

Newsletter

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



People's Assembly report

The Alliance for Green Socialism actively supported the People's Assembly in London on 22 June 2013. The AGS paid for ten delegates. We publicised it and encouraged members to attend. The AGS (and others) resubmitted motions, and also amendments to the draft "declaration", for discussion.

The AGS national committee (which met on 6 July) greeted the outcome of the Assembly with limited enthusiasm. Or, rather, the lack of outcome. The meeting was simply not a people's assembly.

The gathering was an entirely top-down exercise, completely dominated by platform speakers. In the two plenary sessions, start and end, not one single speaker was taken from the floor. Not only did they ignore the Chair of the AGS, but they even ignored Ken Loach, who asked to speak and was refused.

Not a single motion was taken. Even the "declaration", prepared by the organisers in advance, was nodded through by the chair without a vote. No discussion whatsoever, let alone amendment.

Of course, the Assembly achieved a very impressive turnout of over 4,000. Some of the speakers were good - Mark Steel, for example. Some of the "workshops" were good, despite being so large as to make the name "workshop" a joke. Some people were enthused by the gathering. No doubt some local assemblies will now be set up, and perhaps they will be different.

But democracy was utterly absent, as was any real prospect of serious future action.

The AGS national committee is now seeking to clarify the position of the Coalition of Resistance, who initiated the People's Assembly and undertook its practical organisation.

AGS PRINTER APPEAL

There has been a fantastic response from members to the AGS appeal in the last newsletter to fund a replacement printer. We are only a couple of hundred pounds short of our £2,000 target. The cost will be covered if just a few more people send in donations.

As the original appeal said, if you can spare a pound, fine. If you can spare more, fine.

**Please send cheques, made out to "Alliance for Green Socialism", to: AGS Printer Appeal
22 Montagu Crescent, Leeds, LS8 2RF**

BURSTON SCHOOL STRIKE RALLY

Sunday 1st September 2013
11am - 4pm

Church Green, Burston, near Diss, Norfolk

The AGS will have a stall at this event, as we did last year. If you can help, please contact John Sillett at johnsillett5@btinternet.com **01603 661814**. **The rally commemorates** the longest strike in history: Schoolchildren went on strike in 1914 to support their teachers, sacked by the rural squirarchy for organising agricultural workers.

AGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE - LEEDS

SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER 2013
CONSTITUTION MOTIONS DEADLINE 14 SEP
POLICY MOTIONS DEADLINE 5 OCT
NOMINATIONS DEADLINE 12 OCT
to AGS secretary as below, please.

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SOCIALIST SUMMER STROLL SHEPERDED BY SHEFFIELD AGS

Come for a gentle stroll in the Peak District.

Sunday 28th July 2013.

Meet at 10.15 am in the car park at **Monsal Head**.

Monsal Dale is stunningly beautiful. The walk is about six miles, with a pub for lunch around half way.

Monsal Head is on the **B6465**, about two miles north west of Bakewell . It's half way between **Ashford in the Water** and **Wardlow**.

The B6465 runs between the A6 and the A623.

All very welcome.

In case you are delayed en route it might be a good idea to let Brian Turley know you are coming

(07752 643138 briturl@googlemail.com)

IF YOU'VE DONE NOTHING WRONG ... THEY WILL SPY ON YOU ANYWAY.

In Britain it's against the law to tap people's phones or email without very good reason. Edward Snowden reveals that GCHQ aims to tap **one third** of all telecommunications crossing our shores. Are one third of us suspected gangsters or terrorists?

In the USA its illegal and **unconstitutional** (the UK doesn't bother with niceties like constitutions) to tap phones or emails without a court order. Snowden reveals that the NSA routinely accesses both telecommunications and the servers on which emails and websites are held - with the active cooperation of internet giants Microsoft, Google, etc.

So can we expect the prosecution of those criminally responsible at GCHQ and the NSA?

No. Instead we see the vilification, persecution and intended prosecution of Edward Snowden.

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.

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

We need a new Editor for Green Socialist after Conference. Volunteers or suggestions to the Secretary. Skills/experience not necessary - just willingness to do some work with help.

WIGAN BOROUGH GREEN SOCIALISTS

Wigan has an active local group called "Wigan Borough Green Socialists" with policies and approach very similar to those of the AGS. We are in discussion with them to form the obvious links.

The Wigan Green Socialists, the Alliance for Green Socialism, and the Green Left faction of the Green Party hope to hold a joint event in the north west in the autumn.

SUMMER POLITICAL EVENTS

Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival

Fri 19 - Sun 21 July (site opens mid-day Friday)

Tolpuddle

The Green Man

Thu15 - Sun 18 August,

Glanusk Park, Brecon

Bacons, Wales

Progress & Justice

Sat 4 September 10am - 10pm

Guildhall Derby

includes political folk singer Peggy Seeger

Labour Conference (ugh—but demonstrate)

Opens 11am Sunday 22 September

Brighton

Tory Conference (ugh—but demonstrate)

Opens Sunday 29 September

Manchester

2012/13 National Committee members

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