



Issue 2 24th April 2026

We're now two weeks away from what will be one of the most dramatic and significant sets of local election results in living memory.

The organised left is unlikely to be making any national headlines, but in those areas where we are testing the water and mounting vigorous campaigns, the results will matter.

On our social media, we've been promoting a few of the amazing socialist candidates who are standing on 7th May. If you're on twitter, click [here](#) and [here](#); and if you're on instagram, click [here](#) and [here](#). Please offer them your support !

If you're a candidate who'd like to be promoted on our socials, please complete [this form](#).

The deadline for all submissions for the next issue is Wednesday 13th May. Reports from groups who've had elections in their area will be particularly welcome. Please send all contributions to media@connections-network.com.

If you're reading this but aren't already on our mailing list, or if you want to invite people to it, [here's the link](#).

PACE (Mike Forster)

The Peoples Alliance for Change and Equality (PACE) was formed two years ago and had its launch conference on May 10th 2025 with 300 in attendance and Jeremy Corbyn as the guest speaker.

PACE is an alliance of local campaign groups fighting Kirklees Labour Council's cuts and closures programme. These groups have had a lot of success in pushing the Council back. They have been joined in PACE by other campaign groups such as Freedom for Palestine, The Muslim Vote, Disabled People against the Cuts, Alternative Pride and of course independent councillors.

There are a total of 69 council seats. I'm standing as a PACE candidate, alongside a host of left independents. All polls are pointing to a huge loss for Labour which has presided over horrific cuts and a hiking up of the council tax and rents. The PACE election campaign has found a massive anger against Labour in all areas which will see them lose their minority control over the Council. In the recent past they have had to rely on the Tories to get any votes through the Council.

PACE has been out on the streets every day with no shortage of volunteers, taking our socialist message across the area and meeting with a very friendly response. I've never known such hostility to Labour in any election campaign over the last 40 years.

PACE was asked to apply for sponsorship from Your Party and requested sympathetic affiliate status. After some deliberation, this was agreed and several candidates have now been endorsed by both PACE and YP. Unfortunately, the sponsorship came too late to make any significant impact, as all candidates had already started their campaigns and produced election literature.

PACE members have been dismayed by the CEC decision to rescind conference policy to support dual membership and have continued to welcome all socialists on their campaign regardless of party affiliation. We hope this decision can be reversed, but if YP continues down this destructive route, PACE members and supporters will be reviewing their relationship with YP.

In the meantime, the election campaign continues and spirits remain high that the Labour Council will be removed and a healthier alliance of anti-cuts councillors will emerge. Campaign progress can be accessed via Instagram and [Facebook](#).

Waltham Forest (Connor Rosoman)

Waltham Forest Independent Socialists was set up by members of Leyton & Wanstead and Walthamstow proto-branches to run in the local elections. We are standing two candidates in Cathall Ward – one of the poorest parts of the borough. These candidates are Connor Rosoman, and Susan Catten. We have been endorsed by the Waltham Forest Community Coalition (made up on the local Unite Community branch, London Renters Union, Anti-raids Network, Vote Palestine and others).

Although we reached out to YP for endorsement, we did not hear anything back. But that hasn't stopped us from waging a strong campaign. Over 30 people came to our first 'megacanvas' a few weeks ago, which has built real momentum for the campaign.

So far, the results on the door have been extremely promising! There is a massive turn against Labour, and many people are unsure who to support – but our socialist message has been able to cut through that with many people. We're the main force on the ground fighting for an alternative to Labour, with the Greens only standing paper candidates in the ward. This puts us in a great position for 7 May – and for further organising after the elections.

For more on the campaign, check out our [website](#) and our [Instagram](#).

South Cumbria Socialists (Colin Henderson)

In the wake of the decisions of the CEC banning dual membership and refusing to recognise proto branches, the Your Party proto branch in the Westmorland constituency decided on 15 April to drop all YP branding and continue as a broader local socialist association.

South Cumbria Socialists will unite socialists in the local area to discuss progressive ideas in mutual respect, meet and take agreed actions. Participation is open to all living in the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency who identify themselves as socialists using a broad definition such as the Your Party Political Statement. Membership of other socialist and left parties and groups, including Your Party and the Greens, is expressly permitted. Those remaining members of YP will stay connected while they await the YP call to attend an official inaugural meeting.

South Cumbria Socialists have agreed to remain affiliated to the Connections network and welcome its initiative in organising independently from Your Party. They hope to send some members to the Sheffield conference on 6 June.

Background

Many of us who left the Labour Party in 2021 had been organising since then under banners such as Keep Our NHS Public, standing in local elections as TUSC candidates and supporting regular pro-Palestine actions. In August 2025 we all enthusiastically welcomed the Your Party (YP) initiative and began meeting monthly. The first meeting was huge by our standards. This was in the expectation that our group would soon be recognised as a local constituency branch. Our existing social media was rebranded as YP.

However, over the months interest and attendance declined due to the news of internal conflicts. The final straws were the CEC decisions mentioned above:

- we realised we would never be officially recognised and even the limited material we had produced (such as a high street survey on local priorities) was unapproved and infringed trademark, etc.
- two of our most active members were ineligible for membership as they were Socialist Party members. Some of us were not prepared to tolerate their expulsions and resigned from YP in solidarity.

So last week we decided to revert back to our previous inclusive and informal local structure. We were fortunate we could preserve what we had before, but this has been a very bruising and disappointing experience. Hopefully other groups can also continue and preserve what goodwill and contacts they have made over the last few months.

YP Brum (Jenny Nolan)

YP Birmingham Supporters group held a hybrid meeting following an agenda put together by volunteers. We kicked off with a report on Local Election candidates endorsed by YP, Independents we're supporting as a 'branch' and TUSC candidates. We discussed how we can support them and encouraged members to support them on social media.

We then discussed Stand up to Racism's (SUTR) Stop Reform UK campaign in Birmingham. SUTR have identified marginal wards where they can have most impact in holding Reform back and the campaign kicks off this Sunday in a ward where TUSC are standing a candidate. YP members will be joining SUTR.

Finally, we had an update on Iran by Stop the War (STW) and the continued campaign taking place in Birmingham. YP Brum are encouraging their members to participate in these campaigns.

Nakba 78: Justice for Palestine

The Catastrophe feels inadequate as a noun to describe the events in 1948. Up to a million Palestinians displaced from their homes. Hundreds of villages destroyed, lives lost, and a history being erased.

We march, not just to mark the Nakba, but because 78 years later it is still ongoing. The London Met, not being satisfied with only arresting pensioners holding signs, chose to allow Tommy Robinson to give his far-right demonstration rights to the political heart of London. The message is very clear; the political class wants us to give up our solidarity with Palestine. Permission or not, we still march. Against racism, against this government's complicity in genocide and against the unending Nakba in Palestine.



Saturday 16 May at 12pm



Check out details on travelling to London via coach via [PSC](#) and [Friends of Al-Aqsa](#).

Hope to see you there!

WHERE NEXT FOR THE LEFT?

Connections convention

Sat 6 June, 11am-6.30pm
Sheffield SADACCA, 48
Wicker, Sheffield S3 8JB

Includes a
range of
workshops
and self-
organised
spaces

Register now:
bit.ly/connectionsleft

ALL WELCOME!



connections.



On Saturday 6th June, Connections will be hosting a one day convention at Sheffield SADACCA. The event is open to people of any political affiliation who want to be part of the conversation on 'Where next for the Left'. Please see the [Eventbrite page](#) for more information and tickets.

There will be guest speakers who we'll be announcing, but what the convention is all about is us: connecting activists, building networks, holding workshop discussions on issues of practical importance.

Anwarul Khan: "The left is in disarray. Some of us are happy with the outcome in YP and want to carry on, some wish to stay and fight, some want to leave and set up a new party, others feel they can't stay but don't think that rushing to form a new party is the way forward. Many of the proto branches are turning into independent groups, and others are joining the Greens or loose coalitions with them. The Sheffield convention organised by Connections on the 6th of June will provide a space for comrades to rub shoulders and discuss a way forward together. Our goal is not to impose a direction, but to promote maximum discussion across our movement. Watch this space for more ways to get involved and connect with the thousands of other comrades pushing for democracy and socialism."