



# All Together for Public Services

The South West TUC campaign against the cuts

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## ACTION POINTS

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- Promote March 26<sup>th</sup> demo
- Book transport for March 26<sup>th</sup> demo
- Recruit stewards for TUC stewarding course
- Publicise False Economy website
- Encourage attendance at youth event and community conference
- Pass this bulletin on to campaigners.
- South West Diary

## Welcome

In this edition of the TUC cuts bulletin, we mainly concentrate on arrangements for the March 26<sup>th</sup> March for the alternative.



## March for the Alternative

The March for the Alternative will be the TUC's biggest event for many years.

We are making good progress with organising the logistics for the day, but are not yet in a position to answer all the questions about the event, not least because some of them depend on other agencies.

But we will do our best to answer the most frequent questions that we are already getting. And while we hope everything here is accurate, our plans need to be flexible so there may be changes.

## Assembly

The event will gather on Victoria Embankment and form up between Waterloo and Blackfriars Bridges from 11am.

This is a Google map of the start <http://bit.ly/mar26start>.

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It will start moving off around noon, but because of the likely size the last marchers will not be leaving until after two, and possibly later.

### Organisation of the march

We are working on a plan for the march line-up. People coming may want to march with their union or with the group they have travelled with, and we want to make sure that people who have trains and coaches booked can complete the march in time to get back to the right station. We will therefore be working on an assembly plan that tries to meet both these requirements.

The front of march party will consist of rally speakers and a specially invited representative group of those affected by the cuts or involved in campaigning.

We will not allow vehicles into the march as they could impede the passage of emergency vehicles and pose their own safety issues.

But we are keen to break the march up with marching bands. We will be arranging some of these through the TUC, but we would welcome other unions or organisations bringing or sponsoring bands, though please tell us in advance.

We are still working out the best way of helping those with mobility problems participate in the day.

There will be TUC flags available for marchers. Other unions and organisations will naturally produce material for their members and supporters.

But we would strongly discourage traditional placards. Flags are easier to distribute and people are more likely to take them home with them afterwards, rather than leave them as litter. Not only is this unsightly and bad for the environment, the TUC has to pay for rubbish disposal.

We find people prefer flags as they are lighter, and more suitable for children than heavy placards. They also help the march present a positive colourful image.

### The route

Here is a Google map of the route <http://bit.ly/mar26route>. The march will enter Hyde Park from the bottom at Hyde Park Corner

(often marches enter from the top at Marble Arch/Speakers' Corner).

Some people have asked us whether it's possible to join or leave the march along the route. While we would discourage organised groups joining the march at places other than the assembly point, there will be nothing to stop individuals or family groups

## Stewarding

Good stewarding will be an important part of making this a safe, family-friendly day out.

The TUC is directly recruiting some 2-300 senior stewards who will undergo a day's training before the event. We will also be employing professional stewards for some parts of the event.

But we are also looking for hundreds of volunteers to be what we are calling route stewards.

People often worry that being a steward means having to deal with trouble-makers. This is not the role of route stewards. The job is rather about keeping the march moving and knowing what to do if issues arise such as a lost child or if someone is injured or taken ill. There will be senior stewards all along the route of the march, and other ways of reporting issues to march organisers. Route stewards coming with an organised group of marchers can stay in the section of the march with their group.

We are also asking every group travelling together to the march to nominate a travel steward. This role can be easily combined with being a route steward, but does not have to be. Travel stewards are there to assist with the travel arrangements for their group. We would ask them to supply contact details so that we can provide pre-march briefings and any necessary updates via SMS text on the day.

To support this TUC Education will be offering training sessions in the South West for volunteers who are interested in being Travel or Route Stewards on the day.

To find out more about what being a steward at this event will involve and to volunteer and nominate yourself for one of the steward roles

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please [click here](#)

For more information on all the campaign and march activity please [click here](#) - you can pledge to join the march here too.

Unions may also be offering their own training sessions. Check with your union to find out what's available.

Confirmed sessions in the South West so far:

Saturday 19th February (Swindon)  
Saturday 26th February (Exeter)  
Saturday 5th March (Bristol)  
Saturday 12th March (Taunton)

### The rally

The march will arrive in Hyde Park shortly after 1:15pm with the rally starting around 1:30pm.

Because we expect large numbers we estimate that people will still be arriving in the Park at 4pm – and possibly later. We will therefore keep the rally running until around 4:30pm. Not everyone who arrives early will want to stay through to the end – and indeed we hope that early arrivals will move to allow those coming later a good view. We will therefore break the rally up into a number of segments.

We are not in a position to announce the speakers yet, but we are working on a list made up of union leaders, front-line public service workers, representatives of other organisations and groups opposed to the cuts. We also hope for some star quality.

The licensing conditions for an event of this type prevent us featuring a significant amount of musical performance, but we hope to be able to arrange some short musical interludes during the rally.

There will be a giant screen so that we can show campaign videos such as those produced by False Economy and the Robin Hood Tax campaigns. We will also be soon launching a video competition for a 60 second ad about the cuts – and will show the winners. We may also gather video messages from prominent supporters who can't be there.

### In the Park

There will be refreshment facilities and extra toilets. There are good public toilets in Trafalgar Square along the route too.

While we will have a welfare tent for lost children, first aid etc it is not possible to have a tent village in Hyde Park, but we do expect to be able to offer TUC-affiliated unions only a trestle table as a contact point with their members.

### Promoting the event

Promotional material is now available. Leaflets and posters can be ordered from the TUC [here](#)

Alternatively pdfs can be downloaded from [www.tuc.org.uk/alltogether](http://www.tuc.org.uk/alltogether) or if you want to produce union specific versions you can contact Rob Sanders ([rsanders@tuc.org.uk](mailto:rsanders@tuc.org.uk)).

People can pledge their attendance [here](#)

### Transport

The most challenging aspect of the event is going to be getting everyone there and home again afterwards.

Unfortunately the idea of a special charter train from Cornwall has not proved possible. There are track maintenance works on this line so delays may occur on scheduled services.

Unions, trades union councils and other groups are organising coaches and we will be setting up a seat-brokering service for coaches using the False Economy website [www.falseeconomy.org.uk](http://www.falseeconomy.org.uk) as it has a built in mapping function. This will allow people to advertise spare seats or say that they are looking for transport. There will be good links from the TUC web site.

We are still working on plans for coach drop-offs and pick-ups, but it is likely that some of this may have to be done outside central London with marchers making their way by public transport as there simply won't be enough capacity in central London to handle all the coaches that are expected.

We will need therefore to be in contact with every coach that is coming to London.

Some people will no doubt want to come by car, even though we would prefer that they don't.

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Don't even think about parking in central London. Instead you should aim for the edge of London and complete your journey by public transport – and please fill your car.

The TUC is not organising any transport directly.

### Union March Links

Check out your own union web sites for details of travel and campaign materials. Here are some examples.

[ASLEF](#)  
[BECTU](#)  
[NUJ](#)  
[NUT](#)  
[PCS](#)  
[RMT](#)  
[Unite](#)  
[UNISON](#)

### Welcome Kathleen

In the last cuts bulletin we reported the sad, sudden death of the TUC's senior events officer Keith Faulkner. In this one we welcome Kathleen Christie who is providing project management support for the march as a consultant. She can be contacted at [kchristie@tuc.org.uk](mailto:kchristie@tuc.org.uk)

### False Economy website

The False Economy website at [www.falseeconomy.org.uk](http://www.falseeconomy.org.uk) is an important part of the TUC's campaign strategy.

The site is not a TUC or union site exclusively, but is a resource hub for the wider anti-cuts movement that has been built by a coalition of unions, on-line campaigners and some people active in local anti-cuts groups.

- Making the case for the alternative with a set of pages on the economics of the cuts and the alternatives
- Gathering information about cuts with an "add a cut" feature that allows people to report cuts whether small and local, or big and national.
- Gathering testimonials about the effects of the cuts by allowing people to tell their

stories about the impact of the cuts on their lives or communities.

- Building campaigns by gathering information about local, sectoral and national anti-cuts groups and allowing them to publicise events.

### A Future that Works: A TUC National Rally for Young People

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January  
Platt Fields Park in Manchester 1pm-3pm

### A Future for Civil Society

This event is jointly hosted by TUC and National Association for Voluntary and Community Action on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011, Congress House, 2-5.30pm

It will bring trade unions and voluntary and community sector organisations together.

### Keeping up local pressure

An important part of the campaign is keeping up pressure on coalition MPs, particularly those with small majorities or who stood on a platform of opposing early cuts.

### Netroots UK

Netroots UK, the conference hosted by the TUC for online campaigners, was a great success.

More details at <http://www.netrootsuk.org/> including a video of the opening session.

### South West diary

Save our Lollipop People  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January  
Dorchester

Meet in Market Car Park Fairfield Rd, off Weymouth Ave, Dorchester 11.00. Wear Hi vis jacket if you have one. March to County Hall to arrive between 11.15 and 11.30 to present petition to Andy Ackerham head of Transport

Stroud Protest

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January

10am Stratford Park, march to Stroud Subs Rooms for Rally at 11.30am

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Fight the Cuts Gig  
with

The Parade, The Beacons, Billy Bragg

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 7.30pm**

Mama Stones, Exeter

£5 [exeteranticutsalliance@gmail.com](mailto:exeteranticutsalliance@gmail.com)

What is happening to our NHS?

**Wednesday 2nd February, 7.30pm**

The Senior Lunch Club, Digby Road, Sherborne

Argue for the Alternative Briefing

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 10.30am -1pm**

Winter Gardens, Weston-Super-Mare

Save Legal Aid

**Monday 7th February, 12-2pm**

Outside the Legal Services Commission, Queens Square, Bristol

### **Don't Cut Salisbury Jobs**

March and Rally

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

11am Millstream Coach Park to 12 noon at Queen Elizabeth Gardens

Dorchester

March and Rally

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

Coastwatch benefit gig

**Saturday 12 February 7pm**

Beach Holiday Park, Burton Bradstock, Dorset DT6 4PT more [here](#)

Bristol Anti-cuts Alliance

Defend Public Services

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 11am**

Castle Park to College Green

### **International Women's Day**

Women Against the Cuts

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Corn Exchange, Exeter

Farewell to public welfare?

**January to March**

A four-part series of talks in Bristol looking at the impact of the government's public spending review.

January 31 which sectors of society are likely to

be most affected by public expenditure cuts.

Speakers include: Ruth Lister, Emeritus Professor of Social Policy, Loughborough University; Rachel Robinson, Chief Executive, The Care Forum, Bristol, and Nicola Smith, Senior Policy Officer, TUC.

February 28 privatisation in health, local government and other services and what is likely to happen in the future. Speakers include Allyson Pollock, Professor of International Public Health Policy, University of Edinburgh and Heather Wakefield, UNISON.

March 21 is welfare an idea of the previous century and now out of date? Is the idea of wellbeing is more appropriate for the future? With Hartley Dean, Professor of Social Policy, LSE; Nic Marks, Fellow, New Economics Foundation and Mike Zeidler, The Happy City Initiative (Bristol).

April 11 different visions of the Big Society. Are British citizens and voluntary and community groups ready to take on the role being offered to them? Speakers include Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive, RSA, and Marilyn Taylor, Professor Emeritus and former Director of the Cities Research Centre at UWE.

The events are organised in association with the Department of Health and Applied Social Studies at University of the West of England and take place at the Watershed Media Centre, Bristol.

All talks run from 7.30pm to 9pm and tickets are **£5/£4**. Book online at [www.watershed.co.uk](http://www.watershed.co.uk) or by ringing 0117 927 5100

## Contact

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