



**Communist Party**

# **COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2016**



## 2016 REVIEW

### 1. General

The Communist Party was founded in 1920 as the Communist Party of Great Britain and was re-established in 1988 as the Communist Party of Britain. Its activities are based on the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism and its organization conforms to the principles of democratic centralism by combining the democratic participation of the membership with an elected, centralized leadership capable of directing the Party's activities. For information on the Party, its history and activities see [www.communist-party.org.uk](http://www.communist-party.org.uk).

2. National Officers at 31 December 2016 with individual executive responsibilities, all of whom were elected, were:

General Secretary	Robert Griffiths
Chair	Liz Payne
National Secretary	Ben Stevenson – resigned 28 February 2017
Editor of Communist Review	Martin Levy
Election Nominating Officer	Martin Levy – until March 2017 Jonathan Havard – from March 2017
National Treasurer	Martin Graham

The principal office of the Communist Party is Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon CR2 0BN, telephone [REDACTED], e-mail [REDACTED]. The Party's website is [www.communist-party.org.uk](http://www.communist-party.org.uk).

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

	2016	2015
Number at 31 December	769	772



Since March 2013 members' dues have been held at the levels set by the Party at its 52nd Congress in 2012. They are based on members' self-declared gross income.

#### 4. Review of Financial Activities

The deficit for the year was £9,705 (2015 £9,604 surplus). The deficit in 2016 reflects a high level of expenditure in 2017 made possible by the surplus in the previous year and does not affect the underlying financial position of the Party: with net assets at 31 December 2016 of £11,125 (2015 £20,632), this remains sound and the budget for 2017, approved by the Executive Committee, will further underpin this situation.

#### 5a. Activities in the year: extra-parliamentary

The Party again organised successful mobilisations in central London and elsewhere. The Party assisted its district committees to organise local CP involvement in annual national labour movement festivals (London May Day, Tolpuddle, Burston, Durham Miners etc). This support included the production and distribution of special editions of Unity! bulletins and mobilising teams of comrades to enhance the presence of the Party and the Morning Star at these events. The Party again asked its members not to engage as Labour Party supporters or trade unionists in the re-election of Jeremy Corbyn as Labour Leader but welcomed his re-election in September.

The Party continues to support the work of trade unions and to win them over to progressive policies. Unity! bulletins were published and distributed at major union conferences. The Party continued to support the People's Assembly. Communism amongst young people was encouraged and supported through the work of the Young Communist League (YCL).

The Party continued its support for the work of the National Assembly of Women, with women members of the Party on its executive committee and as current president, secretary and treasurer.

The Party supports the Morning Star, the world's only English language socialist daily newspaper and continues to deplore the efforts of the mass media, including the BBC, to ignore its existence. The Party and its branches continue to encourage local readers and supporters groups and to hold regular collections for the Fighting Fund. Five editions of the Party's theoretical journal, Communist Review, were published. The Party supports the work of the Marx Memorial Library and jointly organizes with it the annual Marx Oration at Highgate Cemetery.

#### 5b. Activities in the year: EU

Having approached a range of like-minded organisations in the autumn of 2015 to form what became Lexit – the Left Leave Campaign comprising representatives from the Party, Counterfire, the Socialist Workers Party, Indian Workers Association (GB), leading members of the Bangladeshi Workers Council (UK) and initially Trades Unionists Against the European Union. Lexit, with Rob Griffiths as Chair, campaigned vigorously in the EU Referendum, working closely



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with Scottish Left Leave, RMT, ASLEF, the Bakers' Union and leading people in the Labour Leave Campaign.

### 5c. Activities in the year: electoral

The electoral system in the England, Wales and Scotland starves the Communist Party of media coverage, effectively fines it for participating in parliamentary and regional elections by the imposition of election deposits and fails to provide the free use of public buildings for public election meetings as required under the Representation of the People Act 1983. These distortions of the electoral process together with press ownership in the UK favor the large established parties, enabling them to rely on mass media to get their message across. While the growth of social media is beginning to undermine this advantage, it still remains intact. Nevertheless, the Communist Party stood in each of the five regional list elections for the National Assembly of Wales and contested the North East Scotland Regional list. In Local Government elections and by-elections, the Party contested wards in Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne and Fife.

The Communist Party does not engage in politics in Northern Ireland and encourages communists there to join the Communist Party of Ireland. This is in line with its policy of encouraging its members who move abroad to join the communist party of the country to which they have moved.

### 6. International Activities

The Party is part of the international communist and workers party movement, information on which can be found at [www.solidnet.org](http://www.solidnet.org) and participates in the Co-ordinating Committee of Communist Parties in Britain. Priority was again given to solidarity work with the peoples of Palestine, Cuba and Venezuela, to campaigning to oppose further foreign adventures, whether in the Middle East or elsewhere, and to opposing proscriptions against communist parties anywhere in the world including the European Union and Ukraine. The Party was represented at the DKP rally at the Rosa Luxemburg Conference, Germany, the PCF Conference, France, the Portuguese Communist Party Conference on EU, Portugal, *Unsere Zeit*, Germany and participated in the Avante festival, Portugal.



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### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

1. The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis employing the historical cost convention and conform to generally accepted accounting principles. The format of the accounts is that specified by the Electoral Commission.
2. Fixed assets have been written down to their recoverable amount. There were no movements in the year.
3. Stocks of literature and merchandise are stated at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	2016	2015	Notes
	£	£	
<b>INCOME</b>			
Membership fees and subscriptions	88,106	93,513	
Donations	34,816	50,916	2015 includes an exceptional item, a single donation of £14,500
General Election Appeal	0	18,529	
Fundraising	-	-	- The Communist Party does not engage in 'fundraising' events
Bank Interest	-	-	
Notional Income	-	-	
Other	34,403	12,598	
<b>Total</b>	<b>157,325</b>	<b>175,556</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Campaigning	151,015	150,936	Campaigning is not confined to election activities
Registration Fees with Electoral Commission	25	25	
Transfers	25	25	Unity for Peace and Socialism.
Cost of Fundraising events	-	-	- See comment above about 'fundraising'
Administration costs	15,767	14,966	
Notional Expenditure	-	-	
Other	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,832</b>	<b>165,952</b>	Note 1
<b>Surplus/-deficit</b>	<b>-9,507</b>	<b>9,604</b>	

**BALANCE SHEET at 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	2016	2015
	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Stocks of literature and merchandise	504	354
Bank deposits and cash in hand	17,612	8,453
Debtors and Prepayments	16,884	22,898
	<u>35,000</u>	<u>31,705</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>35,001</b>	<b>31,706</b>
<b>Less Creditors falling due within one year:</b>	<b>23,876</b>	<b>11,074</b>
<b>Less Creditors falling due after one year:</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Worth</b>	<u><u>11,125</u></u>	<u><u>20,632</u></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Accumulated fund b/f	20,632	11,028
Suplus/-deficit for the year	-9,507	9,604
Accumulated fund c/f	<u><u>11,125</u></u>	<u><u>20,632</u></u>

**Note 1**

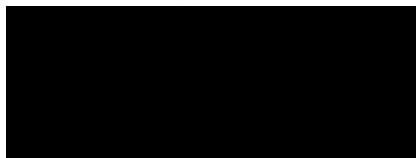
Staff costs £63,504 (2015 £59,500)  
Premises £15,330 (2015 £15,330)



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## Treasurer's Report

I confirm that the information provided in this Report and Accounts is, to the best of my belief, true and accurate.



Martin Graham  
National Treasurer  
22 April 2017