

# Newsletter

of the *Alliance for Green Socialism* – October 2011  
[www.greensocialist.org.uk](http://www.greensocialist.org.uk)



## APOLOGY

The autumn issue of *Green Socialist* should have been out by now. It's late, but should be out in the next few weeks. The cause? The editor's computer was struck by an infection known as a Trojan. It has taken considerable time and trouble for Bryn (and techie friends) to disinfect and repair it, and even more time and trouble to recover the corrupted files in their randomised locations.

## CAPITALIST EU IN CRISIS

Fifteen months ago the AGS predicted that Greece would go bankrupt whatever the Eurozone leaders did. This week that prediction comes true, with Greece's creditors being forced to write-off nearly two-thirds of the value of the country's debts.

Before you shed too many tears over the losses of the finance capitalists, remember that the EU is, as part of the package, going to "recapitalise" the banks to the tune of a hundred billion pounds. In other words the state is going to cover the capitalists' losses - at the same time as making the poor much poorer and selling off state assets, EU states will find the cash to protect the bankers - again. Evidently one banker is worth a million ordinary citizens

After Greece, will Cyprus, Italy and Spain follow suit. Of course they will. They are being pushed down exactly the same road of cuts and privatisation that has ruined Greece. As for the European Financial Stability Fund intended to "shelter" them, it might as well be called the Futility Fund. Finance capitalists can make money out of destroying economies, and neither altruism nor some finite (and largely fictional) support fund is going to hold them back. Especially when they can look forward to governments making good any incidental losses!

As our last newsletter said: "*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.*"

As for the Euro, how long will it last? Structurally unsound from the start, the Euro broke the common

sense rule that political and fiscal union must precede, not follow, monetary union. It traps poorer countries by preventing the depreciation of their currency. Writing off the debts of Greece does not change that. The less competitive southern fringe EU members are still trapped. Inevitably the Euro will either collapse or be radically restructured.

National governments created and defended a grossly undemocratic European Union in order to protect their own power at national level. These same politicians are now calling for greater fiscal (and necessarily political) powers at EU level - but without any concession to the need for democracy.

The most ironic intervention comes from our own government. British politicians have long been the most determined to avoid any democratic legitimacy for the EU. Now they call for Eurozone fiscal union - by everyone (else) - presumably with Europe run by the big two of France and Germany.

When Cameron talks about "reform" of the EU and our relationship with it, the very last thing he means is any move towards making the EU democratically legitimate.

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## 30<sup>th</sup> November strikes

Many public sector trade unions are out on strike on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November. As many as fourteen unions may take part, with unions out, or balloting, including ATL, FBU, GMB, NASUWT, NUT, PCS, UCU, Unison, and Unite.

Cameron and Miliband are both equally opposed to the strikes!

Local anti-cuts alliances are organising or supporting rallies in support, in the run-up or on the day. Put "30 Nov strike" and the name of your town into a search engine to get details.

Such widespread strike action, coordinated by the TUC, is a big step forward for British trade unions. It demands our support.

But it will take much more than a one-day pre-Xmas strike to have any effect on the government.

### LEEDS AGS GREEN FAIR Saturday 14 January 2012

Food, plants, gifts, campaign info, toys, ...

Come and help if you can. Anyone from outside Leeds can be sure of accommodation and a pint.

### NORTH LONDON AGS

North London have held a very successful series of meetings on Nuclear Power; People's Culture; and the Politics of Food.

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.

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

### DO AGS STALLS WORK?

The AGS runs stalls at events and on the street. Do they work? That's hard to evaluate definitively.

Certainly stalls make the AGS visible, helping to overcome one of our main problems.

If well run, they gather contacts and prospective members, but the number of people actually joining is small.

Stalls do sell or give away a lot of AGS material, and usually generate a few discussions, so they do promote AGS policies and ideas.

### EPPING FOREST GDL

Epping Forest held a joyful, well attended and successful fund-raising social event at a local pub on 17 September.

They subsequently held a well-attended public meeting aimed at raising the political concerns of local people.

**AGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**SATURDAY 14th APRIL 2012 - 11am to 5pm**  
**LONDON - CALTHORPE ARMS, GRAYS INN ROAD, WC1X 8JR**

### 2011 National Committee members

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