

**75 years ago 200 unemployed men from Jarrow marched from their home in the North East to London to demand jobs and an end to their poverty conditions.**

**Youth Fight for Jobs is marching their route again to demand:**

- A massive government scheme to create jobs which are socially useful and apprenticeships which offer guaranteed jobs at the end - both paying at least the minimum wage, with no youth exemptions.
- The immediate reinstatement of EMA payments, expanding them to be available to all 16-19 year olds, and the scrapping of university fees.
- The immediate re-opening of all youth services that have been closed, including reinstating sacked staff.
- The scrapping of 'workfare' schemes - benefits should be based on need not forced slave labour.
- A massive building and renovation programme of environmentally sound, cheap social housing.

To get involved with the march and for updates from the marchers, see the website (right), email [youthfightforjobs@gmail.com](mailto:youthfightforjobs@gmail.com) or call 020 8558 7947.

See page 12 for details of the 'London leg' and the national demonstration for jobs and education on 5 November.

**March for jobs**  
www.jarrowmarch11.com

# Jarrow marchers in solidarity action against cuts at Northampton university

## Defend the right to protest and access to ideas

**Michael-Israel Jarvis**  
President, UoN Socialist Students

University of Northampton (UoN) students and staff were joined by Jarrow marchers on Friday 28 October as they protested at the park campus.

In the wake of the university being awarded 'Number one for value added' by the Guardian newspaper's league tables, the university intends to cut 78 jobs, known as support roles, and also close the Department of Philosophy.

Socialist Students quickly made contact with a society set up by philosophy students to defend their sub-

ject. We offered our support to their campaign. A protest was planned.

When the Olympic Torch arrived at the university, the event held in its honour looked like the perfect staging opportunity for our protest.

Socialist Students and Socialist Party members assembled with philosophy students, where we were joined by the Jarrow marchers in full voice. Some courageous lecturers also risked the disapproval of the institution.

We had not been going long, when Nick Petford, the vice-chancellor (VC), wearing a sharp suit, marched into the middle of our protest. It turned out that his temper was even sharper than his suit.

I went forward to meet him and he asked if I was in charge. He then put his face in mine, clearly trying to intimidate me, and used language that I will not repeat.

It took myself and my friend Andrew - a philosophy student - to convince him to go aside for a proper conversation elsewhere.

### 'Don't show the children'

Petford suggested that our protest was unfit to be seen by children and that we were embarrassing the reputation of the university.

He refused to tell us which support roles were going to be cut, claiming only that "non-useful jobs like marketing" would be going.



On the Jarrow March in Nottingham photo Youth Fight for Jobs

On the philosophy department, he was unflinching: "The School of Social Sciences decided to close philosophy during the spring".

He smugly told us that we should have protested then. But few staff and no students were aware of the situation. There had been no consultation. In the meantime security on cam-

pus had called the police who then told the Jarrow marchers that all non-staff or student protesters must leave the campus.

One marcher asked if this included a local Tory MP who had been using the occasion of the Olympic torch to shake a few hands and put his face around.

He had refused to sign the cam-

paigners' petition to save the philosophy department and had attempted to peddle the usual lines of 'there's no money', which fell on deaf ears among the protesters.

We were able to make our statement clearly, and lecturers and students alike have been motivated to build the resistance.

### Why I'm marching

"I went on the march because I think the way this government has completely abandoned young people is disgusting - leaving us with absolutely no support either in getting a job or a decent education. For me, the Jarrow March For Jobs is a good way to show that we are dedicated to stopping this government in its tracks, saving what we have from cuts and pushing for more."

**Tom Jouselin**  
Dartford Grammar School student and London Jarrow marcher

## 1985 school strike exhibit shows how young people can organise to fight back

**John Cosgrove**  
Liverpool Youth Fight for Jobs

The school student strikes of 1985 showed how young people are able to organise and fight back when their futures are under attack. Across the country hundreds of thousands of teenagers took to the streets in protest at the Tory government's plan to make the hated Youth Training Scheme (YTS) compulsory for 16-17 year olds or they would have their unemployment benefits stopped.

The Bluecoat Arts Centre in Liverpool is displaying twenty photographs taken at the time by former Militant newspaper photographer Dave Sinclair as part of its ongoing Democratic Promenade exhibition.

At the exhibition, it was fantastic to get a clearer picture of the sheer number of students on strike. Some of these young people had clearly developed political ideas, judging by the placards and banners on display.

It was also clear to see that students as young as thirteen can and will become enthused and involved in political activity to protest and strike to



One of the photos of the YTS protests in Liverpool photo D Sinclair

fight for a better future for all young people.

YTS schemes were set up in 1983 and were initially optional, before conscription was threatened by Tory minister Norman Fowler in 1985. Supposedly offering workplace training for

16-17 year olds, employers took advantage of this to have full time workers for less than £30 per week without the commitment of a full time job at the end of the scheme.

Within my own city of Liverpool, the Labour Party Young Socialists had

helped to organise the action. Not envisaging the scale of the response from students, organisers agreed that the event would be stewarded by the socialist-led Liverpool Labour councillors, parents of the students and only two policemen.

On the day it soon became clear that the numbers were far more than anyone had imagined, with an estimated 30,000 students on strike in the city. After meeting on the plateau outside St George's Hall, a march made its way down to the Pier Head where local socialist MP Terry Fields addressed a rally.

Today conditions are certainly worsening for young people across the country. School students and teenagers face cuts to youth services and EMA, university tuition fees being trebled and the massive jobs losses up and down the UK.

These are certainly issues which have seen many forms of protest undertaken already, including student protests in November and December 2010. School students also walked out in 2003 against the war in Iraq. A student strike similar to the one in 1985 is an increasingly likely outcome.

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Men's S, M, L, XL, XXL and women's M, L

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[www.jarrowmarch11.com](http://www.jarrowmarch11.com)

or send your order with a cheque made out to 'Youth Fight for Jobs' to PO Box 858, London E11 1YG