

class

Centre for Labour
and Social Studies

Annual Report

Year End March 2014

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Introduction

This report outlines the activities of the Centre for Labour and Social Studies (Class) from April 2013 to the end of March 2014.

Class was formally established in May 2012 with the support of Unite the Union, GMB, PCS and the Institute of Employment Rights and gained the support of ASLEF, CWU, GFTU, TSSA and UCATT in our first year. Since then BFAWU (Bakers Union), PFA (Professional Footballers Association), Musicians Union, Federation of Entertainment Unions, NUT and the NUM have announced their support. We are continuing to follow up approaches to other unions and are confident that we will be able to expand trade union support further as our reputation grows.

Class was formed with the intention of bridging the gap between the intellectual expertise of academics and the unique experiences of trade unions with their roots in the lives of working people. Class is intended to be a think tank rooted in the trade union movement and its values, entering and waging the battle of ideas with academic rigour and intellectual integrity. Importantly Class intends to always be rooted and grounded – providing ideas and policies that are engaging and can be used by activists and campaigners within the wider labour movement to shift policy debates and articulate an alternative that will resonate with working people. With this goal in mind Class has sought to produce publications and organise events aimed at informing and inspiring both policymakers and trade union members.

In our first year Class built a sound foundation within the trade union movement and a secure financial basis from which to move forward. We succeeded in building good links with key trade unionists, academics, journalists and policymakers. In our second year we have built on that work to ensure a wider impact and are now established as a credible left think tank in media and policy debates.

Class have attempted to operate simultaneously at different levels. Our papers and thinkpieces have been serious and sometimes complex, written on occasion in an academic style and stretching beyond policy into political theory - but we always strive to make them accessible. Extra efforts to build up the resources available on our website and blog have paid off, with a growing number of visits and supporters of CLASS. Our briefings, on inequality, welfare benefits, immigration and austerity have been well-received and distributed in considerable numbers - around 60,000 mainly to activists in the trade union movement, to empower them with the arguments to take to the shop floor.

Our first national conference in November at the TUC brought together activists, academics and policymakers in an exciting day of discussion and debate. Our rolling programme of fringe meetings and regional events, some with TULO and the Trade Union Group of MPs, has brought Class ideas to a much wider audience.

Next Year

Class has a considerable track record of producing thought-provoking papers. We are respected for the integrity and seriousness of our pieces. Over the next period, we will attempt to shift the debate on the future of Britain in the run up to the General Election.

We are pleased to be hosting world-renowned economist Thomas Piketty in June – his work is at the epicentre of a new global understanding that the concentration of wealth must be halted. Perhaps this is the beginning of a post-neoliberal political economy emerging. Across the spectrum of the left and

centre-left, new possibilities are emerging – from Costas Lapavitsas’ work on financialisation, Keith Ewing and John Hendy’s work on collective bargaining, Piketty himself, or Marianna Mazzucato on the role of the state in innovation and technology. We will continue to engage and promote these ideas, but we also want to translate that into policies for investment, banking, public sector, innovation, social services, housing and taxation which can begin the process of shifting wealth and power back to working people. Above all we want to stress the role of organised labour and trade unions in the economy and how we begin to reverse growing income inequality.

Our papers need to be more incisive, our media operation much wider, our conferences bigger and better, our connection with policymakers greater, our influence on Labour stronger, but above all, we need to include activists much more in this battle of ideas to shift the debate. Class will work tirelessly to this end.

Organisation and Administration

In its second year Class has grown to three full-time members of staff – Rachel Yates (Coordinator and Commissioning Editor), Ellie O’Hagan (Media and Communications Officer), and until the end April 2014 Roisin McDermott (Project and Events Officer), who has recently left to take up a new role. We hope to have an Events Officer in place as soon as possible to ensure our event output remains at a high-level.

Class is an independent organisation supported by a number of trade unions. While the day-to-day activities of Class are run by the staff and overseen by the elected Officers, strategy, policy priorities and the overall management of Class are the responsibility of the Management Committee. At the end of March 2014, Class boasted the support of fourteen trade union organisations, with six joining us over the previous year. Over the coming year we anticipate broader support from the trade union movement and go into 2014 with the possibility of further engagement with a number of other unions.

Supporting Unions 2013-2014



Management Committee

The Management Committee is made up of representatives of supporting unions, the Institute of Employment Rights and nominated parliamentary advisors from the Class National Advisory Panel. Three nominated officers from the Management Committee act as Directors of Class for financial purposes.

- **President:** Tim Roache – GMB
- **Vice-President:** Geoff Shears – IER
- **Chair:** Steve Hart – Unite
- Christine Blower – NUT
- Manuel Cortes – TSSA
- Nick Cusack - PFA
- Ronnie Draper - BFAWU
- Keith Ewing – IER/Kings College London
- Isabelle Gutierrez – Musicians' Union
- Billy Hayes – CWU
- John Hendy QC - IER
- Carolyn Jones – IER
- Chris Kitchen – NUM
- James McGowan – ASLEF
- Steve Murphy – UCATT
- Andrew Murray – Unite
- Doug Nicholls – GFTU
- Gerry Morrissey – FEU
- Dave Watson – PCS

Parliamentary Advisors

- Jack Dromey MP
- Jon Trickett MP

Class National Advisory Panel

Members of the National Advisory Panel of experts offer policy guidance on their specific areas of expertise and assist in whatever capacity they are able to.

- Diane Abbott MP
- Professor Huw Beynon, Cardiff University
- Christine Blower, NUT
- Dr Ha-Joon Chang, University of Cambridge
- Christine Cooper, Professor of Accounting
- Manuel Cortes, TSSA
- Professor Danny Dorling, Oxford University
- Ronnie Draper, BFAWU
- Jack Dromey MP
- Daniel Elton, Mass 1
- Mark Ferguson, Labour List
- Billy Hayes, CWU
- Sunny Hundal, Liberal Conspiracy
- Will Hutton, The Observer and Oxford University
- Joy Johnson, Journalist and political commentator
- Owen Jones, The Guardian
- Paul Kenny, GMB
- Chris Kitchen, General Secretary, National Union of Mineworkers
- Stewart Lansley, Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research
- Professor Costas Lapavistas, SOAS
- Ian Lavery MP, Chair of the Trade Union Group of Labour Members of Parliament
- Professor Ruth Lister, Loughborough University
- Kevin Maguire, The Mirror and New Statesman
- Angela Mason, Fawcett Society
- Professor Doreen Massey, Open University
- Professor Marjorie Mayo, Goldsmiths University of London
- Len McCluskey, Unite the Union
- Professor Jonathan Michie, University of Oxford
- Seumas Milne, The Guardian
- Richard Murphy, Tax Research UK
- Steve Murphy, UCATT
- James Murray, Islington Councillor
- Lisa Nandy MP, Shadow Minister for Charities
- Doug Nicholls, GFTU
- Frances O'Grady, TUC
- Ann Pettifor, PRIME: Policy Research in Macroeconomics
- Professor Kate Pickett, University of York and The Equality Trust
- Professor Allyson Pollock, Queen Mary, University of London
- Professor Roger Seifert, University of Wolverhampton Business School
- Mark Serwotka, PCS
- Professor Prem Sikka, University of Essex
- John F. Smith, General Secretary, Musicians' Union
- Owen Smith MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Wales
- Michelle Stanistreet, FEU
- Stefan Stern, Cass Business School
- Gordon Taylor, PFA
- Polly Toynbee, The Guardian
- Jon Trickett MP, Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office
- Hilary Wainwright, Red Pepper and New Politics Project
- Mick Whelan, ASLEF
- Professor Richard Wilkinson, The Equality Trust
- Zoe Williams, The Guardian
- Lord Stewart Wood, Shadow Cabinet Member
- Salma Yaqoob
- Gary Younge, The Guardian

Events

During our second year Class held a number of very successful and well attended public events, the highlight of which was our national conference in November.

Scottish Labour Party Conference 2013: Resisting cuts in welfare - the case for universalism

Friday 19 April 2013, Inverness

GMB Congress 2013: Why is Class such an important GMB investment?

Monday 3 June 2013, Plymouth

A think tank for working people: Class Yorkshire Launch

Thursday 13 June 2013, Leeds

A think tank for working people: Class North West Launch

Wednesday 26 June 2013, Liverpool

TUC Congress 2013: Reconstruction after the crisis: A Manifesto for Collective Bargaining

Sunday 8 September 2013, Bournemouth

TUC Congress 2013: Achieving a Social State

Monday 9 September 2013, Bournemouth

Labour Party Conference 2013: Achieving a Social State

Sunday 22 September 2013, Brighton

Labour Party Conference 2013: The Cost of Being a Young Person

Tuesday 24 September 2013, Brighton

Labour Party Conference 2013: Austerity and the Alternative

Tuesday 24 September 2013, Brighton

Costas Lapavitsas's book launch: How to Change the Post-Crash Economy

Thursday 6 March 2014, London

London - The Great British Rip-Off: How can we tackle the cost of living crisis?

Wednesday 12 March 2014, London

Newcastle - The Great British Rip-Off: How can we tackle the cost of living crisis?

Thursday 13 March 2014, Newcastle upon Tyne

The Price of a Pay Rise – The case for increasing pay for workers

Tuesday 25 March 2014, Liverpool

Class Conference 2013: Leading the Debate

Saturday 2 November 2013, TUC Congress Centre London

Class held its first national conference attracting around 500 delegates - well over half from the trade union movement - for a day of debate and discussion on the most important issues ahead of the 2015 General Election. Delegates came from across the regions including Northern England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland as well as London and the South East ensuring a truly national event. In total, there were 75 of the most high profile figures in progressive politics on the day, including trade unionists (6 general secretaries), academics, politicians, journalists and campaigners.

Speakers: Alex Kenny (NUT), Councillor James Murray, Owen Jones (author, Independent), Ann Pettifor (PRIME), John Hendy QC, Polly Toynbee (Guardian), Angela Eagle MP, Jonathan White (Our Community, Our Schools), Prof Prem Sikka, Antonia Bance (Shelter), Joy Johnson, Rachel Harrison (GMB), Billy Hayes (CWU), Karen Buck MP, Richard Blogger (NHS blogger), Prof Brian Cathcart (Hacked Off), Kate Osamor (NHS worker), Richard Murphy (Tax Research UK), Carl Packman (pay day lender expert), Kate Purcell (UCATT), Prof Roger Seifert, Caroline Criado-Perez (feminist activist, journalist), Professor Keith Ewing, Sabby Dhalu (UAF), Caroline Molloy (OurNHS), Katy Clark MP, Salma Yaqoob, Councillor Catherine West, Ken Livingstone, Councillor Satvir Kaur, Charlie Woodworth (Fawcett Society), Kevin Ovenden (UAF), Seumas Milne (Guardian), Claude Moraes MEP, Councillor Laura Pidcock, Shelly Asquith (activist), Clive Lewis (NUJ), Len McCluskey (Unite), Stefan Stern (journalist), Prof Costas Lapavitsas, Lisa Johnson (GMB), Stephen Cavalier (Thompsons), Diana Holland (Unite), Lisa Nandy MP, Steve Bell (CWU), Diane Abbott MP, Lorna Merry (PCS), Steve Hart (Class, UAF), Prof Doreen Massey (Soundings), Manuel Cortes (TSSA), Stewart Lansley (economist), Duncan Weldon (TUC Senior Economist), Prof Mariana Mazzucato, Lord Stewart Wood, Ellie O'Hagan (CiF, Class) Prof Marjorie Mayo, Prof Sue Richards (Keep our NHS Public), Emily Thornberry MP, Mark Rowlinson (USW, Canada), Tim Roache (GMB), Faiza Shaheen (NEF), Mark Serwotka (PCS), Tim Street (UK Uncut), Frances O'Grady (TUC), Melissa Benn (education activist), Tom Copley AM, Francesca Martinez (comedian, People's Assembly activist), Mick Whelan (ASLEF), Tom Watson MP, Hilary Wainwright (Red Pepper), Natalie Bennett (Green Party), Wilf Sullivan (TUC), Ian Lavery MP, Natan Doron (Fabians), Zoe Williams (Guardian).

Sessions:

- Morning Plenary: A Political Economy for Today
- Roots of Equality: Collective Bargaining, Trade Union Freedoms and a more equal society
- Home Truths: Foundations for the Future
- Good jobs, Green jobs
- Our NHS - Proud and Public: What next for health and social care
- Knowing a Woman's Place: The Role of Women in Society
- Making our economy work for us: An end to tax havens, tax evasion and pay day loans
- Afternoon Plenary - Manifesto Memo: Combatting the Living Standards Crisis
- Educating Westminster: What does a fair education system look like?
- An end to Privatising the Profits: NHS, Royal Mail, Rail
- An end to Poverty Pay: The Living Standards Crisis
- Defeating Racism, Islamophobia and the far right
- Rebuilding Britain after Austerity: Banking, Economy and State
- How far is too far? Freedom of the press and social media
- Closing rally: On Your Side

A selection of tweets about the conference:-



tom_watson @tom_watson

2 Nov

Looking forward to the **#classconf13** today. Politics at last!

classonline.org.uk/conference

Expand



Ian Lavery MP @IanLaveryMP

2 Nov

Great discussion and questions **#classconf13** enjoyed sharing a platform with [@RHarrisonGMB](#) [@FrancesOGrady](#) [@JohnHendyQC](#) [@stevecavalier](#) **#class**

[View conversation](#)



Angela Eagle @angelaeagle

2 Nov

Thanks to all at the **#classconf13** for an inspiring & thought provoking event

Followed by [Faisal Islam](#) and 3 others

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[Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorite](#) [More](#)



Steve Turner @SteveT_Unite

2 Nov

Packed **#classconf13** session on importance of collective barg' to workers & wider social progress - fantastic pic.twitter.com/BttnGOMxOy



Laura Pidcock @LauraPidcock237

2 Nov

Very refreshing to be at a conference where the 1st three speakers are women, such incredible women! [@Classthinktank](#) **#classconf13**

Retweeted by [Róisín McDermott](#)

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Publications

Between April 2013 and the end of March 2014 Class published 12 papers covering the policy areas of the economy, immigration, banking, collective bargaining, payday lenders, health, inequality, welfare, progressive taxation and education.

Publication Releases April 2013 – March 2014



Why immigration is good for all of us

Class-Red Pepper Magazine, Briefing, 21 March 2014

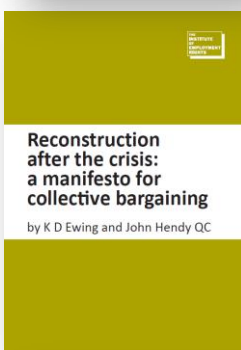
This Class pamphlet exposes common myths around immigration and provides all the evidence for why immigration makes a positive contribution to the economy and wider society.



Banking in the public interest: Progressive reform of the financial sector

Professor Prem Sikka, Policy paper, 24 February 2014

This paper argues that there has been virtually no structural reforms to the financial sector since the financial crisis of 2008. Despite the organised gambling and anti-social practices by the banks which undermined the stability of the entire economy, it remains business as usual for the financial elite. This paper shows that there is an urgent need for reforms that check the worst excesses of neoliberalism by strengthening democratic control and accountability in the banking sector.



Reconstruction after the Crisis: A Manifesto for Collective Bargaining

Professor Keith Ewing and John Hendy QC, Policy paper, 15 November 2013

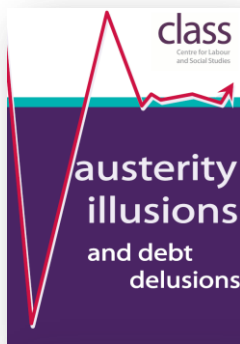
The authors of this Class and IER joint report set out a timely argument for the introduction of a statutory framework for collective bargaining. The paper traces the historical background to the current economic crisis – including the dismantling of trade union rights by successive governments since 1980 – and sets out a viable alternative for economic growth based on international law and best European practices. The result is a considered and fully evidence-based policy recommendation summed up in a succinct ten point manifesto for collective bargaining.



Education, justice and democracy: The struggle over ignorance and opportunity

Professor Stephen J Ball, Policy paper, 17 October 2013

This paper argues that increased involvement of the private sector in the education system has resulted in selection processes which favour the privileged. This has created an education system which is messy, patchy and diverse. The paper calls for a new 'back to basics' approach which considers the purpose of education and what it means to be educated.



Austerity Illusions and Debt Delusions

Class Mythbuster, 2 October 2013

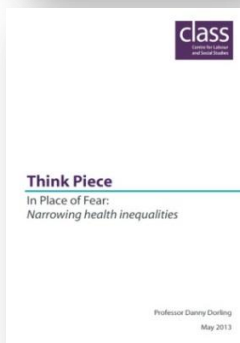
Exposing the myths that austerity has 'saved the economy', 'reduced debt', 'brought down borrowing' and 'kick-started recovery' - this Class briefing gives the facts and realities behind the lies. This pamphlet has been produced to prove that there are alternative routes back to jobs, higher living standards and economic recovery. Austerity hasn't worked and it won't work.



Boom-time for legal loan sharks: How deregulation, market failure and a crisis in wages has led to the rise of payday lenders

Carl Packman, Policy paper, 11 July 2013

Self-regulated payday lenders have exploded on the consumer credit scene since the recession and financially vulnerable individuals are now starting to feel the impact of this new type of lender on the high street. This paper shows that over a million people took out payday loans in 2012. Much of this borrowing is to pay for food and other essentials or bills – not the outcome of financial imprudence that some would have you believe.



In Place of Fear: Narrowing health inequalities

Professor Danny Dorling, Think piece, 21 May 2013

This paper shows that the 1930s were the last time the population of Britain was as polarised in terms of their health as we are today. The overall improvement in living standards and health brought about by the introduction of the welfare state had a significant impact. When it comes to providing a health service, it is harder to provide a good health service in a more economically unequal country. This paper suggests that policies 'in place of fear' need not be costly but they need to present a genuine commitment to tackling inequality.



Duty to care: In defence of universal health care

David Price and Professor Allyson Pollock, Policy paper, 14 May 2013

Those who argue that tax-financed or 'free' health care is a privilege we can no longer afford are unable to explain why universal health care was instituted when the world's economy was very much smaller than it is today. This paper asks - if the UK could create an NHS when the country was literally bankrupt, why in England (but not in Scotland or Wales) can the government not sustain the NHS today? They suggest the answer is political and not financial and that the response must be political too.



In Land Revenue: The case for a Land Value Tax in the UK

Andy Hull, Think piece, 8 May 2013

This paper argues that our current land economy does not serve us well. In response, it proposes a Land Value Tax targeted at unproductive wealth and speculation, which could help deliver the house-building revolution – and the economic revival – our country desperately needs. In the end though, the proposition is simple. The few who own this land of ours should not get off tax-free while too many people cannot afford a decent home.



Financing the Social State: Towards a full employment economy

Richard Murphy and Howard Reed, Policy paper, 22 April 2013

This paper seeks to show that the policy of austerity that has increased idleness and has now given rise to the additional problem of disguised underemployment, makes no economic sense. Focusing on fiscal and taxation policies, Richard Murphy and Howard Reed argue that, as in Beveridge's time, the global recession now provides another revolutionary moment in which new thinking is required.



The Case for Universalism: Assessing the evidence

Mike Danson, Paul Spicker, Robin McAlpine & Willie Sullivan, 18 April 2013

Universalism is once again edging up the political agenda. This underlying principle behind the welfare state has always been reviled by those who wish to see it dismantled, but more immediately concerning is a growing acceptance that in order to protect vital public services the ideal of universal coverage should be abandoned in favour of selectivity. Due to these concerns, this paper puts forward the case for universalism by examining its effects on society; the economy; taxation, redistribution and equality; and political philosophy, whilst debating, in contrast, the problems that come with selectivity.



Exposing the Myths of Welfare

Class-Red Pepper Mythbuster, Briefing, 10 April 2013

Exposing the Myths of Welfare provides a powerful counterargument to sensationalised reports of the “benefits’ culture”, at a crucial time when media and political criticism is at its height. This pamphlet was the first in a series of mythbusters from Class and Red Pepper, designed to expose the realities behind the recurring myths which often scew the debate on welfare.

Website and Social Media

Class has increased its web and social media presence significantly over the past year – not only in terms of quantity, but quality. We are now followed by many more policymakers (like Gavin Kelly of Resolution Foundation), journalists (like Tom Clarke, Guardian leader writer, and Mehdi Hasan of the Huffington Post) and MPs. We have achieved this by ensuring our social media platforms disseminate current information on policy and aggregate high-quality analysis. We now live tweet PMQs as often as possible, and attend many high-profile political events, and report the outcome on social media. This year, Class had a presence at Ed Miliband’s new year speech and the Resolution Foundation’s Living Standards Audit – to name but a few. This has enhanced our reputation as a centre for key debates about progressive policy and as a trustworthy source of up-to-date news, information and statistics.

We are also improving our relationship with our subscribers via our mailing list. In addition to our regular email updates we are now sending our key policy briefings to our subscribers. These briefings provide articles, information and statistics on a particular newsworthy topic. Each briefing is also posted on the Class blog on our website. This year we wrote a briefing on the 50p tax rate, which received praise from a number of high-profile sources.

We now have the tools to film short podcasts with our contributors. Short podcasts enable supporters to only give up 10-20 minutes of their time, and provide a more interactive way of sharing ideas and policy with visitors to our website. We will also record vox pops with conference delegates at TUC, in order to bring the lay membership of unions into the policy work of Class, as well as record Class events so our supporting unions and their members can see the work we are doing. We will be filming our first interviews in July.

8,980 – Peak monthly visitors to the Class website.

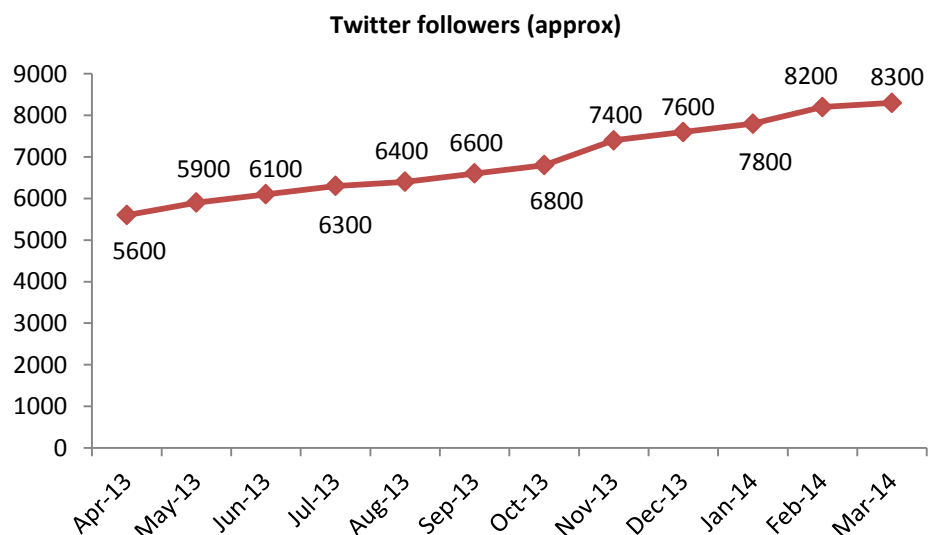
53,074 – Total users of Class site over the year (compared to 51,755 last year)

This year our conference was the most successful tool in attracting visitors to the website. The conference had its own landing page on the site, which included venue information, speakers, seminar titles and ticket costs. Class arranged a great deal of publicity for the conference, all of which redirected users to the website where possible.

Social Media

Class has **1,792 likes** on Facebook, up 750 from last year.

At the end of the year our Twitter followers stood at **over 8,300**, up 3,500 since the end of last year.



Action: Developing Class

Developing Class as a resource for trade union members and researchers

Class recognises that a key priority must be to offer a valuable resource to trade union members, activists and researchers. Over the previous year Class has sought to extend the resources we have available on our website and ensure we engage with trade unionists across the country.

- [Briefings and mythbusters](#) – a series of short accessible briefings outlining the key policy issues with the intention of wide circulation within the trade union movement. Over the year we have added to our selection and released briefings on austerity and immigration.
- [Factsheets](#) – responding to political developments and policy discussions Class have started to produce accessible factsheets bringing together the latest analysis and comment on a number of issues. Factsheets to date include bankers' bonuses, the 50p tax rate and the Budget.
- [Trade Union Policy Library](#) – a section of the Class website hosting policy and research documents from the unions that support Class was launched in July 2013.
- [Email bulletins](#) – we circulate regular email bulletins updating supporters on recent work from Class, the latest blogs added to the website, information on new reports added to our policy library and information on any upcoming events.
- [Regional events](#) – Over the last year Class have prioritised the need to ensure that the voices of working people across Britain are well represented. We have held events in Leeds, Liverpool and Newcastle and have recently begun a new series of joint events with uniontogether and the Trade Union Group of MPs on how to tackle the cost of living crisis. The current year has events planned for Nottingham, Sheffield and Manchester, with one already having taken place in Cardiff.

Articulating the alternative

Class YouGov Poll – October 2013

In October as part of our pre-conference promotion, Class commissioned a poll looking at a number of key policy areas. The poll proved to be extremely significant and gained a very good amount of coverage across the media.

New Class-YouGov poll released today shows that most people are not benefitting from the recovery

A new poll by the Centre for Labour and Social Studies (Class) / YouGov has revealed that almost 4 in 5 Britons feel they are not personally benefitting from the economic recovery.

The poll comes in the same week as official figures show the country's GDP has grown at its fastest rate in three years, a development hailed by Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne as evidence that the country is on "the path to prosperity."

But the poll found that almost 4 in 5 people do not feel that they personally are benefitting from this improvement in the economy, with more than 7 in 10 people who voted Conservative at the last election stating they are not benefitting, along with 8 in 10 people who voted Liberal Democrats.

The poll also found that 5 years on from the financial crisis, when levels of household debt are rising and a housing bubble looms over the economy, 65% of people are not confident that enough has been done to prevent a repeat of the financial crash of 2008.

The poll's findings come in the same week as Class is holding its first policy conference featuring key figures in progressive politics, including Owen Jones, Polly Toynbee, Kevin Maguire and Len McCluskey. Class commissioned the poll to take the temperature of the nation five years after the banking bail out of 2008, and 500 days before the next general election.

The poll found a lack of faith in private sector control of public services, with 12 to 1 people against the NHS being run by the private sector. 67% in favour of Royal Mail being run in the public sector, 66% want railway companies to be nationalised, and 68% are in favour of nationalised energy companies.

The poll will be a boost for the Labour Party. Twice as many people see Ed Miliband (32%) as more on the side of working people than David Cameron (16%). However the poll also found that a greater number of people (38%) don't see either leader as being on the side of working people, suggesting the Labour Party must go further to prove that claim.

The poll suggested support for Labour's policy to freeze energy bills for 20 months, with 74% of people in favour of governments having the power to control energy prices. But the poll also suggested the public would like Labour to go further – nearly three quarters of people think the government should also control transport costs.

Coverage:

Public Far to the Left of Labour Party Finds Poll, International Business Times,
<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/articles/519684/20131105/left-wing-price-controls-nationalisation-yougov-poll.htm>

Polls show support for renationalisation and price controls, Conservative Home,
<http://www.conservativehome.com/leftwatch/2013/11/from-harryph-poll-shows-support-for-renationalisation-and-price-controls.html>

UKIP has chanced upon the neglected part of British politics, Guardian
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/01/ukip-british-political-compass-authoritarian-right>

Labour needs its leftist edge back, Stuff <http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/comment/columnists/chris-trotter/9427603/Labour-needs-leftist-edge-back>

The people are rejecting free market capitalism, Open Democracy,
<http://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/ellie-mae-ohagan/people-are-rejecting-free-market-capitalism>

There is sadly mass support for nationalisation and price controls, City A.M.,
http://www.cityam.com/article/1383618852/there-sadly-mass-support-nationalisation-and-price-controls?utm_source=website&utm_medium=

Yes, there is still life for the left after Tony Benn and Bob Crow, Guardian,
<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/mar/14/left-after-tony-benn-bob-crow>

Press and Media

Class has enjoyed growing publicity over the year with articles across numerous newspapers and websites as shown below. With the employment of a full-time media and communications officer the level of publicity enjoyed by Class has already increased and will no doubt grow further.

Newspaper, Magazine and Online Coverage

Mr Gove still seems intent on making learning a misery for millions of children, Independent,
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/warned-over-and-again-mr-gove-still-seems-intent-on-making-learning-a-misery-for-mil>

Ukip voters need to be 'educated', claims Labour grandee, Daily Express,
<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/473181/Ukip-voters-need-to-be-educated-claims-Labour-grandee>

TUC highlights national zero-hours wage swindle, Morning Star, <http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-09e2-TUC-highlights-national-zero-hours-wage-swindle>

Benneconomics: A Tribute to Tony Benn, New Left Project,
http://www.newleftproject.org/index.php/site/blog_comments/benneconomics_a_tribute_to_tony_benn

Yes, there is still life for the left after Tony Benn and Bob Crow, Guardian,
<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2014/mar/14/left-after-tony-benn-bob-crow>

Only a radical government can end the Great British Rip-Off, New Statesman,
<http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2014/03/only-radical-government-can-end-great-british-rip>

The Banking Reform Act is rearranging the deck chairs on the neoliberal Titanic, Open Democracy,
<http://www.opendemocracy.net/ourkingdom/prem-sikka/banking-reform-act-is-rearranging-deck-chairs-on-neoliberal-titanic>

New UK Banking Act: A Missed Opportunity to Make Banks Socially Responsible, Huffington Post,
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Blogs

Last year Class commissioned over 150 blogs for our website and for placement on other blog sites.

Authors included Danny Dorling, Frances O’Grady, Kate Pickett, Arelene McCarthy MEP, Costas Lapavistas, Diane Abbott MP, Richard Murphy, Ann Pettifor, Emily Thornberry MP, Stewart Lansley, Sally Hunt, Duncan Weldon, Tom Watson MP, Ian Lavery MP, and many more. Subjects covered in blogs included zero hours contracts, banking, fair pay, inequality, immigration, the Budget, living standards, childcare, housing, media ownership, environment, education, legal aid, blacklisting and austerity.

Finance Report 2013-2014

1 April 2013 - 31 March 2014

Income	(£) Actual	(£) Budget	2012-2013
2013 Donations	77,510	144,500	103,500
Unite the Union	20,000 ¹		
GMB	0 ²		
CWU	20,000		
PCS	6,000		
ASLEF	5,000		
TSSA	5,000		
NUT	5,000		
Musicians Union	5,000		
PFA	5,000		
UCATT	2,500		
GFTU	2,000 ³		
FEU	1,000		
NUM	1,000		
Other ⁴	10		
Sales	120	120	0
Events	14,407	12,000	0
Tickets	2,807	2,800	
Sponsorship	7,500	5,000	
Food	900	1,000	
Stalls	200	200	
Grants	0 ⁵	3,000	
Commissioned Work	0	5,000	150
Total	92,037	161,620	103,650

¹ outstanding donation of £20,000 for 2012 paid in August 2013. £50,000 for 2013 donation received in May 2014 was not included in the above as lay outside of this accounting period.

² £40,000 received for 2013 donation in April 2014 was not included in the above as lay outside of this accounting period.

³ GFTU payment for received for 2013 & 2014 donation in March 2014.

⁴ £1,500 for 2013 donation from BFAWU received in April 2014 was not included in the above as lay outside of this accounting period

⁵ £3,000 was received in April 2014 from BANM Trust.

Expense	(£) Actual	(£) Budget	2012-2013
Salaries, wages and training	72,420	103,000	42,369
Events	15,838	40,250	19,068
Website and publicity	9,313	11,760	14,817
Travel and subsistence	1,442	1,450	708
Office expenses and printing	7,935	19,300	6,670
Professional Fees	4,009	3,000	4,100
Bank Charges and Interest	62	60	54
General Expenses / Contingency	0	12,000	0
Total	111,019	190,820	87,786

Net Surplus/Deficit:	-18,982	-29,200	15,864
Cash in bank:	67,217		

After building a solid financial basis in the first year, Class sought to expand our output in the second year. Generous and vital funding was secured from Unite the Union, CWU, PCS, UCATT, TSSA, ASLEF, NUT, MU, PFA, FEU, NUM and GFTU which amounted to £92,037. This enabled us to take on further staff, roll out a series of events across the country, publish and print over 60,000 pamphlets, develop our website into a key resource for trade union activists and host one of the most significant political

events on the left last year. GMB, Unite and BFAWU donations for 2013 came in just outside the financial year but amounted to £91,500 in total. The positive figure for cash in the bank reflects our underlying strength and comprises funding received to enable us to develop a comprehensive strategy for the challenges ahead.

The second year's budget was set with caution and flexibility, mindful of the fact that there are a number of one-off expenditures involved with establishing a new organisation which may well have been necessary in what are still the early stages of the development of Class. At the start of April 2013 Class employed one full-time member of staff and one part-time member of staff, by the end of March 2014 Class employed three full-time staff. It follows then that the largest outgoings for the year were gross wages at £72,420, a cost that will increase in the coming year as this figure is based on three full-time staff from October. While salaries and wages remain the core expenditure they are vital if Class are to maintain our output and expand our reach yet further.

Further substantial outgoings last year were for events, although costs were negotiated and most of the costs of the major conference were recouped in the form of grant applications, sponsorship and ticket sales, as well as effective cost controlling. Class goes into 2014 on a secure financial basis with room for expansion. A detailed budget has been developed for the current year based on the lessons we have learnt from our first two years. We anticipate staff, event, and printing costs will increase as we seek to provide the resources required by our supporting trade unions and their members. We are encouraged by our growing trade union support and will endeavour to build on this as we go forward.