



# Occupy Economics Working Group

Notes of Meeting on Friday March 16<sup>th</sup> 2018  
at Friends House, 73-177 Euston Rd, Kings Cross, London NW1 2BJ



**Present:** John Courtneidge (Chair), Mary Fee (notes), Janos Abel, Schlacke. Apologies: Steve Burak, Richard Comaish,

**Notes of previous meeting:** Friday 16th February 2018 – [OEWG-180216](#)

**John** reminded us of the basis of his proposal for Co-operative Socialism, which is Living Income – and the importance of the 3S's - Sustainability, Subsidiarity, Socialism. He has been collecting second-hand books, and brought along several, from which he read significant quotes:

• **Puritanism & Revolution** – Studies in Interpretation of the English Revolution of the 17th Century by Christopher Hill • **A Russian Journal** – John Steinbeck • **A Prime Minister Remembers** – The War and Post-War Memoirs of the Rt Hon Earl Attlee based on his private papers and on a series of recorded conversations – by Francis Williams • **Looking Backward 2000-1887** – Edward Bellamy • **Co-operation at Home and Abroad** – C. R. Fay • **The Spirit Level** – Why Equality is Better for Everyone – by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett.

**Janos** mentioned the idea of a Book Club where everyone would read a different book and share it with the others. He is well-read and is good at producing reviews of books, sometimes in pamphlet format – he showed us a copy of his latest, based on: HISTORY IS A WEAPON - Strategizing For A Living Revolution, by George Lakey: [www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/lakeylivrev.html](http://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/lakeylivrev.html). Mary said that book clubs normally have all the members reading the same book, then discussing it at the meeting, which would give the opportunity for those who had not managed to read the book to learn from those who had, and felt it was over-ambitious to do it the way Janos was proposing.

**Mary** also shared that she had attended several meetings of Positive Money, which has different branches, six in London: [Tower Hamlets](#), [Greenwich & Lewisham](#), [Hackney](#), [Hammersmith](#), [Walthamstow](#), and [Waterloo](#). She noted that Positive Money, branches, whilst based on the proposal of sovereign money, ie the government creates the money supply, was exploring different ideas for monetary reform. You can find out what meetings are being held all over the country via this link: [http://act.positivemoney.org/page/event/search\\_results?orderby=zip\\_radius&zip\\_radius=%5b0%5d=n19%205BJ&zip\\_radius%5b1%5d=500&country=GB&radius\\_unit=mi](http://act.positivemoney.org/page/event/search_results?orderby=zip_radius&zip_radius=%5b0%5d=n19%205BJ&zip_radius%5b1%5d=500&country=GB&radius_unit=mi)

In last night's meeting of Positive Money's Greenwich & Lewisham Branch, a very engaging slide presentation called "Monkey Business, Re-designing Money for 21st Century Primates" was given by John Wood, Emeritus Professor of Design at Goldsmiths, which seemed to her remarkably like reinventing LETS. In the discussion afterwards, a colleague of John's in Bromley suggested they approach John Courtneidge to give a presentation on Co-operative Socialism – so watch this space!

**Mary** asked John if he would repeat his mini-presentation on books for filming as it would be of interest to others and could be shared on YouTube. Meanwhile, he is campaigning for a debate in the House of Commons on Co-operative Socialism. We wondered how much progress we had made since the launch of John and Sabine's Campaign for Interest-free Money at the Global Cafe in Golden Square – which had led to meetings of the Forum for Stable Currencies in the House of Lords - <http://www.forumforstablecurrencies.org.uk> – this project now continuing as the Global Table: <http://www.globaltable.org.uk> – which Janos continues to chair. Regarding strategy, we debated, having established a vision, whether a whole reform plan can be implemented in one fell swoop, as in the major post-war settlement, or whether we had to argue for separate incremental changes. Either way, we would need to bring together a coalition of campaigns, sharing the vision. MF/mf/180317

<http://occupylondon.org.uk> • <http://www.themap.org.uk> • <http://www.co-operativesocialism.org>