



Rebel Rose



West Yorkshire Anarchist Communist Groups newsletter

Issue 6: July 2020. E-Version/PDF.

Contents:
Front Page (1) – Job Cuts at Bradford College, Covid-19 in Yorkshire, Save our Homes LS26 campaign
Page 2 – No Safety No Work Campaign
Page 3 – Poems and Book Review
Page 4 – Who we are? Bookfairs, New ACG book for sale.

Jobs Cuts at Bradford College

Last month Bradford College announced that up to 107 more people are set to lose their jobs. Like losses in other sectors these job cuts are not due to Covid-19 but instead are the result of the political choices. Politicians, both national and local, and bosses will all say that “there was no other choice” but that is a lie, there are plenty of alternatives but those at the top are not willing to workers before profits.

Last week the government praised Further Education (FE) and bemoaned the lack of funding that had gone into FE colleges, ignoring the fact that it has been the policies of many successive governments to strangle the funding to FE, resulting in a round after round after round of job cuts, including this latest one.

The systematic running down of FE has not just cost jobs it has also damaged society. FE once played an important role in education but for years it has been marginalised and attacked. If the government was serious about helping to support FE it would not only provide money to meet any short-term difficulties faced by FE institutions like Bradford College, it would also ensure that sufficient funds were invested to repair the years of neglect. However, as usual, the actions do not match the words.



Covid-19 in Yorkshire

While the government is recklessly pushing for things to go back to the normal as soon as possible Covid-19 is still a major health problem for some areas in Yorkshire. Thankfully no local area of Yorkshire has seen the type of Covid-19 levels of Leicester. However, as of the week ending 17th July Barnsley, Bradford, Kirklees and Wakefield were in the areas with the highest Covid-19 cases per population (as were Oldham, Rochdale and Blackburn across the border in Lancashire), while Sheffield has also been listed as an area of concern.

The rush to “re-open” businesses can “help the economy” is risking people lives, and of course it does not risk all lives equally, the working class will bear the brunt of the cost. The choices and actions of the national governments have created much of this mess but local councils, often Labour led, deserve criticism for not doing more to challenge the Tories in Westminster. Like with austerity local councillors have too often wrung their hands, talking about how they oppose national policies but not having the courage to take action to oppose policies that will result in deaths. The working class can only rely on each other, not on MPs, councillors or bosses.

The LS26 Save our homes campaign continues!

Please [#help](#) us fight this appeal our landlord [#Pemberstone](#) has put in to try again to make 70 families [#Homeless](#) just so they can make money [#saveourhomesLS26](#)



Donate to Save Our Homes... fight the appeal! We're raising money to Save Our Homes...fight the appeal! Support this JustGiving Crowdfunding Page.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/save-our-homes?utm_id=108&utm_term=NWXWZAeDp

NO SAFETY NO WORK

Statement from the No Safety No Work Campaign:

Many workers are being asked to work in unsafe environments. Many more will be asked to do so as they return to work over the coming days and weeks.

The Anarchist Communist Group (ACG) is launching a No Safety, No Work campaign. This is a campaign to be led by workers trying to keep themselves and others safe at work in the time of Covid-19. We know that the working class cannot rely on employers or the government to keep us safe.

Tens of thousands of people have died in this pandemic, and additionally many die in the work place every year. None of these deaths were inevitable but were the results of the greed of the bosses and the rulers of our society. As more and more people are returning to work, the government has not passed a single law guaranteeing workers safety but has issued guidance to employers. This is not enough to keep us safe.

Firings and Redundancies:

Other workers, meanwhile, will be hit with firings and redundancy notices and won't be returning to work safely or unsafely. And if not threatened with job losses, other workers will be forced to accept worse conditions, pay or hours cut, there will be little help from the UK government.

Workers Self Defence:

Individually workers can do very little to protect themselves, but together we can make a difference. The No Safety, No Work campaign is an act of self defence against the abuses of our employers and the government. Campaigns such as these exist to both protect workers lives today, but also to act as template for and a guide to a better society; a society where workers have control, autonomy, and are not beholden the bosses.

The government and the wealthy will use the current crisis to cut taxes on the rich and steal from the poor. They can only do that if we, the working class, allow them to. This campaign will be part of a movement to resist and fight back against economic attacks on working people. It is a campaign which firmly opposes any job losses and a return to the austerity that has been unleashed on our class by the bosses and successive governments over the last decade.

We want to hear from you!

If you are being asked to work in an unsafe environment and want your employer named and shamed, let us know by emailing us (details below).

We are also looking for people to write accounts of their return to work and the lack of health and safety in the workplace. The No Safety, No Work campaign will treat all whistleblower information securely and confidentially.

If you are involved in a struggle against your employer and you want help or information, then get in touch.

This campaign is also aimed at union members not to let their unions sell out on their previous terms and conditions in return for jobs. If you think your union is doing this, tell us. If you are an individual or a group that would like to be involved in the campaign then get in touch at safetreturn@anarchistcommunism.org.

Anxious

I admit, I'm anxious.
I'm anxious about the pubs opening tonight.
I'm anxious that it's all going to kick off.
I'm anxious that it's going to dramatically increase the infection/death rate.
I'm anxious it will put a greater strain on the already stretched NHS.
I'm anxious that it will put a strain on the already struggling pubs if/when they have to shut again or don't have the capacity to open tonight.
I'm anxious it will have a knock on effect and delay the live music, festival and art scene I love so much.
I'm anxious it will be even longer till I can see all my friends and family (most I have not seen since last year)
I am anxious that 'normality' is even further away.
I'm anxious the government (and others) will blame everyone for wanting to go out and have a pint with their friends.
I'm anxious about the government's motives in getting rid of lockdown this soon.
I'm anxious things will not end well.

By R J Eagling



False Economy

Bin bags in the shop at 49p,
A customer's bargain is what they want you to see.
Thin as paper, they split down the middle, it took me a while to work out the riddle.

It's a false economy,
They took all my money!

Headphones cheap at just a pound,
With the lowest possible quality sound. The connection was nowhere to be found;
The bin is where these headphones are bound.

It's a false economy,
They took all my money!

Why do we allow this insanity?
Selling products that are so obviously faulty
The fat cats at the top must find it funny
I am crying out for a common sense shopper's insurgency.

It's a false economy,
They took all my money!

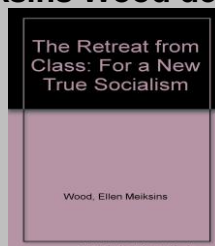
I thought I had a bargain, but it was bittersweet.
When the bag split and the headphones broke,
I started to weep.
I felt used, wished that I had kept the receipt,
whoever makes those products is a right bloody cheat.

It's a false economy,
They took all my money!

Tatty Hoggarth

Book Review: The Retreat from Class: A New 'True' Socialism by Ellen Meiksins Wood:

The Retreat from Class was first published in 1986, in it Ellen Meiksins Wood outlined how figures on the left were willing to replace a politics based on class interests with politics based on more nebulous conceptions of 'people' or 'democracy'. Meiksins Wood clearly and incisively demonstrates why attempts to build socialist politics on anything other than class interests is not only incoherent but incapable to bringing about the changes required. Despite the book now being 34 years old it remains as relevant as ever, indeed the recent attempts of people like Paul Mason to create a 'socialist' Labour Party under Kier Starmer are a modern repetition of the thinking Meiksins Wood demolished three decades ago.





Contact us:

West Yorkshire ACG can be contacted via Facebook - www.facebook.com/West-Yorkshire-Anarchist-Communist-Group
Or via email at westyorksacg@virginmedia.com

Bookfairs 2020/2021:

28th November 2020 - Manchester and Salford Bookfair - People's History Museum, Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester M3 3ER.



23rd January 2021 – Bradford anarchist Bookfair – 1 in 12 Club, Albion Street, Bradford, BD1 2LY.

Smash the Spectacle

I stare at the TV the same lies the numb feeling will not pass.
The knot in my stomach tightens.
My hate for party politics my driving force.
My loathing of their treachery, their thin vale of slime.
Ignore the ballet box, look away from all their deceit.
Organise and fight back your community is your strength!
Prepare for the class war.
Prepare for sacrifice.
Strive for freedom of body and soul.
Anarchy and love our ultimate goal!

Comrade Durruti



Who we are.....

The Anarchist Communist Group (ACG) is a revolutionary anarchist communist organisation made up of local groups and individuals who seek a complete transformation of society, and the creation of anarchist communism. This will mean the working-class overthrowing capitalism, abolishing the State, getting rid of exploitation, hierarchies and oppressions, and halting the destruction of the environment. To contribute to the building of a revolutionary anarchist movement we believe it is important to be organised. We are committed to building an effective national and international organisation that has a collective identity and works towards the common goal of anarchist communism, whilst at the same time working together with other working-class organisations and in grass roots campaigns. We do not see ourselves as the leaders of a revolutionary movement but part of a wider movement for revolutionary change. In addition, we strive to base all our current actions on the principles that will be the basis of the future society: mutual aid, solidarity, collective responsibility, individual freedom and autonomy, free association and federalism.

Compendium of Capital (a brief summary of Marx's Capital)

The ACG is pleased to be publishing this, the first print edition of Carlo Cafiero's brief summary of Marx's *Capital*, also known as the *Compendium of Capital*. It's been a proposed project for members of the ACG for a number of years, in fact, since the days when some of us were still in the Anarchist Federation. Several times, the project was put on the back-burner as, at the time, there was no English translation of Cafiero's summary and the task of translating it into English seemed somewhat overwhelming. Then it came to our attention that a recent translation had been done by Paul M. Perrone posted on the marxists.org archive. We asked his permission to use his translation, he kindly agreed, and you now have the end result here in your hand.

