



Workers of all lands, unite!
 CP BRITAIN
 CP BRITAIN
 www.comunistparty.org.uk
 January 2021

Unity!

Zero Covid strategy now

HEALTH

ANDY BAIN

COMMUNIST TRADE unionists in a mass online meeting have called for a Zero Covid strategy.

Trade union activists from every part of Britain met on Zoom to plan the coming year's work with dozens of contributions from most of the 98 communists online spelling out practical plans for workplace organising.

Work in Covid conditions is dangerous. Everywhere that workers risk infection in schools, on public transport, in shops, on building sites, in food processing factories and office environments the risks of transmission – even with social distancing measures – is always present.

We know that the relaxation of social distancing prior to and during Christmas led to a dangerous spike in infections that threatens to overwhelm the NHS. But unless the risk of infection at work is effectively controlled Britain will find it impossible to contain the virus.

This means strict workplace infection control regimes with union and safety reps empowered to shut down the job.

Thousands of National Education Union members refused to work in unsafe schools forced the government to do a U turn.

Unless workers exposed to infection can safely self-isolate then workplace safety is impossible and everyone they come into contact with is exposed. But without income guarantees self isolation for many workers is impossible.

The Communist Party says that workers must be paid to self-isolate, whether by the State or the employer.

With an heroic effort health workers have by the first week in February vaccinated over twelve million people among older people and the vulnerable with NHS staff and care workers given some priority vaccinations.

Already bosses, Tory backbenchers, Cabinet ministers and in the Treasury there are voices calling for an immediate easing of lockdown conditions.

These are the authentic voices of our predatory ruling class for whom the health of workers is to be sacrificed for production and profits.

For workers and their families Covid-19 has brought death and for many others the lasting burden of Long Covid, bringing long term and chronic physical symptoms combined with huge mental health pressures.

Key workers are the most affected and black workers who are more likely to be in the most dangerous and exposed jobs are most at risk.

Before Christmas the Communist Party echoed expert opinion in arguing that any easing of the lockdown before effective controls were in place would lead to a new lockdown in the New Year.

Workers need a clear plan to suppress the Covid-19 infection.

- ★ Full pay for self isolation workers
- ★ Extra powers for union reps and H&S reps
- ★ Workplaces must be made safe with employers only able to keep workplaces open if they are certified safe.

★ Local public health bodies and the NHS must be funded to organise effective Track, Trace and Isolate and support systems.

★ All available buildings must be requisitioned to ensure schools and colleges are able to organise education with effective social distancing.

★ Influx control at ports and airports must be equipped with test facilities and hotels made available for compulsory isolation.

Joint trade union working will be needed to achieve much of this and strong leadership from unions will be even more necessary as we move beyond this Covid crisis.

If we are to end Tory cronyism and the terrible work conditions and pay for growing numbers the unions will need to join forces with others. We must build a movement for full employment, properly financed public services, social justice and internationalism, a broad alliance for the people.

ANDY BAIN IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S TRADE UNION ORGANISER

Inside

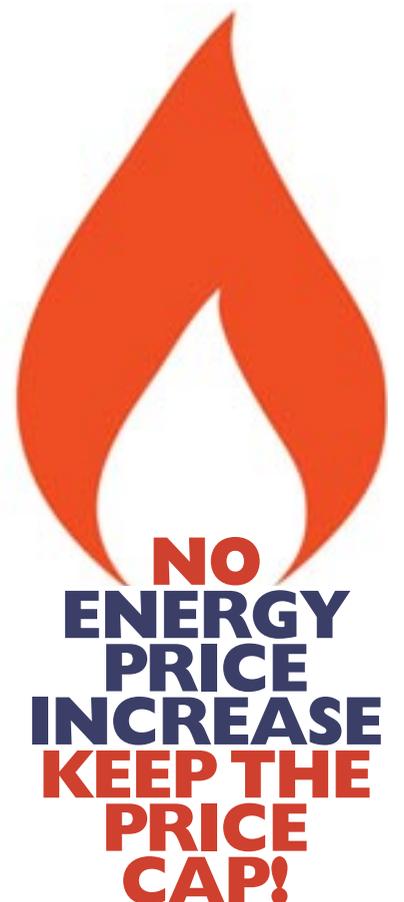
Remembering the Holocaust

GameStop and Casino capitalism exposed

On the NHS frontline

Communist Party election challenge

Agitprop/Books/ political education



The Communist Party says: Because of the pandemic, millions have been forced to work from home all day during a wet and cold winter as a result of schools closure.

The capitalist energy companies should pay a windfall super tax with the revenue directed to funding the NHS properly. Energy companies should be taken back into public ownership. None should make a penny profit from the pandemic.

Communists call for unity against monopoly

CAPITALISM

STATE SUPPORT for capitalist monopolies and their profits is the root of society's major problems, including the Tory government's disastrous handling of the Covid-19 crisis' Bill Greenshields told the February meeting of the Communist Party leadership.

'This approach characterises government policies from austerity and privatisation to state subsidies and the woefully inadequate test-and-trace system', he charged.

'Britain's successful vaccination programme owed most to the role played by public sector investment, the NHS and other public health and education institutions.'

Despite their huge profits, the big pharmaceutical companies have had to be bribed and coerced to make their contribution to the anti-Covid struggle and, with one or two exceptions, have so far failed across Europe to meet production targets and honour their obligations. Britain's Communists renewed their call for large-scale public

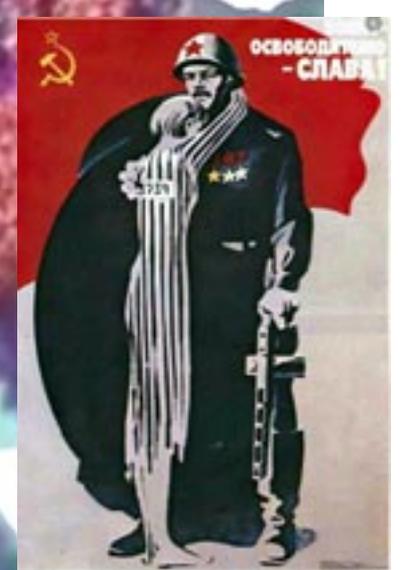
ownership in the pharmaceutical industry to ensure that research, development and manufacturing addressed people's health needs at home and internationally, instead of seeking market share and maximum profits from the NHS and private treatment for the rich.

Former teachers' union president Bill Greenshields welcomed the growing readiness of workers and their trade unions to resist attacks on jobs, employment contracts, pay and pensions, urging greater unity between

them in each sector of the economy.

The Communist Party executive endorsed his call for an alliance of labour movement bodies, the People's Assembly and other campaigning organisations to oppose monopoly domination of government policies and the economy'

'We need an Anti-Monopoly People's Convention to highlight the negative role played by big business in our society - and to highlight an alternative strategy', Bill Greenshields said.





VICTORY

The greatness of heroic victory over Fascist Germany is in the fact that the Soviet Union did not defend the socialist state alone, but that it selflessly fought to defend the internationalist proletarian goal – defeat the bulk of the Nazi armed forces and deliver the peoples of Europe from occupation. Marshal Zhukov



Light into darkness

HOLOCAUST

ROB GRIFFITHS

COMMUNISTS throughout world marked 27 January as the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by the Soviet Red Army.

The scenes which greeted those soldiers (above) were described as a page from hell.

In fact, Auschwitz turned out to be one of a major network of camps and ghettos designed to bring about the genocide of the Jewish people. Six million Jews died in the Holocaust alongside gays, Roma and Sinti, trade unionists, Poles, disabled people and Soviet prisoners of war. They had been dehumanised and treated in a way and on a scale not seen since the previous genocide of African enslavement.

At the end of World War II, the world was clear that mass murder lay at the very core of fascist policy. But as time has moved on, and as the survivors become fewer, personal testimony and truth have become contested by historical revisionism, holocaust denial and the shameful theory of ‘equivalence’ between the Nazi and other fascist regimes and their collaborators on one side, and the Soviet Union and Communist anti-fascist partisans on the other. This situation has been made much worse by the resolution, ‘On the importance of European remembrance for the future of Europe’ by the EU parliament.

To their shame, Labour MEPs voted for this legitimisation of fascist revisionism.

It is precisely to contest such distortions that the Communist Party associates itself with the theme of this year’s Holocaust Memorial Day, ‘Be the Light in the Darkness’.

This theme points to the depths of fascist intolerance, bigotry and violence, but calls on all citizens to stand up for what is right. In particular, the challenge in this year, is how best to educate and mobilise future generations – who will never have the opportunity to meet a survivor of fascist barbarism – yet need to understand the truth of what happened during the Holocaust, so we can ensure that fascism is never again tolerated.

This year the Communist Party’s Anti-Racism Anti-Fascism Advisory Commission will begin a campaign to expose online racism, intolerance and anti-Semitic conspiracy theories. Already, our party is in the forefront of the campaign against the ‘Double Genocide’ movement, warning the labour movement in Britain of the dangers of fascism camouflaged as ‘Freedom from Communism’.

Each Holocaust Memorial Day, we rededicate ourselves to the struggle against fascist barbarism, in the knowledge that we must never lower our vigilance against anti-semitism and all other forms of racism.”

Rob Griffiths is general secretary of the Communist Party

Casino capitalism

The GameStop stock market stunt is not a working class triumph



STOCK MARKET

ALLISON FEWTRELL

ICAN’T HELP feeling bemused by much of the social media buzz about #GameStop.

While I confess to being briefly entertained by ruffled feathers on Wall Street, I see many hailing it as a victory for the working class. Sorry to rain on the parade but this is not the case.

In a nutshell, a large group of ‘ordinary people’ from online community Reddit decided to use a fee-free trading platform, Robinhood, to buy shares in a company called GameStop. GameStop wasn’t doing very well and its share price was low, so the sudden influx of buyers artificially inflated the share price which meant some of the “redditors” made money by selling the stock on at the higher price.

This was not an organised group of working class people. One of them reportedly invested over \$50K! Does that sound working class to you? There was no plan to ‘bring down the system’ - just a bunch of amateur investors wanting to make a fast buck and irritate Wall Street.

There’s another chapter to this story. I’m not going to get into all the ins and outs of share trading, short selling and buybacks, but in a nutshell, a hedge fund or two lost some money because GameStop’s share price rose, and as the redditors were not part of the big boys club, Wall Street closed ranks and stopped further trading on the shares in question.

People seem shocked by this with cries of “not fair!”

It’s no surprise, however. Of course they are going to protect their interests! The capitalist class always does. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if today’s working class showed the same solidarity to protect their own (and each others’) interests?

Playing the stock market is nothing more than betting. You win some, you lose some. Hedge funds have deeper pockets than we imagine – literally billions at their disposal. They often lose money – they can afford to, but they will make more in other trades to cover their losses. That is why they are called ‘hedge’ funds?

There’s another consideration, which nobody seems to be addressing. Artificial inflation of stock values like this happen all the time, and it ultimately leads to deeper income inequality.

Apple alone has reached a stock market valuation of \$2 trillion. All of this is feeding a massive increase in income and wealth inequality in the US, as the gains from financial assets rise relative to income. Yet, like all previous bubbles, this one too will burst.

Make no mistake, another crash is coming, with or without the intervention of a bunch of Redditors. However, we need to look at the bigger picture and analyse who really loses out when there’s a crash.

Not the banks, financial institutions or global corporations. The burden of cost, as we have seen since the crash of 2008 falls upon the working class – by way of austerity, unemployment and rising living costs.

So where does all this leave the working class? Precarious zero hour contracts, a decimated health service, insecure tenancies and in-

escapable debt mean that venturing into stock trading is never going to be an option for them.

Take the poorly paid employees of GameStop, for example. Did the inflated share price of the company result in more secure work, better conditions or a pay rise? Not on your nelly. Their situation is as precarious, if not more so, than before.

In the case of companies like GameStop, who are struggling already, any sustained over-inflation of their share price could actually speed up their demise, with a high likelihood that the management and shareholders cash in, one way or another, on their stock.

Instead of getting over-excited at the unambitious idea of ‘working the system’ for a brief moment, we need to set our sights much higher and work towards building a different system which favours the working class.

Investment in public services, health and transport, a genuine commitment to building safe, secure, good quality social housing, an end to precarious jobs, a bolstering of workers’ rights and an end to the financialisation of education are just some of the things we should be, and many are, fighting for right now.

Looking back over the last year, the government has been forced into numerous U-turns, all because people in trade unions, tenant unions, pressure groups and community organisations stood up and fought back. Yes, it’s exhausting, yes, it’s continuous, but as more and more voices join in, the burden is shared.

Collectivisation and true solidarity among ordinary working people, in a word – Socialism – this is how we win.



DIGITAL DESIGNER ALISON FEWTRELL (ABOVE) IS SECRETARY OF SOUTH MANCHESTER COMMUNIST PARTY AND HANDLES MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MANCHESTER COMMUNIST BLOG. SHE CAMPAIGNS FOR THE GREATER MANCHESTER TENANT’S UNION



ELECTIONS

'In election propaganda it provided us with a means, second to none, of getting in touch with the mass of the people where they still stand aloof from us; of forcing all parties to defend their views and actions against our attacks before all the people...' Engels 1895 *The Class Struggles in France*

Vote Communist!

Voters in millions of homes will have a chance to vote for socialism this year



ELECTIONS

MARTIN LEVY

BRITAIN'S COMMUNISTS are to mount their biggest electoral challenge for years. In the 2017 and 2019 general elections the Communist party worked for a Labour victory and a left-led government.

In the May election thousands of council seats are up for contest along with the Scottish, Welsh and London assemblies. In local contests the first-past-the-post system is in place but in the assembly elections there is a mixed system with some seats filled with the FPTP system and some seats elected on a proportional basis.

The elections will be held with many lockdown restriction still in place. Communist Party chair Liz Payne said: 'COVID-19 restrictions won't prevent the Party fighting the election with everything at its disposal.'

'Party activists should expect campaign flyers, bilingual TV broadcasts, and social media campaigning backed-up with a programme of all-Britain online public meetings where voters can meet and question our candidates. Wherever safe and possible, the Party has will engage in door-to-door canvassing.'

'Our campaign is for working class, popular and socialist policies aimed at organising youth to fight for a future.'

Communist candidates will take the initiative in asserting 'progressive federalism', to build working class unity at nation and local government level, equipped with radical powers to

redistribute wealth.

Party communication chief Phil Katz told the party's February executive committee meeting: 'Social media campaigning and proportional voting systems help level the playing field for communists. We are upping our social media game and appealing to working class voters and frustrated labour left wingers to give the Communist Party their votes.'

'Organising meetings have been held across Britain, campaign plans sketched out, artworkers are working on designs and finishing touches are being made to Manifestos for elections in Wales, Scotland and later, for England.'

The communist election campaign will focus on:

- ★ Opposition to cuts – investing in public services and sustainable jobs in manufacturing.
- ★ Implementing a Zero-Covid strategy.
- ★ Restoring power to education authorities.
- ★ Ending privatisation in the NHS, making the case for a pay rise for NHS workers and restoring publicly-provided social and elderly care.
- ★ A concerted programme of investment in home-building – led by local councils.
- ★ Investment in public transport – taking services back into accountable public ownership.
- ★ The need for powers and resources to be devolved to national governments and the English regions.

MARTIN LEVY IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S NATIONAL ELECTION AGENT



HEALTH

Behind the PPE

It is almost a year to the day of the first national lockdown, a year that has seen tremendous tragedy, and that exposed the widening gap between the richest and the poorest

MEGAN WRIGHT

THIS HAS also been year of phenomenal public support for essential workers.

The NHS is held as an exemplar of public healthcare services worldwide. I joined last year as a newly qualified physiotherapist. I was able to change careers and retrain in my mid-thirties due to an NHS bursary, for which my university fees and a small annual award was paid. But bursaries for nurses and allied health professions, such as physios, were scrapped in 2016. Thanks to a politically aware upbringing, public service is woven into my being and although not a condition of the bursary, I joined my NHS healthcare trust in August 2019. These first years of practice held unprecedented professional and personal challenges. Yet it has been a crucible for forging my beliefs about what is essential in our society.

Every day we 'gown up', 'glove up' and don our visors, decorated with our names and smiley faces, to try to communicate from behind our surgical masks.

Throughout this pandemic, I have seen how hard my colleagues work as they care for the most vulnerable in our societies, the elderly, the young, the sick and dying and their families. We have adapted to all that has been asked, the constantly changing requirements of infection control measures and PPE, changes to shift patterns, changing roles, additional hours, additional responsibilities and more. We have survived this pandemic and its lockdowns with responsibilities outside of our working lives too, with families, children and our own loved ones to care for.

These extraordinary humans have gone above and beyond their emotional, physical and mental capacity. The cost of this is unquantifiable.

Public support for the NHS has been overwhelming. Local companies and individuals donating and delivering care parcels of food, hand cream and biscuits have boosted morale. National fundraising campaigns have raised millions for the NHS and the 'Clap for Heroes' initiative made audible the public's appreciation.

However claps do not pay the

bills! The NHS is not a charity. It should be a public service completely free at the point of care, funded through progressive taxation. It should not be bolstered by charitable giving from those already poorest and most vulnerable in our society, whilst the rich dodge taxes with a government that encourages such behaviour.

This pandemic has revealed how a well-funded, functioning healthcare system is a priority in our society. That begins with a decent wage.

Many NHS staff, and those who profit from the private companies who profit from NHS privatisation over successive governments, are not paid liveable wages. A staggering four in ten NHS workers qualify for state benefits. The NHS was founded after WW2 when the British economy was comparatively worse than it is today. The national debt exceeded that of when the Tory party launched 10 years of austerity, a decade that saw public service workers experience pay freezes, which is a pay cut when inflation persists in increasing living costs. In 2018, the 'Agenda for change' pay deal was negotiated for NHS staff, a three year path out of wage stagnation. We edge closer to a new financial year and a new NHS pay review is being kicked down the road by this government.

Evidence submitted to the NHS pay review body by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists showed 80% of NHS physiotherapists asked carry out unpaid overtime on a regular basis. 58% of respondents also considered leaving the NHS in the last year, a sentiment I doubt is unique to physiotherapists. This is a measure of the government's failure to financially recompense and recognise the value of the people who work in the NHS. Waiting for a national crisis, such as coronavirus, to recognise their worth is a travesty.

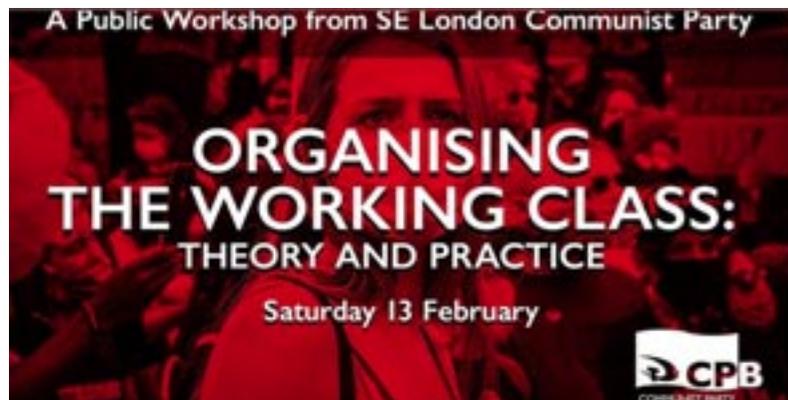
I will keep donning my uniform, PPE and graffitied visor and keep working in the NHS because I truly believe that it is a privilege to care for others. I urge you, in the strongest of terms, not to just clap on our behalf. Start shouting. And keep shouting until this government hears. Write to your local MP, as I have done and call for an early and significant pay rise for NHS staff and sufficient funding and protection to safeguard the NHS for the future.

MEGAN WRIGHT IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN. THIS ARTICLE INCLUDES EDITED EXTRACTS OF EMAILS SENT EACH WEEK TO HER MP, FOR WHICH NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED



AGITPROP & EVENTS

'It is particularly necessary to arouse in all who participate in practical work, or are preparing to take up that work, discontent with the amateurism prevailing among us and an unshakable determination to rid ourselves of it.' Lenin *What is to be Done?* 1901



In the spring and summer of 2021 Marx Memorial Library is hosting a series of fully online education al events and courses designed for trade unionists, using Zoom with some additional course materials delivered through the Moodle educational platform.

ONE Tuesday, 9 February - Trade unions and the fight against unemployment - PART 1: Unions in the public sector (a panel discussion with Professor Roger Seifert, Roger McKenzie Unison and Jo Grady UCU) www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/event/293

TWO Part 2: Unions in the private sector with Professor John Kelly, Steve Turner Unite, Sarah Woolley BFAWU) <https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/event/294>

THREE From Wednesday, 7-28 April 2021 our weekly courses – Women, Work & Trade Unions (focussing on women's role in trade union history and the impact on women workers of the conflict between capital and labour) <https://www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk/event/298>

Also in April 2021 MML will be starting a new series of our popular course for trade unionists **Trade unions, Class & Power** focussing on the role of collective bargaining, strikes and political organisation, the question of trade union power in contemporary Britain.



10th February 2021, 7pm
Register power_for_the_people.eventbrite.co.uk

£100,000 RED APPEAL CENTENARY FOR SOCIALISM

The appeal will help fund:

- ★ digitalised IT infrastructure at Party Centre
- ★ bulk email and phone bank facilities
- ★ Renovation of our premises
- ★ fund for the English locals, Scottish Parliament and Welsh Senedd elections
- ★ a new unemployment campaign

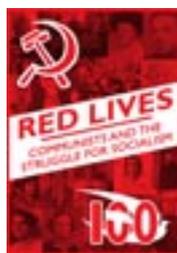
Please give what you can by bank transfer to Unity Trust, Communist Party of Britain, 60-83-01 account number 50725694; by cheque (CPB) or online at www.comunistparty.org.uk or p/o to CPB (Dept CFS) Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon CR0 1BD

PUBLICATIONS



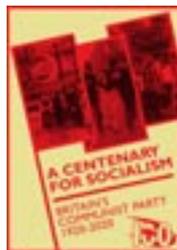
Women & Class

A new and updated edition, for the first time in book form, written by Professor Mary Davis. This book is essential reading for activists in the women's and trade union movements. 80 pages. £4.50



Red Lives

Read Red Lives the amazing and true story of communism in Britain, through the life stories, of the party's extraordinary rank and file membership. 252 pages, with photos. £9.99



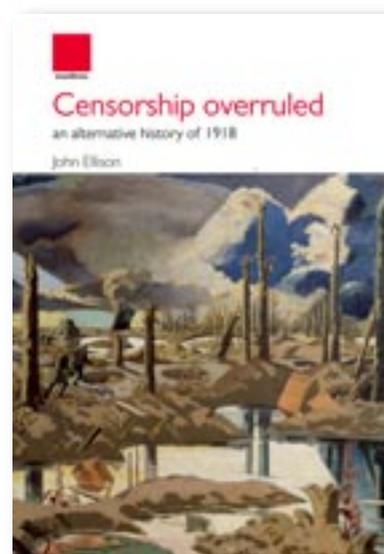
A Centenary of Socialism

The first ever, single volume history of the Communist Party. Edited by Mary Davis, with 20 contributors charting 100 years of struggle. £9.99



COMMUNIST REVIEW 98 WINTER 2020/21

THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE WAR IN SPAIN Nan Green
FREDERICK ENGELS AND THE ENGLISH WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT IN MANCHESTER, 1842-1844 John Smethurst, Edmund Frow and Ruth Frow
THREE PROBLEMS OF READING ENGELS AND WHY WE NEED TO Prabir Purkayastha
ENGELS AND SCIENCE John Desmond Bernal
BRITAIN'S INFORMAL EMPIRE IN CHINA Gordon Scobie
THE DECLINE OF CAPITALISM Lars Ulrik Thomsen
REVIEWS Liz Payne, Paul Simon
SOUL FOOD: YES, ART IS WORK – BUT IT IS ALSO ART Fran Lock
£2.50



Culture Commission Saturday, 6 March 11am - 1pm

Comrades active in music, dance, theatre, literature, poetry and film are invited to an inaugural open meeting of the Culture Commission. Twenty comrades have already signed up to help shape a CP culture policy, create events, review existing activism and work with solidarity and cultural movements. A Culture Charter is also planned. You do not have to be a virtuoso to get involved!
Register: email info@communistparty.org.uk and add 'Invite for Culture Commission' in the subject line.

Power for the people Wednesday, 10 February 7pm
The Federation of Morning Star Support Groups in the East of England, promise an evening of 'Putting the case for a planned, integrated and balanced energy strategy backed by new investment, publicly owned and locally accountable'. Hear Ann Pettifor author of 'The Case for a Green New Deal', Steve Turner Unite AGS responsible for manufacturing, Communist Review editor Martin Levy and Greenpeace former convenor Peter Wilkinson. Chaired by Mark Jones.
To register: tinyurl.com/4qyghmxr.

Unemployment & Trade Unions

Tuesday, 9 February 7 - 8.30pm
Join a discussion hosted by the Marx Memorial Library and Workers School, with: Professor Roger Seifert, University of Wolverhampton, Roger McKenzie Unison, Unison assistant general secretary and Jo Grady, General Secretary, UCU
Register: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/trade-unions-the-fight-against-unemployment-unions-in-the-public-sector-tickets-137441765019

Workers take power... in 1871!

Wednesday, 3 March 7pm
Join Cambridgeshire CP and the East of England YCL in a joint commemoration and evening of Marxist education to mark the 150th anniversary of the Paris Commune. Dave Smith, trade union tutor and a leader of the Blacklist Support Group, will lead the study. Rail union activist Sarah McDonough will chair.
To register: <https://tinyurl.com/la2ah0aq>

Calendar online Comrades can now go to the party website to view a calendar of events with details, many with direct registration. Branch, district and nation secretaries will soon be able to upload details of local meetings. As the party continues to grow, the calendar becomes a valuable tool to book dates in advance and avoid clashes with others.
To view: <https://www.comunistparty.org.uk/events/>

Training Places Are available for courses on, 'Community organising', 'How to do radio interviews', 'Public speaking' and 'Writing for social media'. Courses are also available for women only, please ask. email Lynne at walshmediaworks@aol.com

An alternative history of 1918

Censorship overruled is the perfect endpiece to the Communist Party's centenary year.

With marxist precision John Ellison traces, through the bourgeois, socialist and anti war media, the events of 1918.

November 1918 brought imperial Germany's defeat, accelerated by uprisings, while Allied rulers, whose own empires grew larger with victory, were bent on revenge. But as the year began, discontent over food shortages and prices in Britain was magnified by calls for peace, stimulated by Russia's socialist revolution, which the Lloyd George government was already seeking to reverse. With a close look at the Establishment, popular and anti-war press, John Ellison re-visits this year of change, in which war resisters and the rising socialist movement stood proud.

£8.50 Illustrated, 182 pp. www.manifestopress.org.uk