



# Lewisham Hospital Worker

Issue 17 (8 May 2013)

**A Workers' Liberty healthworkers' bulletin**

**www.workersliberty.org • awl@workersliberty.org • 0207 394 8923**

## How to use the Judicial Review

**Some people have been concerned about the Trust's plans to merge with QEH, and as we've said in past issues we agree people should be vigilant.**

Although the merger may be a good thing in some ways, it can also make it easier to reduce services here, and already is resulting in redundancies.

People at the Save Lewisham Hospital campaign have been worried because the initiative for merger comes from the discredited Trust Special Administrator.

The campaign has had legal advice that implementation of these recommendations should cease until we know the outcome of the legal challenges which are being made by the campaign and the council.

The chair wrote to Tim Higginson for clarification, and was informed that any changes made would be reversible. The justification for the consultations etc is that the Trust has to prepare for merger.

It is good to see the global e-mail sent out to staff last week carries the same message. The judicial review is expected to happen over the summer in June or July, and the

merger, if it happens may happen in October, though the Trust stresses, that even if the TSAs timetable is followed reductions in services won't happen for another 2-3 years.

But despite all these assurances we remain skeptical.

The TSA in charge at the QEH has made redundancies saying it's a separate cost-cutting exercise unrelated to the TSA proposals.

It's rumoured that some QEH/ SLHT staff have already had their employment lifted and shifted to Lewisham. The Save Lewisham Hospital campaign is considering getting further legal advice.

If you have noticed any "irreversible" changes that could be part of implementing the TSA's proposals, get in touch with the campaign so they can consult their legal team armed with the facts.

**If we're going to keep our services we have to stay vigilant to any little moves and changes in organisational or service provision which could help the TSA get their way.**

### Davey claims credit for hospital campaign

**Unison's health conference was held in Glasgow on 22-24 April. Mike Davey, the branch secretary of Lewisham Hospital's Unison branch was there to represent ... himself.**

You may recall this is the man who told the branch's AGM that there was really no need for a campaign about the hospital, and who steadfastly refused to let the branch give a single penny to the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign.

He made an incredible speech on conference floor opposing calls for the union to organise a national demonstration in defence of the NHS.

He argued that there was no need for such a demonstration, because the union was doing so well in organising local campaigns ... like the Lewisham campaign! Unfortunately his faction won the vote.

In case there's any doubt, the only thing Mike Davey has ever done for the campaign is to take the union's banners along to events. He hasn't been involved in any organising capacity and has shown nothing but hostility to the actual organisers who give up huge amounts of

time to make the campaign a success.

A speaker from the campaign set the record straight at the health worker fringe meeting. Armed with the facts delegates gave Mike a grilling at a question and answer session the next day. During this session he claimed he'd set up a liaison committee across four Unison health branches to campaign on the issue.

If he has, it's a very secretive committee as it wasn't reported on at the AGM.

It's been rumoured that his liaison with other branches has really been to try to warn other branches away from the community campaign! Getting other branches to support the Save Lewisham Hospital campaign is seen by Mike as "interfering" in the business of "his" branch.

For months Davey has shown nothing but hostility to the community campaign. But in front of the rest of his union, he is quite happy to puff himself up on its successes.

**If you're a member of Unison and disgusted by this, e-mail Mike Davey and tell him how you feel (m.davey@nhs.net).**

*LHW provides a forum for staff at the hospital to tell their stories and air their views. If you have a story to tell or an opinion to share then get in touch. The bulletin is edited by healthcare professionals and we will ensure confidentiality is upheld.*



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## Tax the rich to fund the NHS!



### Nurse Karl

**Our bearded band  
5 with his finger  
on the pulse of  
industrial unrest**

Dear Nurse Karl,  
NHS boss, Mike Farrar, says the NHS is in financial crisis. We all know these are times of austerity.

Workers' Liberty seem to believe there is endless pots of money to be spent on public services. We just need to "tax the rich to fund public services".

But if we did that wouldn't the rich just move to another country, like they did in France?

*Regards, Shaun*

Shaun,  
Let's stand the question on its head. According to a 2012

report from the Tax Justice Network, the top 0.001% control 30% of the world's financial wealth, with the next 0.01% controlling a further 19%, and the next 0.01% after that controlling 32%. The bottom 99.9% control just 19%.

It may seem like there is not enough money to go around. But this is an illusion, carefully maintained by the super-rich through their control of the media. The human race produces immense wealth and but a large majority is seized and consumed by a tiny parasitic minority. The rest of us are left scrabbling around after that 19%. Taxing the rich is an easy way of getting some of our wealth back and creating a healthier and more equal society.

The capitalist class always threaten to move to a low-tax country if their government increases taxes. But a lot of this is bluff. Migration is not something that people do lightly.

The capitalist media has hyped up the capitalist flight from France. Generally small in-

creases in taxation, e.g. France's 75% millionaires tax, are not the cause of mass migrations.

"Capital flight" can be a bigger problem for governments seeking more radical redistribution of wealth. If the left-wing Syriza party won the next general election in Greece, then it is likely a lot of Greek capitalists would leave and try and take their loot with them.

Syriza will need to nationalise the banks and stop their millionaires transferring wealth into Swiss bank accounts. But even here the Greece will suffer if it remains isolated. Workers movements across Europe will need to take power and implement similar policies.

Ultimately, we need an international solution that leaves nowhere left for the capitalists to run to. You can't pluck an international working-class movement ready to take power from thin air.

But we can start to build now where we are, organise our workplaces and communities and do our bit to inspire our sisters and brothers across the world struggling for a more equal world.

*Solidarity, Karl*

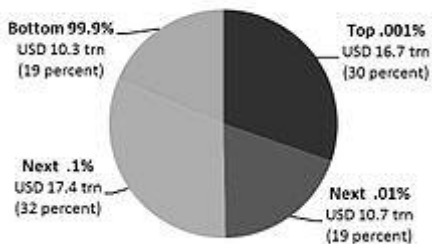
## Ideas for Freedom 2013: Marxist ideas to turn the tide

**A weekend of socialist debate,  
discussion, and education  
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**Friday 21 June - Sunday 23 June,  
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**More info: [www.workersliberty.org/ideas](http://www.workersliberty.org/ideas)**

### Global Distribution of Wealth



James S. Henry, 2012