



Communist Party

# **COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2017**



## **COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN**

### **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.



## **2017 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 which combines the democratic participation of the members 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 2017 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. The post remained unfilled at 31 December 2017
International Secretary	John Foster
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, [REDACTED] The Party's website is [www.communist-party.org.uk](http://www.communist-party.org.uk).

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Number at 31 December	734	769



Members' dues are based on bandings for self-declared gross income and, apart from two increases of 50 pence per month effective from April 2017, have remained unchanged since April 2013.

#### **4. Review of Financial Activities**

The surplus for the year was £701 (£9,507 deficit in 2016). As previously reported, the deficit in 2016 was exceptional, reflecting a high level of expenditure made possible by the surplus in the previous year. In 2017 the Party achieved a small surplus and ended the year with net assets of £11,827 (2016 £11,125). The budget for 2018, approved by the Executive Committee in January 2018, is consistent with maintaining a satisfactory state of affairs.

##### **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! and mobilising teams of comrades to enhance the presence of the Party and the Morning Star at these events.

The Party continues to support the work of trade unions and to win them over to progressive policies. Unity! was 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 continues to support the work of the National Assembly of Women. .

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. Four 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. The Party supports Manifesto Press by providing logistical support and publicity.

##### **5b. Activities in the year: electoral**

Due to press ownership and bias in the BBC, the Communist Party is starved of media coverage especially at election time and, in effect, fined it for participating in parliamentary and regional elections by the imposition of election deposits. Participation in elections is further impeded by unavailability of public buildings for public election meetings without charge as required under the Representation of the People Act 1983. These distortions in the electoral process favors the larger,



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established political parties, enabling them to rely on mass media to get their message across. We have, nevertheless, stood a handful of candidates in past general elections in order to offer a limited opportunity to some voters to express support for communism. With the snap general election on 9 June 2017 the Party decided not to stand candidates in order to give a Corbyn-led Labour Party the best chance of success. Despite an almost universally hostile press, we were gratified to see Labour's relative success and the loss of the government's overall parliamentary majority. That the end result was a Tory government propped up by the DUP says much about the lack of real democracy in our electoral system.

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 members who move abroad to join the communist party of the country in which they reside.

## **6. International Activities**

Since 1999, communist and workers' parties from across the world have met every year to exchange news and views, hold bilateral discussions and endorse statements setting out common positions on particular issues. Information on the international communist and workers party movement can be found at [www.solidnet.org](http://www.solidnet.org). In November 2017, Rob Griffiths represented the Communist Party of Britain in St Petersburg where representatives from 103 parties in 78 countries met - some of them in defiance of their illegal status at home. This was a working meeting but also part of the wider celebrations in this country and across the world of the centenary of the Great October Revolution.

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.

At home the Communist Party of Britain participates in the work of the Co-ordinating Committee of Communist Parties.

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2017**

	2017	2016	Notes
	£	£	
<b>INCOME</b>			
Membership fees and subscriptions	84,841	88,106	
Donations	20,789	34,816	
Fundraising	-	-	- The Communist Party does not engage in 'fundraising' events
Bank interest	-	-	
Notional Income	-	-	
Other	12,601	34,403	
<b>Total</b>	<b>118,231</b>	<b>157,325</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Campaigning	104,038	151,015	Campaigning is what the Party does. It 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	13,442	15,767	
Notional Expenditure	-	-	
Other	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,530</b>	<b>166,832</b>	<b>Note 1</b>
<b>Surplus/-deficit</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>-9,507</b>	

**BALANCE SHEET at 31 DECEMBER 2017**

	2017	2016
	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Stocks of literature and merchandise	1,175	504
Bank deposits and cash in hand	9,155	17,612
Debtors and Prepayments	13,930	16,884
	<u>24,260</u>	<u>35,000</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>24,261</b>	<b>35,001</b>
<b>Less Creditors falling due within one year:</b>	<b>12,435</b>	<b>23,876</b>
<b>Less Creditors falling due after one year:</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Worth</b>	<u><b>11,826</b></u>	<u><b>11,125</b></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Accumulated fund b/f	11,125	20,632
Surplus/-deficit for the year	701	-9,507
Accumulated fund c/f	<u><b>11,826</b></u>	<u><b>11,125</b></u>

**Note 1**

Staff costs £51,881 (2016 £63,504)

Premises £15,330 (2016 £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  
21 April 2018