

The International Socialist League

Invite you to Celebrate

**Trotsky
70 Years
After His Death**



**2-5pm, Saturday 8th May, CASA
Hope Street, Liverpool**

- **Welcome and toast**
- **A couple of speakers on working class history and Trotsky**
- **Memories and discussion from friends and comrades**
- **Alun Parry singer and founder of the working class music festival**
- **Buffet**

Trotsky was one of the greatest working class leaders, thinkers and Marxist theoreticians of the 20th century.

He was a leader of the October 1917 Russian Revolution led the Red Army between 1918 - 1920 and a leader of the 3rd International until 1924. In that year 'Socialism in a single country' was adopted by Stalin and Trotsky led the struggle for a return to internationalism. In 1929, Trotsky was expelled from the Soviet Union by Stalin but, "...contrary to his expectations it turned out that ideas have a power of their own, even without an apparatus and without resources."

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Bill was born in 1920 into a miner's family in Durham two years after the end of 1st World War and 6 years before the general strike of 1926 and has dedicated his life to the fight against capitalism, against the bureaucracies and for the Fourth International.

In 1936 Bill started work in an engineering factory in London. Two years later he joined a Trotskyist group. During the war he was a convenor in the Chrysler aircraft factory in London, in 1952 a borough councillor in Islington, then in 1954 he and his wife Rae Hunter were expelled from the Labour Party. He was secretary of CAV-Lucas Joint

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APPEAL FOR BOOK FUND

Bill has written three books, many pamphlets and 100s of articles, however are out of print. In order to celebrate a lifetime's work in defence of the working class as a Trotskyist we are launching a book fund to publish selections of Bill's writings. There is a wealth of material from the 1940s onwards including writings for the ISL, IWL and others throughout the 1990s and 2000s. We hope to raise £1000. Cheques payable to International Socialist League (please write Bill Hunter on the back).

In 1931 Trotsky warned of the rising fascist power in Germany. Stalin and the German CP (the largest outside of Russia) failed to show class leadership against fascism despite the warning from Trotsky that “Should fascism come to power, it will ride over your skulls and spines like a terrific tank.”

In 1933 Trotsky called for a Fourth International and in 1938 the FI was founded. Trotsky and the FI stated that if the working class did not remove the bureaucracy then the restoration of capitalism was inevitable.

Tragically in August 1940 Trotsky was murdered by a Stalinist assassin at his home in exile, in Mexico.



In 1991 the Soviet Union collapsed and the Stalinist bureaucracy was broken under the mass upsurges of 1989/90 but the revolutions stopped short without a leadership of the working class and an international party. History has confirmed Trotsky’s prognosis on the Soviet Union.

In 2008 the biggest world economic crisis since 1929 demonstrated that after 60 years capitalism cannot provide a stable system for humanity. Like the 1930 we are seeing rising unemployment, a rise of the fascist right, decay in the welfare state and ever more brutal wars. But the strikes in Greece, Ireland and Italy show that the working class is beginning to fight back.

Trotsky’s final words retain their relevance and urgency, 'I am sure of the victory of the Fourth International. Go forward'.



Solidarity with Haitian support groups and unions to help the union and popular organizations in Haiti is developing in a number of countries. For information locally contact solidaritywithhaiti@yahoo.co.uk

Shop Stewards Committee from 1966-72 in Liverpool and remains an honorary member of Liverpool Trades Council today. Bill has always retained a close connection with the dock workers movements in the unofficial strikes from the 1950s including the dispute of 1996-98 and remains loyal to his class.

In 1979 he helped form a Joint Trade Union Inquiry into Allegations of Police Violence, and was a member of the Liverpool 8 Defence Committee. Inside the Trades Council he built and won support for a resolution against the Malvinas (Falklands) war. He and Rae started the Liverpool 8 miners support group in 1984 and Bill participated in the first anti-war meeting in Liverpool and attended meetings regularly. He was one of the first to express opposition to the “war on terror” as a cover for the US and Britain’s war for oil and control.

He travelled many times to Europe and Latin America in the fight to re-build the Fourth International and in 1988 he helped form the International Socialist League. The ISL became a section of the International Workers League-Fourth International, an international Trotskyist current with many sections across the world and was on the leading body of the IWL, the International Executive Committee, until the mid 1990s.

So that’s the first 90 years in a nutshell.

The ISL is a section of the IWL-FI. The ISL web site, to be launched in April, is www.internationalsocialistleague.org.uk The web site of the IWL-FI www.litci.org has a section in English.



For further information contact ISL—islinfo@talktalk.net or ISL PO Box 283, Liverpool L13 4WL