

Newsletter

of the *Alliance for Green Socialism* – April 2013
www.greensocialist.org.uk



The end of the euro?

At the end of 2011, we published an issue of *Green Socialist* entitled "The end of the euro".

The euro is still with us, but watch this space. Just a month ago, Cyprus was bullied into accepting a humiliating bail-out which involved stealing six billion euros from depositors in its banks. Plus, of course, the usual ruinous cuts for its people.

The Cyprus parliament was not given a vote on this package. And why would it get a vote? After all, we all know that Cyprus is not run from Nicosia any more. It is governed by the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund - with the Germans pulling many of the strings

Now the troika has decided Cyprus needs to pay another six billion euros. The president of the parliament has described this as "poison".

How much longer will the southern countries of the eurozone allow themselves to be dictated to by the north? Initially they cling to the supposed security of the euro, seeking help from their "partners". But it has become clearer and clearer that this "help" just locks them into economic disaster. They give up sovereignty and get permanent poverty in exchange.

Watch this space indeed!

One of the most
evil politicians
of our time
has died.
We mourn her not.

TERRY LIDDLE MEMORIAL

SATURDAY 20th April 2013

2 pm - 5 pm

CONWAY HALL

Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL

Tube: Holborn Buses: 19, 38, 55, 243

Music from Workers Music Association

Refreshments provided

Brief contributions from the floor invited

If you expect to attend, it would help if you could email Gary Holden garyholden@btinternet.com

In wild, but considered, celebration of Terry Liddle's maverick life of activism.

COALITION OF RESISTANCE

The AGS has declared its support for the People's Assembly organised by the Coalition of Resistance. The national committee was satisfied that the CoR is a genuine, broad coalition and the Assembly a positive move in bringing together resistance to the destruction of our welfare state.

The People's Assembly is on **Saturday 22nd June**, 9:30am to 5pm, in Central Hall Westminster, London SW1H 9NH.

The AGS is booking ten places. Let Mike Davies know if you want to go.

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HAVE CONFIDENCE?

Global capitalism depends utterly on the banking system. The banks depend utterly on confidence. Any bank, anywhere, at any time can be destroyed instantly, simply by all its depositors withdrawing their money, as they are legally entitled to.

The only thing that keeps banks afloat is the confidence their customers have that banks don't fail and that their own deposits are safe.

So it's hard to understand why the EU, ECB and IMF should have joined forces to deal this confidence a massive blow. Depositors in Cypriot banks now know beyond all doubt that their money is not safe. Many have seen half of it stolen. In Greece, Spain, Ireland and Italy, any rational depositor must fear that their money may not be safe, especially with European officials talking of the deal imposed on Cyprus being a possible model for others.

Indeed, there can be no depositor anywhere in Europe or the world whose confidence has not been at least a little shaken by the Cyprus "bail-out" and its raid on bank deposits.

Why do something so apparently stupid?

One factor is that all these institutions - EU Commission, ECB, IMF - are accountable to no one.

Could it possibly be that their top staff have been "shorting" the banks, making personal bets on bank shares falling?

Better explanations invited.

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.

18 May 2013 Calthorpe Arms, London WC1X 8JR 13:15

6 Jul 2013 Bird in Hand, Chelmsford CM2 0AZ 11:00

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Saturday 13th July 2013

Leeds **AGS** Garden Party

Come and have fun

Saturday 19th October 2013

AGS Annual Conference, Leeds

Come and decide policy - and have fun

Conference will again be on a pooled fare basis. That means that it costs the same for any member to travel there, whether they come from next door or from Lands End. At the last AGS conference held in Leeds, the biggest contribution anyone had to put in was less than ten pounds.

BEDROOM TAX

Leeds AGS has worked hard to organise a local meeting on the bedroom tax. Working with the SP, we delivered 6,000 leaflets and held a successful meeting in a ward with a lot of council housing.

This tax will hit poorer people in social housing across the country.

Do you have an opportunity to organise or support local opposition and help some of those affected?

SPIRIT OF '45

This excellent Ken Loach film about the birth of the welfare state has had a brief run of showings in cinemas.

It is available on DVD to buy from 15th April. You could get it for yourself, or to share with fellow members and friends.

2012/13 National Committee members

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