



Y Blaid Gomiwnyddol Gymreig Welsh Communist Party



# Unity! Undod!

www.communistparty.org.uk

Wales TUC greetings from the party of working class power

## Welsh workers are sinking in the capitalist crisis

DAVID MORGAN  
CRISIS IN WALES

**O**UR LABOUR GOVERNMENT and its Plaid Cymru supporters are trying to steer a ship with great holes in the bottom and only a radical policy shift will keep it afloat.

Below decks with the water is pouring in over their heads are 68,700 (12.6%) children living in workless households. The capitalists argue that unemployment is necessary for a functioning labour market but with 72,077 on the claimant count and a further 79,200 economically inactive people in Wales looking for work; it is clear that this 'market' is designed for anything but meeting human needs.

But unemployment isn't the only set of holes in the woodwork. Millions of working-class families face a cost of living crisis as gas and electricity bills rocket, petrol soars, National Insurance contributions go up along with rents and rail fares. The Communist Party called for price controls, a windfall tax on the 'Big Five' energy monopolies and the abolition of VAT on household fuel bills now made possible by Brexit. Public ownership is the only rational alternative to the 'rigged' gas and electricity market and the only hope for a planned transition to green energy that can save the planet. It's not just the money going out that is causing the crisis. Household incomes in Wales are falling behind as a result of the deliberate policies of the Tory Government in



Westminster and the lack of teeth in our own administration in Cardiff. Those reliant on the benefits system have seen their incomes fall in real-terms as inflation eats away at the value of their benefits, many have even seen cash reductions as a result of the Tory's punitive welfare agenda.

The public sector is a big employer in Wales and has seen a pay freeze followed by tiny below inflation rises and the employees of private firms have fared just as badly. This amounts to a race to reduce the standard of living for hundreds of thousands of workers where we see the

average weekly wage in Wales £48 per week lower than the UK average. On top of this we continue to see women workers bear the brunt with a gender pay gap for full-time workers at 9.2% or £51.70 per week lower for women than for men.

Such misery for workers is hardly surprising in a system that is increasingly dominated by privatisation, casualisation and zero hours contracts, where fire and re-hire practices are just another weapon in the bosses arsenal and where anti-trade union laws and moves to suppress protests are the heart of the Westminster agenda.

Wales needs the tools to fight back but the trend here is in the wrong direction. The UK Government's so called 'Levelling Up' agenda takes economic development powers away from the Welsh Government and seeks to impose a model based on public money handouts to big business increasing their foothold in public services. The UK Single Market Act is a direct threat to devolution and a straight jacket we must fight our way out of.

Unless we un-shackle the trade union movement, end the persecution of community protest groups and begin to tackle the big issues that matter then this ship is sunk. The Wales TUC and Welsh Government need to embrace an agenda that puts workers rights, employment, higher wages, equality and public ownership and planning front and centre. ★

DAVID MORGAN IS NATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE WELSH COMMUNIST PARTY

Saturday 18 June  
Portland Place London

Assemble from 10.30am  
March departs 12pm  
Rally 1pm

Working people  
have had enough.

Everything's going up  
but our wages.

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we DEMAND better!

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<https://tinyurl.com/2jrdad32>

Working class history

## Fighting lives of the Welsh

Roger Jones  
Red Lives



**R**EAL LIFE heroes of the Welsh nation populate the pages of *Red Lives* published by Manifesto Press in association with the Communist Party on the centenary of the party's foundation

David Ivon Jones, the 'African from Aberystwyth', as he was described by one Welsh historian was the original Africa delegate to the Communist International and a founder, in 1922, of the South African Communist Party.

Thora Silversthorpe, from Abertillery, served as a nurse in the defence of the Spanish Republic and later founded the first real trade union for nurses in direct competition with the reactionary RCN. After the Second World War, as assistant secretary of the Socialist Medical Association she was deeply involved in the setting up of the NHS in 1948.

Annie Powell, from Ystrad, in the heart of the South Wales coalfield, joined the Labour Party early in her teaching career and became active in the National Union of Teachers. She joined the Communist Party in 1938 and took part in building the popular front against fascism and war. Elected as a communist councillor at the height of the Cold War in 1955 she became Mayor of the Rhondda in 1979.

Dai Dan Evan, from Abercraf in the Swansea Valley was born in 1898, sharing the year of his birth with the South Wales Miners Federation – the organisation which subsequently absorbed his time and effort for nearly all of his working life. He was instrumental in founding the Miners Eisteddfod and the Miners Gala, which became the highlight of the labour movement calendar in South Wales. Arising through the ranks over his working life, he was finally elected general secretary of the South Wales Area NUM in 1958.

In early September 2019, in anticipation of its centenary the following year, the Communist Party wrote to its membership asking for recommendations of past members, no longer living, who might be included in a collection of life histories. *Red Lives* is a selection of these. Order from [www.manifestopress.coop](http://www.manifestopress.coop).

Well known names such as Harry Pollitt, the party's general secretary who came within a whisper of winning a Rhondda seat in the post war general election which defeated Winston Churchill, William Gallacher MP who represented the Fife miners, were deliberately not included in order to capture the experience and spirit of rank and file members. The individuals whose lives are depicted in this book shared a desire to end a society based on exploitation and oppression and to establish socialism. They came from across the decades totalling a hundred years of struggles. You will find out about women and men, black and white, of all ages, who worked in every industry from coal mining, science, agriculture and education to health, sea faring and culture. They hailed from all the nations of Britain and more widely, from the Channel Islands, Ireland and as far away as Gibraltar, India and Canada.

This book is a record of lives lived with commitment and integrity and a belief in revolutionary change. The picture is a powerful rebuff to the opponents of socialism who know so little about what motivates working class activists.

The lives of many Welsh communists remain unrecorded. They belonged to 'the Party the rich cannot buy', sustained for over hundred years by willing sacrifice, certain in the knowledge that working class power will be won. ★







# DEMOCRACY & CLASS POWER

‘... the first step in the revolution by the working class, is to raise the proletariat to the position of ruling class, to win the battle for democracy’  
Karl Marx and Frederick Engels *The Manifesto of the Communist Party* 1848

### Straight left

from Stewart Mcgill



I'm just back from Argentina (writing a book about left-wing football supporters): someone I got chatting to over there had heard the podcast I hosted with Rob Griffiths about the Ukraine war. The guy loved the cast and expressed serious gratitude for it: "somebody had to say that," he said, "and thank you so much for doing so."

Travel often reveals how small the world is, but this also shows the power of the spoken word. Since that initial Ukraine podcast we have recorded seven more, all of which are now available on the Party's YouTube channel.

We did three on the housing crisis covering (i) how we got to this point, (ii) how bad the situation actually is plus the sheer vandalism behind the crisis and (iii) the solutions.

We also covered inflation, another pressing issue of our time and one that requires comprehensive demystifying, an extract:

"This is straight forward victim blaming, even the *FT* pulled him up on this, Martin Sandbu asked why did he not call on powerful businesses to 'moderate' their profits, rather than asking less powerful workers to 'moderate' their wage demands. Perhaps, as Sandbu observes, because mainstream economics has a 'blind spot' for the power of capital, and correcting this would mean asking uncomfortable questions about 'who bears the cost' of rising inflation and who benefits.

In the US, where corporate power is even more concentrated than in the UK, commentators warn that the real danger is not a wage-price spiral but a 'profit-price spiral'. US corporate profit margins are at a 70-year high, and have risen 37% in the past year alone. In one survey, more than half of retailers admitted to raising prices by more than their increase in costs – with larger firms most likely to be doing so. The narrative about inflation offers a convenient smokescreen for fattening margins, as investors brazenly admit."

We also recorded a cogent indictment cast on the raging inadequacies of the education system, particularly on its failure to teach people to think critically.

Rob Griffiths joined us again to talk about how to re-build communities and combat crime which was full of interesting insights. And with this being local election time we did a cast on democracy, our **progressive federalist** philosophy and how it can contribute to bringing the workers across the nations of the UK together with genuine empowerment: a very clear message here was that there can be no real democracy under capitalism.

Give these CommieCasts a try, and share them on your social media. ★

<https://tinyurl.com/CommieCast>



## Ffederaliaeth Flaengar Progressive Federalism

David Morgan  
CENEDL

A ninnau bellach wedi gadael yr UE, mae yna gyfle i greu Prydain ffederal flaengarol sy'n seiliedig ar hunanlywodraeth, cyfartaledd a chydgefnogaeth rhwng ei thair cenedl. Dyna'r unig ddewis realistig heblaw am undeboliaeth — sy'n parhau sefyllfa lle cedwir rheolaeth dosbarth llywodraethol — Seisnig i raddau helaeth — dros wleidyddiaeth ac economi Cymru — ac am 'ymwahaniaeth', sy'n gwadu'r cysylltiadau economaidd a chymdeithasol clôs rhwng Cymru a Lloegr a rhwng ein mudiadau llafur a blaengar.

Byddai fersiwn Plaid Cymru o 'annibyniaeth' yn ildio'r pwerau y mae mawr eu hangen arnom yng Nghymru i Gomisiwn anetholedig yr UE, Banc Canolog anatebol Ewrop, a Llys Cyfiawnder yr UE sy'n elyniaethus i undebau llafur. Trysorfa Llundain fyddai'n rheoli ein harian.

Ar yr un pryd byddai ymwahanu'n wleidyddol o Brydain yn gadael i'r dosbarth tra chyfoethog sy'n heidio o gwmpas Dinas Llundain a de ddwyrain Lloegr gadw'r cyfoeth anferth a gynhyrchir gan weithwyr Cymru, yr Alban a Lloegr.

Mae Comiwnyddion Cymru'n galw am Dreth ar Gyfoeth a fyddai'n ei ailddosbarthu i bobloedd pob cenedl a phob rhanbarth ym Mhrydain. Mae'r Blaid Gomiwnyddol wedi bod yn galw am hunanlywodraeth i Gymru mewn Prydain ffederal ers dros 70 mlynedd. Mae'r polis bellach yn ennill cefnogaeth ymhlith rhai ym mudiad llafur Cymru. Dymunwn weld pobl sy'n gweithio a'u cyngreiriaid yn ennill mwy o reolaeth dros y monopoliâu cyfalafol, ac adnoddau economaidd a chyllidol yn cael eu dosrannu ar lefelau ffederal, cenedlaethol a rhanbarthol. ★

David Morgan  
NATION

Now that we have left the EU, the opportunity exists to create a progressive federal Britain based on self-government, equality and solidarity between its three nations. That is the only realistic alternative to unionism — which maintains the domination of Welsh politics and economics by a largely English ruling class — and to 'separatism', which denies the close economic and social relations between Wales and England and between our labour and progressive movements.

Plaid Cymru's version of 'independence' would give away the powers we desperately need in Wales to the unelected EU Commission, the unaccountable European Central Bank and the anti-trade union EU Court of Justice. The Treasury in London would run our currency.

At the same time, political separation from Britain would allow the super-rich concentrated around the City of London and south-east England to keep the enormous wealth created by the workers of Wales, England and Scotland.

Instead, Welsh Communists call for a Wealth Tax that would redistribute it to the peoples of every nation and region in Britain. The Communist Party has called for Welsh self-government in a federal Britain for more than 70 years. The policy is now gaining support in some Welsh Labour circles. We want to see working people and their allies exercising increasing control over the capitalist monopolies and the allocation of economic and financial resources at federal, national and regional level. ★

## THE FUTURE FOR WALES: INDEPENDENCE OR FEDERALISM?

Morning Star fringe at this year's Wales TUC conference

Wednesday 25 May at 5.15pm Marine Hotel (Llandudno promenade)  
Chairperson: Jane Gebbie deputy convenor UNISON Wales

Beth Winter MP speaking on radical federalism  
Vaughan Williams YesCymru speaking on independence  
Rob Griffiths Communist Party speaking on progressive federalism  
Speakers will be asked to speak for about 10 minutes each and then the chair will open the



Bernadette Keaveny  
MEDIA

The *Morning Star* reaches many thousands of readers. Up and down the country working people reach for the *Star* when they need to know the real story behind the headlines, when they want to understand the class interests at play in national politics, in the fight for wages and world peace. Unlike all of Britain's capitalist press the *Morning Star* has no millionaire owner and no pages of corporate advertising.

Why would the bourgeoisie pay to support the only daily newspaper in Britain that is dedicated to ending capitalist exploitation and imperialist war. The big-business-owned press has a few things the *Morning Star* doesn't have: mass commercial advertising, cross-subsidies from other parts of the business to cover losses, and banks that are prepared to lend money. But the *Morning Star* has a 92 year tradition of service to the working class and the labour movement and thousands of shareholders in its co-operative, the Peoples Press Printing Society.

It has a dozen trade unions holding shares in the co-op and seats on the management committee, it has a network of readers and supporters groups and many dedicated supporters who make sure the paper is on sale at every Labour movement event and many high streets.

But the newspaper industry is in crisis with rising costs, and a younger generation that has learned not to trust the big business press. The pandemic has hit workplace and newsagent sales and the *Star* needs to find new ways to serve its readership.

That's why the *Morning Star's* new campaign, **Reach for the Star**, is asking for your help in winning new daily readers.

If half our weekend or occasional readers became daily readers, we could secure the paper's future and invest for growth.

Most importantly, we'd equip more of our readers with the tools to be more effective in their workplaces and communities.

Owned by our readers and backed by ten national trade unions, our journalists report on the growing number of strikes, protests and community struggles against ruthless bosses and the government that serves and protects them.

With the rest of the press clamouring for war, it is more vital than ever that as many people as possible are armed with the arguments for peace and an analysis that is based on facts and history, not on hysteria and xenophobia.

We've made it easier than ever to buy the *Morning Star* every day. The paper is available at Martin McColls, One Stop shops and many Co-op stores. Ask your local newsagent to stock the paper if they don't already do so or contact [circulation@peoples-press.com](mailto:circulation@peoples-press.com).

For less than £10 a week, you can sign up to our new home delivery service and have the *Morning Star* land on your doormat six days a week. Subscribers also receive the premium e-edition package for free.

We know that times are hard, and right now spending more on a newspaper may not seem like a priority.

But remember that those that are inflicting the cost-of-living crisis on us bank on getting away with it with the help of the media oligarchs.

The *Morning Star* will do everything possible to hold them to account. The more readers we have, the stronger the voice of our movement will be. ★

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