

# The Line of March

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**Build the movement to end crimes against  
peace! For an anti-war government!  
Defend the NHS! Health care is a right!**

# Contents



**Editorial: The Road Ahead in 2012**

**Building Resistance and Planting the Alternative -  
Page 3**

**UNISON Northern Region Council Passes Motion -  
The Alternative to War - Page 4**

**Coalition Government Continues with its Reckless Aim for the NHS to Impose  
Monopoly Right over Public Right - Page 5**

**BUILDING THE OPPOSITION TO THE ANTI-SOCIAL OFFENSIVE**

**Rally of Health Workers and Patients to Safeguard the Future of the NHS - Page 6**

**Quantitative Easing as a Means of Paying the Rich - Page 6**

**FOR AN ANTI-WAR GOVERNMENT!**

**British Government and Allies Escalate their Unjustifiable Attacks against Iran -  
Page 8**

**Condemn Britain's Renewed Colonialist Military Deployment in the South Atlantic -  
Page 9**

**YOUTH AND STUDENTS**

**Student Movement at the New Year - Page 9**

**THE PARTY AND ITS WORK**

**Events which Marked the 75th Anniversary of Cornelius Cardew - Page 10**

**INTERNATIONAL**

**Friendship Meeting — Celebrate the Life of Korean Leader Kim Jong - Page 11**

**53rd Anniversary of the Triumph of the Cuban Revolution - Page 11**

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# Editorial: The Road Ahead in 2012

## Building Resistance and Planting the Alternative

**T**he situation facing the working class and people remains extremely dangerous in 2012, with the threat of further wars of conquest and savage attacks on the rights of the people and on public services.

This year is a very crucial time in the development of the world situation, but also in the development of the Party's work. The fight for the alternative is being discussed in the workers' and people's movements. This alternative represents a great aspiration of the working class that there is something else, that there is something that needs to be changed. It is the outlook that the working class and people want and are fighting for a different kind of society.

There is a slogan which reminds us of what social force we are addressing: *Only the Working Class Can Save the Day*. It is a reminder that the cutting edge of the Party's work is to mobilise the working class to build an effective Workers' Opposition around the alternative, and to organise an effective resistance to the Coalition's anti-social, anti-worker, pro-war agenda.

The workers must themselves occupy the space for change as an independent political force asserting their own rights, and asserting that they have to fight to defend the rights of all. A new direction for the economy and society is a necessity. The Party wants to make sure that the workers as a whole acquire that new social consciousness which is necessary for society to advance, and then this new social consciousness is what will be the powerful force to transform the situation and take the working class on to a situation where they can begin to turn things around and themselves go on the offensive. How to rouse everyone to participate in the class battles in order to acquire this new social consciousness is the Party's preoccupation at this time. It bears in mind that what is decisive in transforming the world is the activation of the human factor/social consciousness.

The fight for an anti-war government remains a key task. The anti-war movement is not just a protest movement but is concerned with the future of society. It is necessary to organise for an alternative to war especially in the working class movement, and bring to the forefront the necessity for the people to be the decision-makers so as to have the power to prevent war, aggression and the flouting of the sovereignty of people and nations. The key question is to get organised, to build conscious participation, on this basis.

The objective situation facing the youth is one where they are being denied a future. Particularly dangerous is the emphasis on



so-called "gang culture" by the ruling elite as a means of targeting the youth. But the youth and students are also taking up the cause of fighting for their rights and fighting for the alternative. It is very important for the Party, in these circumstances, to address the issue of the mobilisation of the youth for modern communism.

In 2012, RCPB(ML) will address these objective necessities in the course of creating the subjective conditions for the revolutionary transformation of society. It will strengthen its journalistic and technical work with this aim. There are very difficult problems facing the working class and people caused by monopoly dictate, the dreams of empire, the tearing up of all the norms that were established after the Second World War. But the Party stands by its conviction that first of all the working class is that social force which will lead society in transforming the situation. Secondly, the youth are extremely enthusiastic about changing the world and finding out what necessity is in that regard.

The question of outlook is fundamental. A revolutionary optimistic, human-centred outlook, encouraging the social side of everyone, with the workers at the head, and establishing that the ability to think is really at the centre of all considerations, will enable the working class and its mass communist party to collectively find a way forward.

# UNISON Northern Region Council Passes Motion - The Alternative to War

On January 18, Unison Northern Region Council comprising Unison delegates from the public sector workers across the northern region passed a motion calling for co-operation with other trade unions, the TUC and with the Stop the War movement to promote and fight for the alternative to these wars.

Moving the motion Roger Nettleship, delegate of Unison South Tyneside Health Branch, pointed out to the delegates: "I like many Unison members have been involved with the Tyneside Stop the War Coalition and, like Unison is affiliated to the Stop the War Coalition, our branch is affiliated to the local Stop the War group. However, there is now increasing concern from members that their families are being more and more involved in wars. And not only in Afghanistan where one of the longest wars of occupation since the second world war has cost the lives of 400 British soldiers, and tens of thousands of Afghan people."

He continued that "it is prescient that the trade union movement can and should bring better organisation and get involved, not only to support the anti-war movement and end the current wars, but also to oppose further ones, with the threat to Syria and Iran and the danger that this brings us closer to a new world war."

"The British people and our members have been sold the lie that justifies these wars and the murdering of tens of thousands of people when every time there is an alternative to these wars," he said.

The motion will further enable the union in the region to advance the discussion and recommendations in line with its policy that represents the interests of its members in promoting and fighting for the alternative to wars.

## Unison Northern Regional Council Motion - The Alternative to War

Unison Regional Council welcomes the TUC Congress decision to call for the rapid withdrawal of British forces from Afghanistan and to demand a political solution to the problems of that country. It notes that this conflict has cost the lives of tens of thousands of Afghanistan people and nearly 400 British soldiers, the occupation of Afghanistan, and has now spread to Pakistan, with all the additional dangers that entails.

Unison Regional Council recognises that before the invasion of Afghanistan, there was always an alternative to war and the "war on terror" which was launched by the US and Britain and others powers. Following 9-11 the British government should have responded to what was a criminal action by a small group of people to supporting a criminal investigation to find the per-



petrators and not a war. There was no justification to launch a war against the sovereign country of Afghanistan and its people, a war which has lasted more than 10 years and has led to the death of tens of thousands. The then British government ignored millions of British people who also demanded an alternative to the US and British invasion of Iraq and instead they launched a war that has killed more than one million Iraqis in the invasion and occupation. This year, the Cameron Government is carrying on this pro-war policy and launched the bombing of Libya, killing thousands of people with its NATO allies siding with one side in an internal conflict in a sovereign country when there was an alternative to promote negotiations between the two sides without military intervention. The Cameron Government is now setting its warmongering agenda for military interference in Syria and Iran. The Regional Council is extremely concerned over the escalating moves to involve Britain in further wars of intervention and the implications for a new world war.

Unison Regional Council calls for co-operation with other Trade Unions and with the Stop the War Movement to promote and fight for the alternative to these wars. To oppose the huge loss in human and material resources wasted in this death and destruction to other countries and to our own. To uphold the sovereignty of workers in other countries to decide their own future without military intervention from Britain and other powers and to end Britain's involvement in alliances that do not promote the alternative to war.

*Motion approved at a quorate meeting of South Tyneside Health Branch Committee held 4pm on: December 15 2011*



# Coalition Government Continues with its Reckless Aim for the NHS to Impose Monopoly Right over Public Right

**T**he Coalition government's Health and Social Care Bill will reach the report stage in the House of Lords on February 8 prior to its Third Reading in the Lords. The Bill will then return to the House of Commons for consideration of the amendments before it receives the Royal Assent.

At the same time, the government is proceeding with the measures contained in the Bill before it has been passed by Parliament. For example, there are proposals in the Bill to place the commissioning of NHS services in the hands of GP consortia. Speaking of the fact that these are already being implemented, Rehana Azam, the GMB's national officer for the NHS, said: "It's the height of irresponsibility to put these untried and untested new organisations in charge of a quarter of the NHS budget without proper parliamentary approval." The GMB's research showed £29 billion of the NHS's £106 billion funds has been given to family doctor-led Clinical Commissioning Groups, he pointed out.

The government, through cuts in budgets, is also encouraging the break up of key services allied to medicine such as podiatry, and almost all prevention of ill health programmes that are presently attached to the NHS and local authorities in England. With another provision of the Bill, they are preparing to launch their "Any Qualified Provider" which will allow the private sector to compete for NHS services on a case-by-case basis. Such measures as tendering out services and "any qualified provider" are being introduced with the big lie that this will improve quality when in fact they are destabilising the health care system so that it fails to meet the needs of the people whilst increasing the costs to society.

In spite of the passage of the Bill through both Houses, opposition to the Bill is continuing from doctors, nurses and health care professionals and their trade unions and professional organisations. For example, already 42,000 people have signed a new government e-petition<sup>1</sup> with the target being 100,000. NHS Confederation chief executive Mike Farrar in the face of this opposition made clear that the reforms to the administrative structures of the NHS and the huge cost involved are a "distraction" when the government is at the same time cutting the NHS budget by £20 billion over the next few years. He said "We are therefore increasingly worried by the lack of clinical support for the reforms and the fact clinical opposition to the changes has hardened in recent days."

The admission that the opposition to the Bill has hardened shows that this opposition is continuing to be consolidated and is based on the conviction that if the workers' movement and the movement among the people do not take a stand against the



wrecking of the NHS and fight for the alternative based on the right to health care, then the consequences will be very serious for society.

Such a reckless aim for the NHS as is being pursued by the government cannot be justified and reflects the minority interests of global monopolies to maximise their profits at the expense of the health care system in Britain. It is worth noting that it is recognised by almost all that these aims exist in the present legislation introduced by the previous Labour government that increasingly aimed to involve the private sector through the setting up of the private competition for health contracts in the name of the "commissioner provider split". However, what the present government represents is the impatience of the global monopolies to accelerate this take over of the NHS. They are behind the grenade that the government has thrown into the NHS in the shape of the present Bill and it is this that has focused almost 100% opposition from society that has left the government completely isolated.

For the Workers' Opposition, this raises the vital question of what the aim of the movement to safeguard the future of the NHS must be. It cannot be limited in any way to an outlook that accepts the right of the monopolies to dictate to society as they do now through the cartel of Westminster parties that represent this dictate. Whether it is the present legislation of creeping privatisation through "commissioning" and the introduction of a market into health care, or the Coalition government's grenade that they have thrown into the NHS, they both represent the prevalence of monopoly right over public right. This is the problem that needs solution. The safeguarding of the future of the NHS is not just about this present Bill but it is about building the resistance and organisation that undermines and overthrows the monopoly dictate in parliament and throughout society. The challenge that the Workers' Opposition takes up is for the prevalence of public right over monopoly right in political, ideological and economic life of the country.

1. Link to e-petition <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/22670>

# Rally of Health Workers and Patients to Safeguard the Future of the NHS

Unions representing hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals and workers from across the NHS are to hold a central London rally as the Health and Social Care Bill enters its final crucial parliamentary stages, the TUC reports.

On Wednesday, March 7 – under the banner of the All Together for the NHS campaign – nurses, midwives, doctors, physiotherapists, managers, paramedics, radiographers, cleaners, porters and other workers from across the health service will join with patients to fill Central Hall Westminster for a 6pm “Save our NHS” rally.

The All Together for the NHS campaign has called the rally over concerns that an NHS with a future based on competition will fragment the health service, worsen the care available to patients, and mean continued uncertainty for NHS workers, with the quality of training and their terms and conditions likely to suffer.

The pressure on the Secretary of State, Andrew Lansley, has been growing in recent weeks with more professional bodies joining the calls to amend significantly or withdraw the Bill completely. The March rally is intended to add to that pressure by demonstrating the broad coalition of opposition to Bill.

TUC Deputy General Secretary Frances O’Grady said: “Some changes have been made to the Bill but not nearly enough. Only this week we have seen a private company taking over an NHS hospital for the first time, as Circle moves in to the Hinchingbrooke Hospital in Cambridgeshire. This will be the future the NHS has to look forward to if the Bill stays in its current form.

“Peers must listen to the concerns of the people that know the



NHS best – the staff who work in it. Health workers fear the increased competition and the extension of markets will have a devastating impact on patient care, especially poorer people who will find themselves pushed to the back of ever-growing waiting lists.”

The rally in early March will provide the opportunity for NHS workers, professionals and the people’s movement as a whole to affirm that No Means No and that the Health and Social Care Bill must be defeated.

## Quantitative Easing as a Means of Paying the Rich

Speculation of a new round of quantitative easing has been growing recently. With the announcement of a contraction in GDP in the final quarter of last year, the Investors’ Chronicle tells us that “economists expect the Bank’s monetary policy committee to respond to this by announcing more quantitative easing, probably at its next meeting on 9 February”.

Quantitative easing has been called “printing money”. In the Bank’s own words: “Instead [of physically printing more banknotes], the Bank buys assets from private sector institutions – that could be insurance companies, pension funds, banks or non-financial firms – and credits the seller’s bank account. So the seller has more money in their bank account, while their bank holds a corresponding claim against the Bank of England (known as reserves). The end result is more money out in the wider econ-

omy.”

In capital-centred accounting, an “asset” is something from which the holder of the asset expects to receive some future financial benefit. Debt, such as a bond (for instance, 2 ½ % Treasury Stock 2013), is considered an “asset” because the amount borrowed and the interest is payable to its holder by the party that issued the debt (the word “issuer” is used to mean the borrower). And this is what the Bank of England is talking about when it refers to “assets”.

For example, a government bond is a contract to repay borrowed money, where the government owes the holder of the bond a debt and is obliged to pay interest. Corporate debt is the same, except that the issuer of the stock is a company. With quantitative easing, the Bank of England generally buys government and



high-rated corporate bonds, where “high-rated” means bonds issued by companies with a high credit rating. These are generally big companies and monopolies.

Debt is therefore considered an “asset” when used as a place to invest capital and receive interest. This is a far cry from the negative connotation of the word debt when used in connection with the national debt and so-called need to pay the deficit as a justification for cuts in social programmes. In this connection, debt is considered as a liability. That investment in social programmes is considered a cost and not an obligation for the public good underlies the terms of the discussion over quantitative easing as a supposed stimulus to “the economy”, in which government debt is considered on the one hand an asset, on the other a liability, from the standpoint of finance capital laying its claims as the only claims that are sacrosanct.

It is where the Bank “credits the seller’s bank account” that money is created out of nothing, which ends up in “the wider economy”. In summary, the Bank of England buys existing government and corporate bonds from various financial monopolies, who have (ultimately) previously bought them from the government and private corporations. These monopolies receive this money-from-nothing in return, in the end reflected in greater bank reserves, which banks may then either hold on to or lend out at interest. In effect, the Bank has electronically “printed money” and paid it to the rich.

The sheer arbitrariness of creating billions of pounds from nothing is itself an exposure of capital-centred decision making over the economy. It raises the question: if this can be done, why cannot money simply be created to fund social programmes rather than paying the rich?

Rather, we are to be satisfied with arguments such as this: the effects of the buying of debt by the Bank are to increase bank reserves, which they can then loan out, “funding” business projects, and to increase the market price of bonds by reducing their supply and consequently reduce their yields (rates of return). This filters into the wider debt market as the big investors who sold the Bank their bonds buy substitutes to invest their capital. The knock-on effect is that medium to long-term interest rates fall, lowering the cost for businesses to borrow, helping “economic growth”. Meanwhile the holders of bonds – again, particularly the financial monopolies that hold large quantities – can sell them at profit in the short term while their prices are rising and get richer. This so-called “wealth effect” of enriching the rich is supposed to help us all as their confidence to spend and invest rises.

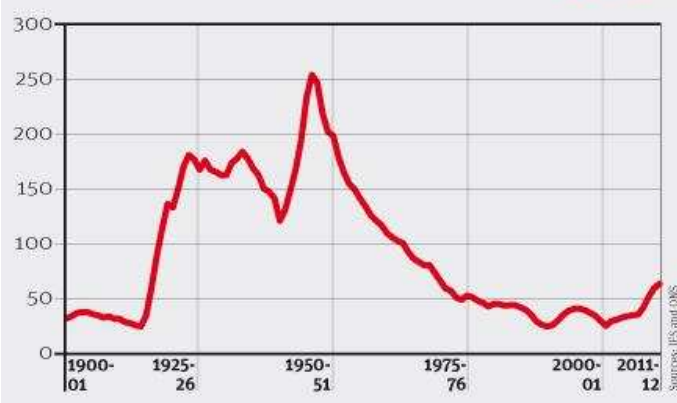
This kind of “trickle-down” deception will not wash, however. Not one speck of actual wealth has been created at all, and what happens when the “asset bubble” bursts goes unsaid. The real source of all wealth is the value added by human labour to the products of nature. Commentators have already exposed the myth. Dhaval Joshi of BCA Research argues that “QE cash ends up overwhelmingly in profits, thereby exacerbating the already extreme income inequality and the consequent social tensions that arise from it.”

The experience of the last round of quantitative easing has shown that banks have tended to “keep” their new money rather than lending it out, so even by their own terms, the “monetary stimulus” has not materialised as envisaged. Bank of England

## Debt – it’s been worse

UK national debt (% of GDP)

NS



governor Mervyn King admitted in October that he could not guarantee that a new round would mean that lending by commercial banks will rise. Indeed, Joshi suggests that “QE1... just handed banks lots of extra money which they used to speculate on commodities such as oil, boosting their price, pushing up inflation and making life even harder for cash-strapped consumers”.

In general, the inflationary pressure of quantitative easing, due to the greater quantity of money circulating for a given amount of production, is well known, though this is complicated by factors such as the hoarding of the created money in bank reserves. Research quoted in *The Guardian* suggests that the first round of easing added 0.75% to 1.5% to inflation. Quantitative easing is an arbitrary attempt to distribute what has not been produced, creating disequilibrium with the potential for outright havoc in the economy.

The financial oligarchy is tightening its grip on all aspects of society, and quantitative easing is consistent with the demand of the financial oligarchy that no solution can be found which does not channel to it further tribute from the economy. Indeed, the whole issue is being raised and posed in such a way as to tighten the grip of the financial oligarchy on the direction of the economy, and freeze out any serious discussion of an alternative direction.

Only an effective Workers’ Opposition with its central role in production has the power to block this dictate and ensure that more is put into the economy than is taken out. Rather than arbitrariness, the Workers’ Opposition favours conscious intervention in and control over the economy. This in part requires the development of public not-for-profit financial institutions, in place of the contorted system of for-profit private financing that extracts wealth out of the economy every step of the way. This is a component of the demand for the alternative, for a new direction for the economy. This demand, despite the attempts of the government and financial oligarchy, is one which is increasingly being reflected in the consciousness of the workers’ movement, and one which must be strengthened. The situation typified by quantitative easing as a means for paying the rich which further concentrates wealth in their hands, underlines the urgency of the need for the working class to have a decisive say in this new direction for the economy, one which upholds a genuine responsibility towards the socialised economy. The crucial task for the Workers’ Opposition is how to organise to turn the situation around and bring this about.

## International News

# British Government and Allies Escalate their Unjustifiable Attacks against Iran

In a joint statement issued on Monday, January 23, Prime Minister David Cameron, together with the German Chancellor and the French President, announced that Britain and other EU countries had agreed to implement further economic sanctions against Iran. These include an embargo on the purchase of Iran's crude oil by EU members, various measures against the Central Bank of Iran and other economic sanctions.

According to the joint statement, Britain and its allies "will not accept Iran acquiring a nuclear weapon", and have placed an even greater onus on that country to prove the "exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme". Britain and the other big powers are now demanding that Iran immediately suspend what is referred to as its "sensitive nuclear activities", and accuse it of "already exporting and threatening violence around the region". This new display of sabre-rattling by the EU follows the imposition of financial sanctions already imposed by Britain, the US and Canada late last year. Australia has now also joined the anti-Iran coalition. It marks a significant escalation of the warmongering approach taken by Anglo-US imperialism and its allies. The new sanctions were accompanied by the announcement that six British, French and US warships were en route to the Straits of Hormuz, the vital sea route that some Iranian politicians have threatened to close in retaliation.

The new sanctions were immediately condemned by Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, who expressed his country's view that they "did not help matters". Russia has also been critical of the actions and the November report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which have created the conditions for the recent bullying of Iran by the other big powers. Lavrov added that despite such threats and bullying there was still an expectation that a new round of talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany (P5+1) would soon take place. The Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China has also expressed its opposition to further sanctions. In recent years China, Russia and Iran have drawn closer in order to oppose any NATO expansion in the Gulf region or in Central Asia.

Britain, the US and their allies have been attempting to interfere in Iran and regain their former domination of the country since the Iranian Revolution in 1979. In recent years, their preferred approach has been to use the IAEA as their main weapon of intervention and to accuse Iran of attempting to develop a military nuclear capability, which constitutes a violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to which Iran is a signatory. Their tactics here are reminiscent of those used against Iraq prior to the invasion of that country. Iran has denied such accusations, but nevertheless since 2006 has had various sanctions imposed



on it by the UN Security Council. In November, the IAEA issued its latest report on Iran suggesting that the country may still be engaged in "some activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device". Iran denies these allegations and has already announced that senior IAEA officials will visit the country next week.

The Iranian government not only has to contend with the sanctions and bullying of the British government and its allies. There is also the added threat of Zionist Israel, which has not ruled out a military strike against Iran, and is widely believed to be carrying out covert attacks against the Iranian nuclear industry, including the recent murder of an Iranian scientist. There is no doubt that today, as in the past, Zionist Israel is being used as a cat's paw in the region in order to create conditions which may be favourable to the warmongering NATO countries.

The British government has been at the forefront of the recent attacks against Iran, which are not unconnected with its efforts to intervene together with its allies in Syria. The government may attempt to justify initiating such interventions with alleged concerns about Iran's nuclear industry, or the political divisions that have been encouraged in Syria. But the fact is that such moves are based on the desire of Britain and its allies to strengthen their geo-political advantage throughout the region, to secure greater control of the mineral wealth of this region and the major arteries for its transport. At the same time, the warmongering actions of Britain and the other NATO countries also signal an escalation of the contention with their main rivals, Russia and China.

The contentions between the great powers, and in particular the warmongering actions of Britain, the US and their allies, are creating an increasingly dangerous situation in the world. In these circumstances, all peace-loving people must be extremely vigilant and must raise their voices to condemn the warmongers. At the same time, it is necessary to step up all the struggles to bring into being an anti-war government in which the say of the working class and people will be decisive in putting an end to crimes against peace.



# Condemn Britain's Renewed Colonialist Military Deployment in the South Atlantic

The Coalition government has approved a contingency plan to increase its troops in the vicinity of the Malvinas, which will heighten the conflict with Argentina over the Islands, usurped by Britain in 1833. Its plans call for the rapid deployment of troops in the area via Ascension Island. It already has a garrison of 1,700 troops on the Malvinas, almost equal to the local population. Added to this, the Defence Ministry has announced that nuclear submarines are headed for the area.

Prime Minister David Cameron on January 18 accused Argentina of "colonialism" for insisting on its sovereign claim to the Islands, which provoked an angry response from Buenos Aires, demanding that London accept the UN resolution on a peaceful negotiated solution to the conflict. Meanwhile, Cameron who, according to *The Times*, is pushing for military es-

calation said that he was determined to ensure that UK defences and everything else is in order on convening the UN Security Council to address the situation of the Malvinas.

Argentina's Senate accused Britain of breaking a United Nations resolution forbidding unilateral development in disputed waters, by beginning oil drilling under a seabed off the Falkland Islands. In a statement, the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee said they condemned "any acts of exploration or exploitation of natural resources in the illegally occupied territories by foreign powers, such is the case of the Falklands". The senators said that "the Argentine Parliament and all related political forces demand that the United Kingdom starts accepting the UN resolution over the Malvinas matter".

## Student Movement at the New Year

The student movement started 2012 with a momentum generated by a number of actions at the end of last year.

A wave of occupations and other actions were organised in conjunction with the November 30 public sector strikes. Students occupied Essex University's Lecture Theatre Building theatre to support the strikes and demand free education. They were also protesting against changes to accommodation services and privatisation of universities. Students from Royal Holloway entered occupation of the management corridors at their university on the same day in protest against cuts to education and public services. Students in Aberdeen occupied their university on November 29, demanding that the university principal publicly condemn the coalition government's agenda of cuts and privatisation of Further and Higher Education institutions. A week earlier, students at Birmingham, Bloomsbury, Cambridge, York, Warwick and Edinburgh occupied their universities in solidarity with public sector workers. Students at the University of the West of England, the University of East Anglia, Sheffield, Liverpool and Warwick also occupied university buildings during that time and into December.

On December 3, students at University College London voted overwhelmingly for no confidence in Provost Malcolm Grant, following his appointment as the Chair of the new NHS Commissioning Board. Students rejected this association of their university with the government's attack on the Health Service.

Students at Birmingham University ended the year fighting a High Court injunction banning all "occupational protest action"



on campus for twelve months. Sheffield University earlier lifted its similar year-long ban on protest after its students' union contested the claim.

The main focus of the student movement continues to be the struggle to guarantee the right to education. Students reject the claims by the big parties that education is a privilege and that there is no alternative to shouldering the burden of the crisis through ever-higher fees. The right to education is an issue for the whole of society.

# Events which Marked the 75th Anniversary of Cornelius Cardew

2011 saw the 75th anniversary of the birth of Cornelius Cardew, an outstanding musician, composer and communist. Cornelius was born on May 7, 1936, and was tragically killed in a hit-and-run incident in the early hours of an icy December 13, 1981. He was a member of the Central Committee of RCPB(ML) and Secretary of the Progressive Cultural Association.

Writing in *The Marxist-Leninist*, the daily on-line newspaper of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), Sandra L Smith, First Secretary of the Central Committee of CPC(ML), said: "On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Cornelius' birth, the significance of his contribution is being appreciated anew by not only the generation of musicians, artists and political activists who were part of the movement to break new ground in the 1960s and 1970s, but also today's generation of musicians and political activists. Together they have inherited Cornelius' greatest legacy of keeping in step with the requirements of the times in a manner that accepts no dogmatic rendering of reality or limitations on the human spirit and striving to contribute to

the creation of a new world of socialised humanity."

Several events in 2011 demonstrated what an intense interest there is in the musical world as a whole and amongst serious political activists in the revolutionary traditions which Cornelius Cardew represented.

The Glasgow Caledonian University held a symposium with international speakers. London's Morley College, an adult education college, where Cornelius tutored from 1968-73, held a festival of his music, together with a weekend conference. Inaugurating these events, the Principal of the College highlighted Cornelius' bravery as one of his defining characteristics. The opening speech of the symposium and other presentations were made by colleagues of Cornelius who worked with him and elaborated on different aspects of his life and work, as well as by young people who have taken up the study of his work.

A stunning concert was held on December 17 at Conway Hall in which six outstanding pianists and a violinist performed the spectacular late instrumental works. The film on Cornelius Cardew, "The Content of Our Song", by film-maker Stuart Monro was also shown on this occasion. Visit [www.youtube.com/user/StuartMon](http://www.youtube.com/user/StuartMon)

Sad to report that James Allen, Secretary of the Cornelius Cardew Concerts Trust and one of RCPB(ML)'s dearest friends, passed away shortly after the concert. He will be remembered with love and appreciation. A memorial concert is to be held at Morley College on May 5, as well as one in his home town of Yeovil.





# — Friendship Meeting — Celebrate the Life of Korean Leader Kim Jong Il



The Friends of Korea warmly invite all well-wishers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people to participate in this meeting. Kim Jong Il passed away on December 17, 2011, after devoting his entire life to serving the Korean people. This meeting celebrates the life of Kim Jong Il and that new world and bright future which continue to be an inspiration for progressive humanity.

## Marx House

37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU

Saturday, February 11, 2012, 2 pm

This meeting on the life of Kim Jong Il embodies the sentiment of progressive opinion to stand as one in friendship and solidarity with the Korean people, and to defend the right of the Korean people to follow their own chosen nation-building path, free from outside interference. This is a course which contributes to bringing into being a world free from imperialism, domination, subjugation, aggression and war.

*Organised by the Co-ordinating Committee of Friends of Korea*  
*friendskorea@yahoo.co.uk <http://friendsofkorea.blogspot.com/>*

# 53rd Anniversary of the Triumph of the Cuban Revolution



**T**his year, Cuba ushered in the 54th year of the Revolution with celebrations held across the island in late December and early January.

In Havana, a 21-gun salute was fired to mark the day when the Cuban revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro overthrew the regime of US-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista, initiating the process of building socialism. On January 2, in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba a group of children and youth retraced the route known as the Caravan of Victory taken by Fidel Castro and the rebel army after the triumph of January 1, 1959. Many cultural and artistic activities were held nationwide to celebrate the occasion and the new year 2012.

This occasion was also marked by political rallies in all the regions to take stock of the year's accomplishments in the context of the successful 6th Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba held this past April 16-19. The Congress oversaw the adoption of an updated economic model and policies aimed at

overcoming the country's difficulties and continuing its socialist path. The people's sights are set on what is to be achieved in the new year.

The Cuban people and their leaders received many greetings from foreign governments, heads of state, friendship organisations, parties and personalities on the occasion, which highlighted the significance of the Revolution for all the peoples of the region and the oppressed peoples of the world.

"Without the Cuban Revolution the processes for the union of Latin American peoples would probably not exist today," said President Daniel Ortega in a message on the anniversary.

The statement from the Government of Venezuela said in part, "The triumphal entry of Fidel into Santiago de Cuba on January 1, 1959, sealed the beginning of the universal action that has made the Cuban people an example of dignity to the world, a source of inspiration for oppressed people and an inexhaustible source of unconditional international solidarity."



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The title *The Line of March* is taken from the programmatic document of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), "The Line of March to a New Society". It signifies that the goal of the movements of the working class and people and their struggles is indeed a new society, a society that puts human beings and their rights at the centre of all considerations. It signifies that the movements of the working class and people are aimed at removing the obstacles which are placed on the progress of this line of march.

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