

Newsletter

of the Alliance for Green Socialism – December 2012
www.greensocialist.org.uk



Pick up their swords

In the last six weeks we have lost two valued members of the AGS: Terry Liddle & Bron Duncan. Each of them was a good friend to many of us. Each of them contributed a lot to the AGS.

Strangely they could hardly have been more different as political activists. Together they illustrate the breadth and mutual tolerance and respect of our membership. Both brought something very valuable to us.

Terry, who lived in south London, died on 22 November. He had been unwell for a long time, but was still active. Indeed, in this winter's Green Socialist there is a letter from him on the resilience of capitalism and the need for active unity. Terry could perhaps be described as a theoretical Marxist. Not at all in the sense that he was not active on the ground, for he certainly was. Rather, in that he was knowledgeable about the ideas and the history of both Marxism and anarchism. Faced with a question, Terry would always reference its theoretical roots as well as its current relevance.

Bron lived in Leeds, very much a Yorkshire woman. She died a few days before Terry, on 19 November. She had been active in the AGS until not long before her death. For many years she had hosted the Leeds AGS garden party in her wonderful, beautiful garden. She was not in the least theoretical. Her green socialist politics directly sprang from the kind of person she was: in touch with herself, with other people, with animals and with nature. Always ready to be different - and to disagree - yet everyone in the Leeds group misses her.

A future Green Socialist will carry fuller obituaries of Bron and Terry.

LEAFLETS

Enclosed is the latest AGS leaflet, on Austerity. Comments would be welcome.

More importantly, could you distribute some?

Could you give half a dozen to friends, relatives or colleagues? Take 50 and leaflet your street? A thousand and do your neighbourhood?

Email Mike or write to our freepost.

AGS PRIORITIES 2012/13

The priorities for this year adopted by the national committee are:

Government betrayal of the environment
Defending the welfare state
Ruling class rip-offs

“GREEN SOCIALISM” - AGS BOOK

The national committee is attempting to organise the writing of an easily accessible book on green socialism. The idea is something that does not require a high level of education to read and that draws in rather than puts off the reader. Easy, huh?

As J K Rowings is not currently a member of the committee, this is an appeal for help.

If you have thoughts on how such a book might be structured, particular things it ought to cover, examples or anecdotes it might contain, or the style in which it might be written, please let us know.

You could email the Secretary or any of the national committee, or write to the freepost address.

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.

12 Jan 2013 Calthorpe Arms, London WC1X 8JR 13:15
 16 Mar 2013 London 13:15
 18 May 2013 Calthorpe Arms, London WC1X 8JR 13:15
 6 Jul 2013 venue tba
 7 Sep 2013 Calthorpe Arms, London WC1X 8JR 13:15

ANNUAL CONFERENCE Sat 19 Oct 2013 Leeds
 16 Nov 2013 Calthorpe Arms, London WC1X 8JR 12:00

US ELECTIONS

Most of us will have been relieved that Mitt Romney lost the race for US president. The Republican Party and the currently dominant Tea Party can only be described as rabid.

Even so, the attitude of the Republican leadership to the pending fiscal cliff (the result of last year's budget fudge) is hard to understand. Since the US broke the link with gold in 1971, the prime objective of US foreign, financial and military policy has been to maintain the status of the dollar as the world reserve currency. Without that, the huge US debt and deficit, which enables the US to live far beyond its means, are unsustainable. Yet the Republicans, rather than reach a compromise, seem willing to see the US default on its debts

Of course, Obama is no libertarian, environmental socialist. He is just as much in hock to American capital as any Republican. Look at the crooks who run finance for him. Obama will continue to run the USA on behalf of big finance and big business. But at least he retains some links with reality.

Our comrades in the **Epping Forest Green & Democratic Left** have had a busy autumn: A successful public meeting before the 20 October TUC demo; a fundraiser with Fiddlefoot raising £170; a quiz in November; and a public meeting with FoE on biodiversity in December.

Leeds AGS group distributed several thousand leaflets door-to-door in the autumn. In November they ran a Green Fair which improved on previous successful ones and raised around £200.

North London AGS group has held a number of successful meetings

In **north Wales**, Mike Butler has been out leafletting in shopping centres.

In **East Anglia**, AGS comrades are organising a Green-Left Conference in Chelmsford on Sunday 3 March 2013. If you live in that area, put it in your diary and tell other people.

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