



**Communist Party**

# **COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN**

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2015**



**Communist Party**

## **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.

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2015**

	2015	'2014	Notes
	£	£	
<b>INCOME</b>			
Membership fees and subscriptions	93,513	94,853	
Donations	50,916	24,379	2015 includes an exceptional item, a single donation of £14,500
No 2 EU Appeal	-	14,468	
General Election Appeal	18,529		
Fundraising	-	-	- The Communist Party does not engage in 'fundraising' events
Bank Interest	-	-	
Notional Income	-	-	
Other	12,598	4,462	
<b>Total</b>	<b>175,556</b>	<b>138,162</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Campaigning	150,936	115,956	Campaigning is not confined to election activities
Registration Fees with Electoral Commission	25	25	
Transfers	25	25	Unity for Peace and Socialism.
Donation to No 2 EU	-	15,000	
Cost of Fundraising events	-	-	- See comment above on 'fundraising'
Administration costs	14,966	14,523	
Notional Expenditure	-	-	
Other	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>165,952</b>	<b>145,529</b>	Note 1
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>9,604</b>	<b>-7,367</b>	

**BALANCE SHEET at 31 DECEMBER 2015**

	2015	'2014
	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Stocks of literature and merchandise	354	759
Bank deposits and cash in hand	8,453	8,824
Debtors and Prepayments	22,898	21,575
	<u>31,705</u>	<u>31,158</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>31,706</b>	<b>31,159</b>
<b>Less Creditors falling due within one year:</b>	<b>11,074</b>	<b>20,131</b>
<b>Less Creditors falling due after one year:</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Worth</b>	<b>20,632</b>	<b>11,028</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Accumulated fund b/f	11,028	18,395
Suplus/deficit for the year	9,604	7,367
Accumulated fund c/f	<u>20,632</u>	<u>11,028</u>

**Note 1**

Staff costs £59,500 (2014 £57,000)

Premises £15,330 (2014 £15,330)



## **2015 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 2015 with individual executive responsibilities, all of whom were elected, were:

General Secretary	Robert Griffiths
Chair	Liz Payne
National Secretary	Ben Stevenson
Editor of Communist Review and Election Nominating Officer	Martin Levy
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**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Number at 31 December	772	917

The reduction in the number of members in 2015 reflects a more strict interpretation of the rules relating to members in arrears. A significant number of these lapsed members subsequently renewed their membership in 2016.



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 Surplus for the year was £9,604 (2014 £7367 deficit). With net assets at 31 December 2015 of £20,632 (2014 £11,028), the underlying financial position of the Party remains sound and the budget for 2016, approved by the Executive Committee, will underpin this situation.

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

The Party organised successful mobilisations for the People's Assembly 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 asked its members not to engage as Labour Party supporters or trade unionists in the election of a new Labour Leader but welcomed the election of Jeremy Corbyn.

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 promote the Peoples Charter and support the People's Assembly. Marxist Leninist political education was given prominence at the Red Star Festival at Clerkenwell organized jointly with the Morning Star and the Marx Memorial Library. 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.

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: 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 favors the large established parties,



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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 fielded 9 candidates in the general election and collected in total 1,229 votes. Laura-Jane Rossington, who stood for the Party in Plymouth Sutton and Devonport; was at just over 18 the youngest candidate to stand in the general election in England.

The Communist Party does not engage in politics in Northern Ireland and encourages communist sympathisers 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**

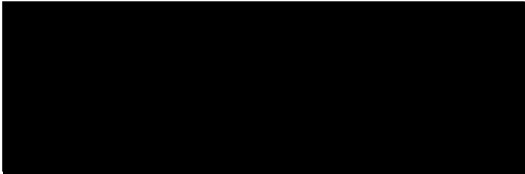
The Party is part of the international communist and workers party movement, information on which can be found at [www.solidnet.org](http://www.solidnet.org). Priority was again given to solidarity work with the peoples of Palestine, Cuba and Venezuela, to campaigning to oppose further foreign adventures, 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 sent delegates to the 17<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties in Turkey, sent fraternal/sororal delegates to the DKP Congress in Germany and participated in the Avante and Fete de l'humanite festivals in Portugal and France Support was given to a number of progressive women's organisations, including the Iraqi Women's League and the Democratic Organisation of Iranian Women.



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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  
14 April 2016