



Lewisham

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Hospital Worker

A Workers' Liberty healthworkers' bulletin

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Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory

Former head of the NHS, Sir David Nicholson, warned that all political parties are putting the NHS at risk with their current spending plans. Although Labour's plans look better than the alternatives, it still involves billions of pounds of underfunding. Whoever is elected, the NHS will not be safe unless there is a mass working-class movement on the street and in the workplace fighting for it.

Yet, it does matter whether the Tories or Labour win this election. Labour pledge to repeal the Health and Social Care Act, make the NHS "preferred provider", protect the NHS from the TTIP trade deal, retain our unsocial hours payments and train more nurses and doctors. But more importantly Labour differs from the Tories (or any other mainstream party) because of its links with the organised working-class.

Labour may be led by a timid host of professional politicians, careerists and pro-capitalist politicians but it remains the only party in Britain backed by most major institutions of our labour movement and most politically-conscious trade unionists. It is more susceptible to pressure from below.

The leadership of a working-class party should fight for working-class interests, just as much as the Tories fight for the interests of the capitalists. The Labour leadership will not do this – they may not even come good on the modest promises they have already made. But if workers get active then we can transform the bureaucratic labour movement and get a leadership adequate to the task. Vote Labour and fight!

The NHS Needs Immigrants!

As our government has not trained enough nurses and doctors to adequately treat the population, it has become widespread practice for Trusts to extensively recruit from overseas. In some areas this may drain the resources of those countries, but it shows that far from being a drain on the NHS, the system has come to rely on immigration. A recent study by HSCIC estimates 14% of clinical staff and 26% of doctors and nurses in the NHS are first generation immigrants. Despite the benefit to the NHS, many of these immigrants will now have to pay an extra £200 per year to use the NHS themselves, since the introduction this month of the 'immigration health surcharge'. Oddly, despite this government policy, the NMC code still says that we should act in the interests of our patients, and err - not discriminate! As all the mainstream parties line up to scapegoat immigrants and promise more restrictive immigration controls, join the Socialist Campaign for Labour Victory and fight for migrant rights!

New Cross & Deptford Free Film Festival *Workers' Liberty are showing* **Still the Enemy Within**

A film about the 1984 - 1985 Miners Strike
Picket pie and beer for refreshments and
discussion with the film makers

1.45pm Sunday 3 May

New Cross Learning,
283 - 285 New Cross Road,
London SE14 6AS

<https://www.facebook.com/events/818139658270999/>
<http://bit.ly/STEWthin>

TAX the RICH!

The top 1000 people in Britain have an individual wealth totalling £519 billion. If those top thousand were reduced to £1 million each (to routine luxury, rather than ultra-riches) then that would yield £518 billion.

The 2010-15 cuts in local services, health, public service workers' real pay, education, and benefits in Britain, have been huge in their social impact. But small in comparison to the wealth of the rich: about £18 billion from benefits, £16 billion from education and local services, over five years. In arithmetic, to reverse the cuts would require only modest taxation of the rich. But in real politics, to get that change would need a great

Savage cuts at Lewisham College

312 posts are being cut at Lewisham and Southwark College. Management claim that they have to pay off debts of £7 million. But campaigners know they have £20 million sat in the bank. These cuts are not necessary. They are part of a political assault on Further Education provision.

The education system under capitalism with its exams and petty discipline is designed to teach people to "know their place". FE provides a counterweight to that by offering adults a second chance at education. It is worth fighting for and saving.

Hands off our unsocial hours!

The Department of Health January submission to the Pay Review Body included a call to scrap or significantly cut our unsocial hours payments. They claim this is necessary so that the NHS can move to 7 day a week working. We're not opposed to 7 day working (most of us work 7 days a week anyway!), but it should be funded out of general taxation - not our pay packets. We already gift the employer many hundreds of thousands of hours a year in unpaid overtime. We are paid 12-15% less now than in 2009. Many of us rely on these payments to make ends meet. But healthworkers are fighting back: over 130,000 healthworkers have signed the 38 degrees petition and healthworkers in London are organising a demonstration. Sign the 38 degrees petition: www.38degrees.org.uk and join the demonstration (details opposite in Take Action box)

Nursing is Political

The new NMC code of practice is out, and retains an attack on nurses' freedom of expression. Section 21.5 states we must 'never use your professional status to promote causes that are not related to health'. This slippery statement may be used in the future to intimidate those of us who not only want to deliver good care in working hours, but continue to advocate for our patients by campaigning for a comprehensive NHS off the ward. Socialism is a cause that is very much related to health – the vast inequality created by capitalism is a major public health issue. Working-class people can expect to die much younger than their bosses. But despite the evidence, I'm not sure the NMC will agree. Nevertheless I will continue to declare that I am a socialist nurse!

TAKE ACTION!

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST ACADEMIES IN LEWISHAM

SATURDAY 25 APRIL,
12 NOON AT HILLY FIELDS
www.stopacademiesin-lewisham.org

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION TO SAVE LIFELONG LEARNING

- ASSEMBLE:
LEWISHAM AND SOUTHWARK COLLEGE,
WATERLOO CAMPUS,
12:30PM, SAT 25TH APRIL

HANDS OFF OUR PAY DEMONSTRATION

ASSEMBLE: ST THOMAS' HOSPITAL 5:30PM,
THURS 30TH APRIL

Greek Solidarity Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign

are hosting free film show as part of the New Cross and Deptford Film Festival
films showing:

Into the Fire & Ruins

Speakers who have recently visited Greece and Discussion to follow
Refreshments.
Everyone welcome.

**Monday
27 April
7pm**

New Cross Learning,
283 - 285 New Cross Road,
SE14 6AS

<http://www.savelewishamhospital.com/>

PUBLIC MEETING: THE GENERAL ELECTION

Debate on how the left and labour movement should do in the general election with speakers from AWL, TUSC, Greens and more.

THURSDAY 30 APRIL, 6:30PM,
GOLDSMITHS UNIVERSITY, NEW CROSS,