadership.

No illusions in the Labour Party

Against all of this, what should be done? The Labour Party will, indeed is, looking towards calling a vote of no confidence, followed by a general election, in this way continuing to divert grass roots struggle. Indeed, its chief strategist John McDonnell is increasingly looking towards street mobilisations and extra-parliamentary activity to bring a Labour Party to power. We should be under no illusions that a possible Labour government will bring any real social change. Corbyn has capitulated already over Trident, NATO, etc. He will face increasing pressure if elected.

We need to look towards the task of creating an independent working class mass movement. Obviously, this is a very difficult task, but it must be done.

Once again, we repeat our call to all serious class struggle anarchists and libertarian communists to join with the Anarchist Communist Group in helping this come about.

"THIS OLD ETONIAN IS ALSO WIDELY HATED BY MANY FOR HIS LYING, RACISM, MISOGYNY AND HOMOPHOBIA AND HIS ATTACKS ON THE WORKING CLASS."



System Change NOT Climate Change!

WE ARE MUCH enthused by the rising wave of actions against climate change. This has involved large numbers of people, including those never before involved in any sort of political actions, and especially among young people. It is a developing movement not just in Britain but around the world.

Capitalism is the root cause of climate change and environmental destruction. This is a result of capitalism's need to increase profit, which means, for example, the destruction of rain forests and the unrestrained fossil fuel economy. So while the Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, claims that "capitalism is part of the solution" when interviewed on *Channel 4 News*, he is clearly talking out of his posterior.

Indeed, many false solutions have been advanced to get us out of this mess, like carbon trading, carbon capture, national carbon budgets and the idea that somehow governments and the market will act to control pollution and environmental damage. We've also had the idea of a Green New Deal, which would supposedly limit greenhouse gases. But ultimately, capitalism is founded on the drive for

profit, for the unlimited need to produce and so to accumulate profit. It is blind to the dangers of global warming, instead fixating on the search for more and more profit. Capitalism cannot reform itself as some think. It is a juggernaut advancing to the extinction of life on this planet.

Unfortunately, the idea that the market will see sense and come to the planet's rescue still has a grip on many in the environmental movements. For example Extinction Rebellion has asked governments to "tell the truth" on environmental devastation. Good luck with that. This is a very tall order, and not one that looks like getting fulfilled anytime soon. We also have demands put forward by Earth Strike who say "Until the world's governments and businesses are held accountable to the people, we are refusing to participate in the system that fills their pockets". All of this implies that somehow the State and capitalism can change, can be reformed.

We know from our own experiences, from talking to the grassroots supporters of both Earth Strike and Extinction Rebellion, that there is a growing realisation that climate change can only be halted by the removal of capitalism. This is not reflected in the leaderships of these movements, which continue to push these demands that we see as unrealistic.

It is the working class and the poor who are at the sharp end of climate change. The destruction of capitalism is seen as utopian. But it is



precisely this that is needed to end climate change. Any belief that capitalism can be transformed into something green and ethical, that the system can of its own will transform itself into something accountable and involving mass participation is the real utopianism.

General Strike for Climate

MENTIONED ABOVE, this has been called for 20th September. The idea is that major economic disruption and a major display of working class solidarity in the face of climate change will scare the State into making concessions for the environment.

The Earth Strike group originally pushed the idea of a strike, although since then, the idea has spread with the UK Student Climate Network and Extinction Rebellion planning actions on the same date. More info from: earth-strike.com and globalclimatestrike.net

"CAPITALISM CANNOT REFORM ITSELF AS SOME THINK. IT IS A JUGGERNAUT ADVANCING TO THE EXTINCTION OF LIFE ON THIS PLANET."



We Repeat: No War But The Class War

RECENTLY PRESIDENT TRUMP has said that he was capable of wiping out 10 million people in Afghanistan in a week as a solution to destroying the Taliban but said that he would not use this option. Nevertheless this is still a threat ready to be actioned if necessary.

This is not the first time Trump has made such threats. In 2017 he threatened “fire and fury like the world has never seen” against North Korea. This might be interpreted as idle bellicose threats to please his voting base and as examples of his brinkmanship in order to obtain deals, but it should be remembered that Trump has ordered a \$1 trillion updating of the American nuclear arsenal and has pulled the USA out of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia.

Disturbing

Equally disturbing is the Trump administration’s policies towards Iran. In June Trump was ready to unleash US warplanes against the theocratic regime in Teheran, but then backed down, afraid that the conflict thus unleashed would destabilise all of the Middle East. Trump has increased sanctions against Iran, and pulled out of the international nuclear deal with Iran, in the



process strengthening the grip of the hard line factions in the Iran regime, and bringing hardship to the mass of the Iranian population. Incidentally the US is updating the American arsenal in violation of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty, that being the stick they beat Iran with!

Through the use of sanctions the US hopes to bring down the Iran regime by 2020, thus boosting Trump for a second term in that election year. On the other hand, the theocratic regime in Iran is using the situation to fan nationalist fervour, and to thwart modernising elements within the establishment and grassroots opposition, fairly recently manifested in large demonstrations and industrial unrest. Iran took advantage of the war in Syria and the emergence of ISIS to increase its influence in the Middle East,

in alliance with both the Assad regime in Syria and its fellow Shiite co-religionists in Hezbollah in Lebanon and in Iraqi militias. Its own imperialist policies have been strengthened, and this has affrighted both the US and its allies in Israel and Saudi Arabia. For its part China, involved in a trade war with the US, has stated that it will continue to trade with Iran. Russia too has re-asserted its own imperialist interests in the region.

Neither Washington Nor Teheran

We don’t take sides in this conflict. We support neither Washington nor Teheran. We support the working class internationally, whether in the USA or Iran against the regimes there, and we look towards mass movements against military mobilisation and the drive to war throughout the world.

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ACG - Libertarian Communism # 2

Annual Dayschool – coming this autumn!

Topics: Organising Women Workers; Climate Change

Details to follow on our website soon

www.anarchistcommunism.org



Next Chapter for Libraries in Essex?

HAVING DROPPED a bill that would have seen dozens of libraries shut instantly across Essex, local councillors are now trying a different approach.

Protests against library closures have seen some of the biggest turn outs the county has seen in years. Often seen as a Tory and right wing strong hold, Essex tends to get a bad rap among the left. However its communities, villages, towns and cities leapt into action against measures to shut twenty five libraries for good.

Children and Elderly

Children and the elderly as well as library employees and sympathetic folk of all walks of life have made things difficult for local councillors. The largest protests saw up to two thousand people and even in some small villages as many as two hundred protested.

In response, Essex County Council have now dropped plans to close libraries, but are instead intending to palm off the running of nearly 20

of them onto volunteers and further numbers to partner and charitable organisations, depriving the people of Essex of trained librarians and librarians of their jobs. This plan is being disguised behind promises of £3 million of investment in existing libraries (most likely the large central libraries which they wanted to invest in anyway as a way of justifying shutting down village and rural libraries) and a promise to “not close any libraries for five years”.

These protests have, so far, shown us what we already knew, that voting does not mean you have a voice. You have a voice when people shout loud enough to be heard in County Hall.

“Save Our Libraries”

The group behind organising the protests, petitions and actions is SOLE (Save Our Libraries Essex) who will continue the fight to save our libraries. Essex communities have been fairly successful in stopping other attempts to strip away resources before, i.e the battle against the closure of Southend Hospital.



The struggle has had coverage from Radical newspapers such as *Jackdaw* and the *South Essex Heckler* as well as local Essex papers. Calls from celebrity authors such as David Walliams and Jacqueline Wilson also brought the story to national attention with inches in the guardian.

The ACG supports SOLE’s call for a day of action across Essex on Saturday 28th September 2019.

Virus In The Body Politic

AT RECENT COORDINATING meetings of the Anarchist Communist Group, it was decided to bring out a new theoretical magazine which would also include articles on history and culture, as well as reviews, etc. This would supplement our programme of producing pam-

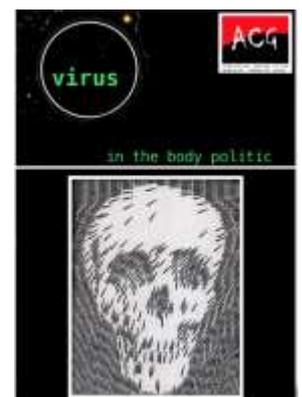
phlets and our agitational newsheet *The Jackdaw*.

It was decided to name the magazine *Virus in the body politic* in memory of one of the founders of the Anarchist Communist Federation, a precursor of the ACG, who set up and run a magazine of

the same name which then became the magazine of the ACF.

Virus should be appearing in the month of October. See our website for further announcements.

www.anarchistcommunism.org



AGAINST IMMIGRATION CAMPS!

“How can people sit around knowing that people are being held in prisons and little more than concentration camps for the crime of crossing an imaginary line?”

THE FUNDAMENTAL IDEA of immigration is to leave one country and settle in another. Something which does not sound in the least bit harmful. And yet, all over the West, camps are popping up – within which those people who wish to migrate are being held. Countries such as the US and the UK are imprisoning these people.

How is this allowed to happen?

How can people sit around knowing that, people just like them are being held in prisons and what amount in some cases to little more than concentration camps, for the crime of stepping over an imaginary line (or as the nationalists like to call it, a border)? Well unfortunately there are several reasons for this: racism, lack of solidarity and fascism, to name but a few. It has become so bad that even when the horrific conditions placed on refugees are revealed to the public, they are still deemed by some to be undeserving of safety in this country. But perhaps we are being too kind – for to call this country

safe for immigrants and refugees is by the day becoming more false. With hate crimes soaring, the way this country’s State and elite has acted to those that want to live here has been despicable, but predictable.

Racism

Britain (and England particularly) has a long and horrific history of racism, from its participation in the slave trade, to the atrocities committed in the name of its empire. Racial minorities have long been scapegoated as the source of all of society’s problems. But why is this? Well as you may have noticed from the constant attacks from *The Daily Mail* or *The Sun* about the “swarms” coming to the UK, these resentments do not come from everyday people – but from the rich and powerful. After all unless they have a vulnerable minority to try and shift the blame onto for all the hardships in life, people might start realising that it is indeed the rich and powerful who are to blame!

Solidarity

Unfortunately, although there are still marches against racism and effective callouts against fascism, there is considerably less in the way of activity against the incarceration of migrants. This needs to change. Now that the camps are already here, the vast majority of the population remain silent. This state led breakdown has been in the making over the last 50 years, but perhaps became most obvi-

ously disrupted in the 1980s with the Thatcher government. Having brought off many with excruciatingly short-term economic boosts, Thatcherite policies were able to devastate the north and marginalise the unions by restricting their power and dismantling British manufacturing and the mining industry. From this free market approach, emerged **gentrification** and “yuppies” – someone who has no issue treading on those around them to further themselves and soon to become increasingly common around the UK. This self-serving mindset was fostered by Thatcherite ideology with its constant spewing of propaganda along the lines “the poor are poor because they don’t work hard enough”.

Fascism

Unfortunately variants of fascism are once again rearing their ugly head all across the world, not least in the Americas with Trump and Brazil’s Bolsonaro. Fascism means many things, not least a state which builds camps and imprisons innocent people. But in the context of why nothing is being done, fascism brings with it an obsession with authority – a fascist mindset being one where there is a policeman in your head, meaning you have a complete inability to disobey authority. This leads to the truly disturbing situation whereas ordinary people will say immigrants deserve to be placed in horrific conditions on the basis they broke the law (with them



AGAINST ALL BORDERS!

sometimes even agreeing the law is unjust!)

The situation is not a good one. But that does not mean we shouldn't fight against the injustice that these camps represent. As anarchists we believe in a world without borders and without prisons. Therefore, what these camps represent to us is abhorrent. We want a world in which there is no racism, in which solidarity is everywhere and fascism nowhere.

How can we do this?

We must confront racist attitudes wherever we can find them. We must try and give as much support to refugees and immigrants as we can and we must try and build a revolutionary movement that will wipe borders and racism off the map of the world.



A Few Facts and Figures

USA - 1,500 Lost Migrant Children!

According to Steven Wagner, acting assistant secretary of Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services, 1,475 migrant children snatched by immigration officers were "lost track of"!

UK - Deaths and Attempted Suicides

Since January 2007 there have been 2,798 attempted suicides across the UK detention system. There have also been 34 deaths (reasons undetermined) of migrants in detention plus five more deaths immediately after release. Info from: no-deportations.org.uk

UK - Mass Detention of Migrants

In 2018, the number of migrants entering detention was approximately 24,748.

UK - Windrush

According to the UK government, 83 members of the Windrush Generation were "wrongly removed".

Right to Remain TOOLKIT

"The Right to Remain Toolkit is a guide to the UK immigration and asylum system. It gives an overview of the legal system and procedures, with detailed information on rights and options at key stages, and actions you can take in support of your claim, or to help someone else." For more info, go to: righttoremain.org.uk/toolkit/



A Business Not a Party?

“THE TRUTH IS THAT BREXIT IS A TROJAN HORSE FOR A RAFT OF UNSAVOURY POLICIES THAT PROFESSIONAL BREXITEERS WANT TO BRING IN BY STEALTH”

PARTY LEADER NIGEL Farage says that the Brexit Party is a business not a party... and that it *is* a party (often in the same breath).

So which is it? Probably both and neither. It is a business because it exists to make money through exploiting people (the members); and it is a party because it is using organisation, money and the electoral system to try to effect political change.

It has learnt from the Italian 5 Star party, being populist and superficially radical ‘anti-establishment’. Organisationally, it is heavily engaged with its members via the internet, giving them the illusion of control and being listened to, but the policy is decided entirely by the leader.

Uniquely, it’s a political party with *only one policy* – the U.K leaving the European Union. Farage claims that he left UKIP because it had been taken over by far right ‘thugs and extremists’ (funny how that always happens to him). He has consistently spouted anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant rhetoric, saying he would ban migrants with HIV from entering the country, would feel uncomfortable if ‘a group of Romanian men’ moved in next door, and when he hears people speaking a different language on the train. He has also described parts of the UK as a ‘foreign land’ (strangely that’s not the gated communities of the rich he’s talking about). Sounds to us like he’s pining for Apartheid South Africa.



Brexit Explained

WHAT IS BREXIT concretely beyond leaving the EU? The truth is that it’s a Trojan Horse for a raft of unsavoury policies that professional Brexiteers want to bring in by stealth: demolishing the welfare state, privatising the NHS, greater freedom for bosses and landlords to exploit and pollute, a worsening of the ‘hostile environment’ towards immigration in the UK that led to the Windrush scandal, minimal rights for workers and tenants, fewer rights for women and LGBTQ+ people, etc.

The Brexit Party (and previously UKIP) already influences the policies of the main parties, regardless of how many votes or seats they win, including those of Corbyn’s Labour Party who have already backtracked on immigration (and don’t forget that it was the 1947 Labour government who were secretly plotting for the Windrush’s passengers to be taken elsewhere). We won’t resist these policies through voting for political parties, but through organising in our communities and workplaces, and through direct action.

Hackney Transport Workers Strike

DRIVERS AND PASSENGER assistants employed by Hackney Council have recently taken strike action on a number of days to get proper pay for doing split shifts. On one occasion workers blockaded the entrance to a private car park where the employers had put the buses normally stationed in the council depot. They hoped in this way to foil pickets but this little ploy was spotted and cars driven across the exit.

Hackney is a majority Labour council. Labour councillors have shown a distinct hostility to the strike. One of them turned up to help with the strike-breaking and told strikers they should be happy with their wages -some earning less than £800 a month- and that there was no “magic money tree” (a direct quote from Theresa May!)

Sainsbury Distribution Workers

WORKERS AT SAINBURY’S Waltham Point distribution centre in Essex went on a 24 hour strike for the second time on 25th July against cuts to sick pay, reduced from 26 weeks to 2 weeks. A picket numbering several dozen strikers was put up outside the warehouse.



Workplace Notes

Lincolnshire Health Visitors on Strike

HEALTH VISITORS EMPLOYED by Lincolnshire county council went on strike for 48 hours from July 15th. They again went out on 24 hour strikes on 19th July and 22nd July, and then another 48 hour strike on 25th July. They are striking over not getting paid the rate for the job and the erosion of their professional responsibilities. This is the first time that they have taken strike action.

The health visitors are on the NHS Agenda for Change pay scales, but have had no increases in pay since being transferred to the local authority which has different pay rates – even though both council and NHS employees have received wage awards, these health visitors have not.

NHS staff in England last year accepted a three year pay deal which, for the majority of staff, meant a 6.5 per cent hike in pay over the three years.

The dispute only involves those 58 health visitors transferred from the NHS under Agenda for Change terms. There are 111 full-time equivalent health visitor posts – and those other health visitors are either on grade 10 contacts or were employed by the county council since October 2017. There are also some student health visitors.

The latest figures from NHS Digital reveal the lowest number of health visitors in England since September 2012. There were 7,694 health visitors in England in January this year, a fall of 25 per cent since their peak of

more than 10,000 in October 2015 when the Health Visitor Implementation Plan came to an end.

Summer of Discontent

THE GRASSROOTS, MEMBER-LED union, United Voices of the World (UVW), has announced that workers in seven different workplaces are set to strike against low wages and poor conditions.

These workers include cleaners, baristas, security guards, chefs and till operators, and hail from dozens of different countries – ranging across the UK, Latin America, West Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. Despite being employed by prestigious organisations in both the public and private sector, including the UK government's Ministry of Justice and 200 Grays Inn Road – home to the production company behind ITV and Channel 4 News – many of the workers receive less than the London Living Wage and are denied basic forms of security like occupational sick pay.

Other workplaces affected include the White Chapel building, which houses the UK government's digital services operation and the London Museum of Photography, plus two famous academic institutions: the University of Greenwich, on the banks of the River Thames, and St George's, a medical school that forms part of the University of London. All UVW members at the relevant sites will be formally voting on strike action in the coming weeks.

In a major embarrassment for Buckingham Palace, among those walking out will be cleaners from London's Royal Parks, responsible for some of Britain's most famous green spaces including Hyde



Park, St James's Park, and Kensington Gardens. The parks are hereditary possessions of the Crown and managed by the UK government on behalf of the Queen, and yet workers who maintain the public facilities in them are paid only £8.21 per hour, substantially below the London Living Wage.

In common with most of the UVW members planning on strike action this summer, the Royal Parks cleaners are employed by an outsourcing company – in their case the French construction and facilities giant VINCI, which operates in more than a hundred countries and has been accused of a wide range of corruption scandals and labour abuses. Other outsourcing firms that will be targeted by the forthcoming actions include Sodexo (which made a net profit of nearly £600 million in 2018) OCS, and Baxterstorey.

Bradford health workers

HUNDREDS OF HEALTH workers at Bradford Royal Infirmary began a two week strike in the last week of July against privatisation. This entails outsourcing cleaners, porters and other support staff. Workers are strongly opposed to this which they see as a move to full privatisation of the Infirmary. There is widespread distrust of management, seen as liars ready to break promises on guarantees of NHS terms and conditions. 100 people were out on the picket on the first day.



Atossers!

A comrade talks about his dealings with Atos Assessment Centres...

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT CLAIMANTS NEED TO COME TOGETHER AND SOMEHOW FIGHT BACK AGAINST THIS DISGUSTING ATROCITY"

I HAVE HAD the harrowing experience of visiting Atos assessment centres on two separate occasions. The first time I was required to do this was to support my girlfriend's son for his medical assessment in 2014. My girlfriend's son has Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, a degenerative hypermobility condition. The second time I had to visit an assessment centre was for my PIP (Personal Independence Payment) claim (I have Ulcerative Colitis and have had my large bowel removed). This was last year.

Harrowing

During my first visit I didn't know what to expect but I use the word harrowing with good reason. We arrived and had to wait in a waiting room with other people that were due to have medical examinations. One of these people was a woman with brain damage that was accompanied by a carer. Whilst talking to this woman's carer we learned that she was a nurse who had got brain damage by being assaulted at work. She needed assistance with being able to walk. Although we had

heard about what was happening to people, this was still a disturbing shock. We were outraged and disgusted (and still are) that people such as that woman and her carer are forced into being called in to be assessed and that people are allowing this to happen in this day and age.

My girlfriend's son had his assessment, and of course was deemed fit to work, despite suffering random pain and discomfort and only being able to do physical tasks for a certain period of time. He actually didn't bother appealing, as he didn't see the point.

My second trip to an assessment centre was more recent. I had put in my claim for PIP and was informed that I had an interview. The assessment centre is located in an out of the way location near a small industrial estate in Canterbury. If anyone was to protest or picket this place they would not be visible and so I think this sort of location is deliberate.

I was shocked to discover, when I turned up at the centre, that the staff were wearing Atos badges. After what Atos have done I assumed they were no longer operating in this capacity, how wrong I was! The staff put themselves across as friendly and there to help, which wasn't convincing to me as an anarchist and shouldn't be convincing to anyone.

After I was asked a series of questions at a desk I was told to wait in a waiting room. On the waiting room

walls there were posters instructing and advising us claimants to behave ourselves and keep calm and not be rude or abusive to staff, again it was reiterated that staff were 'only trying to help' or some such nonsense. This instantly made me angry and irritated, but I was only to get angrier.

A young woman with a carer entered the building after a while and she was clearly upset as she was crying. I overheard her explain that she was in constant pain. Yet again I was appalled and outraged at the harassment of a claimant who clearly didn't need this. I thought to myself what scum the staff in the office were and how unnecessary all this was. I didn't get a chance to speak to these people and was called in to my interview, which of course I 'failed'. I am now in the process of appealing the decision with the help of the Citizens Advice Bureau. Appeals are more successful.

Fight Together

There is no doubt that claimants need to come together and somehow fight back against this disgusting atrocity, an affront to civility and decency. I'm no expert on how to fight back but claimants need to somehow support each other in whatever ways they can and try and fight back, utilising direct action when possible. The sad truth is though, that I and others despair at a society where this is possible and certainly going through what I did can make a person feel hopeless. As an anarchist it





just confirms the callous nature of capitalism but there is a sense that this shouldn't be happening.

It is happening, no doubt, because of misinformation about claimants and the scapegoating of them by the ruling class, with the help of their media. We must highlight the truth as much as we can and clear up any misconceptions and lies spread by the ruling class. The sad and bizarre truth regarding Atos staff is that they actually think their jobs are necessary. How they cannot see the disgusting inhumanity of what they are doing, I don't know, but they have clearly coned themselves into actually believing they are helping claimants, which I guess is part of the reason this is happening.

At the Café: ACG's Podcast Series



The ACG's podcast, *At the Café*, is a series of informal discussions about the key issues and ideas related to Anarchist Communism.

These are on topics such as: *What is Anarchist Communism? Why Work? Crime, War, historical examples of anarchism and how might anarchist communism happen?*

You can listen to these by going to the ACG website at anarchistcommunism.org and following the podcast link.

Is Voting Labour the Solution?

The General Election of 2017 saw Labour's vote go up to 40 per cent, in what was seen as a victory for Corbyn's policies and his campaigning methods. We saw a Conservative government unable to hold on to power except with the backing of the 10 Democratic Unionist MPS in Northern Ireland.

This should have been an extremely favourable situation for Labour. The increase in the vote was backed up by the entry of hundreds of thousands into the Labour Party, making it the biggest political party in Europe.

But instead we had acceptance by Corbyn of the Trident nuclear missiles system. A Labour Party spokesman went on record as saying: "Jeremy and the Labour Party have long been committed to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which aims to achieve nuclear disarmament. Trident renewal is Labour policy, as set out in our manifesto."

We had Corbyn allowing a free vote on military intervention in Syria. We had Corbyn agreeing to membership of NATO. When the Labour youth organisation voted for withdrawal from NATO, a Labour Party spokesman replied: "Jeremy and Labour are committed to NATO, as laid out in our manifesto."

Corbyn has remained silent on a large number of Labour councils imposing cuts as ordered by the Conservative government. His henchman the Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell has

made overture after overture to business in the so-called Tea Offensive. As one Times commentator wrote: "A couple of years ago few businesspeople could conceive of Labour as a government-in-waiting. These days many industry leaders declare that they are rather impressed with McDonnell and his team. Some business lobby groups consider their relationship with Labour to be as good as, if not better than, their one with the Conservatives."

Corbyn did much of this with the idea of preserving the unity of the Labour Party. Rather than breaking completely with the supporters of Blair and Brown, he has made compromise after compromise. He took the side of union leaders to oppose mandatory reselection of Labour MPs.

Recently Jeremy Corbyn responded to Theresa May's request for talks about a possible alternative Brexit deal by dropping his demands for a general election. May started the overture with an appeal for "national unity to deliver the national interest."

Instead of talking about working class unity Corbyn responded to this with the statement that he would agree to talks and recognised his "responsibility to represent the people that supported Labour in the last election and the people who didn't support Labour." Instead of pressing ahead with a no confidence motion in the government, he now commits himself to "national unity".



Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition



"These days many industry leaders declare that they are rather impressed with McDonnell"

Continued overleaf



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ACG Noticeboard

ACG groups meet regularly. See the events page on our website for more details or get in touch directly with your nearest local group.

26/9/19 7pm London ACG Meeting: This Land is Ours—the Fight for Justice. Housemans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1.

Autumn date/venue TBC ACG Dayshool, London (see website)

You can also catch us at one of the following bookfairs...

Saturday 7th September Bradford Anarchist Bookfair: 1 in 12 Club, 21-23 Albion Street, Bradford BD1.

Saturday 7th September Dorset Radical Bookfair: Corn Exchange Municipal Buildings, High St East, Dorchester DT1

2/2/19 Nottingham Radical Bookfair: Mechanics Institute, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham NG1

ACG Pamphlets

Check out our website publications page for info on ACG pamphlets for sale.

- * Our NHS? Anarchist Communist Thoughts on Health.
- * Land and Liberty
- * Is Class Still Relevant?
- * Towards a Fresh Revolution—Friends of Durruti
- * Italian Factory Councils and the Anarchists
- * Whatever Happened to the Revolution?
- * The Wilhelmshaven Revolt

WHO WE ARE...

The Anarchist Communist Group (ACG) is a revolutionary anarchist communist organisation made up of local groups and individuals who seek a complete transformation of society, and the creation of anarchist communism.

This will mean the working class overthrowing capitalism, abolishing the State, getting rid of exploitation, hierarchies and oppressions, and halting the destruction of the environment. To contribute to the building of a revolutionary anarchist movement we believe it is important to be organised.

We are committed to building an effective national and international organisation that has a collective identity and works towards the common goal of anarchist communism, whilst at the same time working together with other working class organisations and in grass roots campaigns.

We do not see ourselves as the leaders of a revolutionary movement but part of a wider movement for revolutionary change. In addition, we strive to base all our current actions on the principles that will be the basis of the future society: mutual aid, solidarity, collective responsibility, individual freedom and autonomy, free association and federalism.

If you are considering joining the ACG, then to see where we are coming from in terms of ideas and politics, we suggest you look first at our Aims & Principles on our website www.anarchistcommunism.org

Then if you think the ACG is politically the right place for you, simply drop us a line at info@anarchistcommunism.org or, if contacting us by post, just fill out the form below and post it off to us.

Is Labour the Solution?

From previous page

Now Labour is falling in the polls and membership is starting to shrink again. At the same time Corbyn has hardly put up much of a fight against the Labour right witchhunting Labour MPs and members. The Labour right is hoping that having Johnson in power will make it easier to overthrow Corbyn. Speaking anonymously to Murdoch's paper *The Sun* some of these were quoted as saying the following: "Having Boris there will be good for us as it will speed up what has to happen." whilst another said: "More and more members are saying, 'Do you think it's time he went now?'"

Neither staying in the EU or leaving and striking a deal with the USA are solutions to the attacks the working class are facing, and neither is the solution of voting Labour. We must look towards developing an independent working class movement.

BEIS Workers Out On Indefinite Strike

CLEANERS AND CATERING workers are on indefinite strike at the Department For Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). So far the workers have been on strike for 3 weeks. These workers work for outsourcing firms ISS and Aramark and are demanding that they pay the London Living Wage and improved sick pay and holiday pay and that be returned in house. The cleaners were joined on strike for five days by porters, security and post room workers which boosted the confidence of the strikers.



Join the ACG!



If you're not online and need to contact us by post, simply cut out and fill in the form. Then send it to ACG, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB

Name.....

Address.....

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Phone.....

Tell us a bit about yourself!.....

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