

Newsletter

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



A Future That Works

Join the TUC demonstration against austerity

London 20 October

RAGA ISTANBUL

The AGS helped organise the **Red And Green Alternatives** (RAGA) international meeting in Istanbul earlier this month. Three members of the AGS came and were very impressed.

Despite problems with visas (Palestine) and threats of jail (Senegal) and cost (South America) some sixty delegates attended the four day conference. The final declaration is attached.

Much of the first three days was a huge variety of workshops, both testimony from struggles across the world and analysis of the situation. Workshops included:

Fracking for shale gas, Poverty threshold, Struggle against commoditising common goods, Hydro power plants in Turkey & Brazil; Social banking, Alternative energy, Women's struggles in Turkey, Struggles against useless projects, Coups d'etat, Compost for the city, Struggles in the 21st century, Humanitarian intervention or imperialist war, Political situation in Turkey, Struggle for the Laz language, Peasant struggles in Brazil, Struggles against rural privatisation, Marxism & ecology, Water privatisation, Cooperative self management, Anti-nuclear struggles, Direct Action & anarchism in Germany, Prison as a control mechanism in Turkey, New types of movements, Environmental struggles in western Turkey, Democratic autonomy, Animal rights and species-ism, Fair Trade in Latin America, Rio+20 summit, Food security and seeds, Ecological struggle and the left.

The RAGA organising network now formally consists of five organisations in Europe, Asia and Latin America. It was agreed to hold another international meeting next year, probably in Paris.

FINANCE SYSTEM SEMINAR

Saturday 13 October 2012

London Welsh Centre, Grays Inn Rd

How is money created - and why does it seem to belong to the banks? What's a financial derivative? How they profit from falling prices? What is the national debt - and who is it owed to? How do people in the City make vast amounts producing nothing? What happens when a country goes bust? In a financial rescue, who gets rescued?

And why does the whole thing not work?

The AGS national committee invites you to take part in a day seminar on how the existing financial system functions. 10am to 5pm Saturday 13 October

The seminar will be a combination of speakers, materials-based sessions, and a couple of entertaining exercises in being a finance capitalist. There will be plenty of opportunity for contributions and discussion. The intention is for us all to understand better what is going on in this dangerous financial world.

The London Welsh Centre is at 157 Grays Inn Rd, opposite the Eastman Dental Hospital and near the Calthorpe Arms. It is less than 15 minutes walk from Kings Cross, and little more from Holborn.

There is no charge for the seminar, but attenders are invited to make a contribution to the room hire.

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G4S OLYMPIC FIASCO

We all know that the modern Olympics have very little to do with sport and very little to do with ordinary people. They are a corporate profit-fest with the addition of some jingoism.

Even so, the sheer profiteering incompetence of “the world’s biggest security company” is astounding. G4S wants to lead in outsourcing public functions to private companies. Yet they admitted, at the last minute, that they would be thousands short on the security staff they had contracted to provide - and then found they were thousands more short when only a fraction of those they had supposedly employed actually turned up on the day.

A clear demonstration of how superior the private sector is! The public sector, of course, had to make up the shortfall.

GARDEN PARTY

The Leeds AGS Garden Party went ahead as usual this year despite the weather. The Great Yorkshire Show may have been called off after one day, but the AGS carried on! It was a cut-down version to ensure we had enough shelter for everyone who came, but it went ahead and was very enjoyable.

In the event, Saturday 14 July was a little damp but not wet - and we even had half an hour’s sunshine just before five. Afterwards the grass looked a bit rumpled, but not totally destroyed as some had feared.

The garden party made over £400, down on the usual but still a welcome addition to Leeds AGS funds.

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.

8 Sep 2012	Calthorpe Arms, London WC1X 8JR	13:15
10 Nov 2012	Calthorpe Arms, London WC1X 8JR	12:00
12 Jan 2013	Calthorpe Arms, London WC1X 8JR	13:15
9 Mar 2013	Calthorpe Arms, London WC1X 8JR	13:15
11 May 2013	London	13:15
6 Jul 2013	venue & time to be decided	
7 Sep 2013	London	13:15

ANNUAL CONFERENCE Leeds 19 October 2013

CAMPAIGNING PRIORITIES

Following national conference, the AGS national committee has agreed the following campaigning priorities for the coming year:

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

The national committee agreed to produce a national leaflet on defending the welfare state, emphasising the links and common issues between the different manifestations of the “austerity” attack on ordinary working people.

We will also produce a separate AGS recruitment leaflet intended to go out alongside.

ECONOMISTS FLOUNDER

Government economists and politicians continue to pursue capitalist “austerity” to lay the burden of the crisis where it does not belong - on us. Opposition politicians advocate capitalist Keynesianism to restore capitalist growth. What we need, of course, is neither of these capitalist approaches, but a radical change to a green socialist economic model not dependent on the great god “growth”.

2012/3 National Committee members

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