



tubeworker

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GENERAL ELECTION CALLED:

VOTE LABOUR!



Tory Prime Minister Theresa May has called a general election for 8 June, u-

turning from her previous position that none should be held until 2020.

She has called the election for her own reasons: she senses Labour is weak, and wants to secure her and her party's position in advance of any potential backlash against the economic downturn that will almost certainly result from her planned "hard Brexit".

We, the labour and trade union movement, and not fighting this election on terrain of our choosing. But fight it we must. It represents our opportunity to kick out this Tory government.

KICK OUT THE TORIES

Tubeworker supports an across-the-board vote for Labour in this election, and encourages all our readers and supporters to campaign for Labour.

The choice we are posed with is stark: a Tory government committed to austerity policies that will hammer workers will enriching our bosses, or a Labour government committed to radical policies of taxing the rich and rebuilding public services.

The Tories have slashed funding to Transport for London. Their plan is to slash it entirely, to zero, by 2020. This would make the Tube the only major metropolitan transport

system in the world not to receive central government subsidy.

Labour will fund the Tube. Many of Labour's other policies will also make real differences to the lives of London Underground workers. Their policy for a £10/hour minimum wage will mean a big pay rise for many cleaners. Their housing policies mean that those of us forced out of London by the housing crisis might be able to buy or rent accommodation closer to where we work. Their policy to renationalise the railways is in our interests as railway workers and rail users.

The Labour Party is not perfect: *Tubeworker* would like to see it dramatically transformed to become more democratic, allowing it to be bolder and more radical in

its policies, and less beholden to right-wing elements with the Parliamentary party and its structures. We support socialists and left-wing groups within Labour working to make that happen.

But in this election, the only two choices are five more years of Tory rule, or a Labour government. We know which one we prefer.

Ultimately, we want to see a different kind of government: a workers' government, where parties linked to and accountable to the working class govern in our interests, just as the current party of government governs for the rich.

Electing a Labour government on 8 June and pushing for radical policies can be the start of a conversation about how we get that.

The Tories have brought us...

- Ticket office closures, staff cuts, and huge funding cuts to TfL. They propose to reduce funding to zero by 2020!
- The Trade Union Act, which imposes severe legal restrictions on our ability to strike
- The 2016 Housing Act, making it easier to sell off council houses and freezing working-class people out of the housing market
- Cuts to disability benefits, hitting hundreds of thousands of people
- The Health and Social Care Act, making huge cuts to the NHS, and handing chunks of it over to the private sector
- ... and more!

Vote Labour for...

- £10/hour minimum wage
- Free school meals for all children from 4-11
- Renationalise the railways
- Renationalise the NHS, reverse health cuts
- £500/year for unpaid carers
- 200,000 new homes per year, including 100,000 council houses
- Tax the rich and big business to fund public services
- Ban zero hours contracts
- Reverse Tory inheritance tax cuts
- Scrap the anti-union laws
- ... and more!

LONDON BRIDGE: STRIKE FOR JUSTICE! REINSTATE LEE CORNELL!

**Do not book on between
22:00 on Sunday 7 May
and 21:59 on Monday 8
May.**

**Do not service any
POMs, or challenge
customers without valid
tickets or Oysters, until
further notice.**

Support the action!

BEAT THE ANTI-UNION LAWS!

The Tories' Trade Union Act, which came into effect in March, means turnout in industrial action ballots must be over 50%.

In services such as the Tube, over 40% of those balloted must vote yes in order to strike.

The Tories have used anti-union laws to obstruct our ability to organise effective democratic industrial action, to weaken our class, and strengthen the rule of the rich.

It is outrageous that we must now consider thresholds higher than in any parliamentary election before we can exercise our power as workers. If a majority of us vote for action, but the result doesn't meet the threshold, we should consider whether we have the confidence to defy the law. If we do, our unions should back us.

We cannot let the new laws stop us from taking the action necessary to defend our colleagues.

"FLASH AND DASH"? NO THANKS!

LU management are having another go at imposing "flash and dash", where drivers just flash the lights before taking a train into the sheds/sidings, rather cars being physically checked.

In the past, passengers who didn't hear or understand the driver's announcement have ended up clambering out of the train and getting killed.

Five years ago, we stopped a determined management plan to impose the flash and dash on the Bakerloo line. RMT and ASLEF drivers took industrial action together, insisting on physically checking trains when detrainment station staff were withdrawn.

It is exactly that sort of response that will stop them again.

GOLDFISH BOWL WOES

The "Goldfish Bowl" facility used by drivers at Elephant and Castle is increasingly unfit for use.

There are vermin traps in every corner, dirt and mould up the walls, and a disgusting smell that seems to have seeped into the tiles.

Does LU think so little of workers' dignity that it wants us to take our breaks in conditions like this?

Union reps are pushing for a full refurb. Basic dignity at work is non-negotiable.

IN THE SEXISM CLUB?

LU bosses have thrown a woman driver off her Train Operator training course, stating they will no longer allow pregnant women to be in training or to drive a train.

Note to management: PREGNANCY IS NOT AN ILLNESS. Moreover, every pregnancy is different, and while some women may need to avoid particular work tasks while they are expecting, many do not. It is not management's job to treat women staff as though they are fragile and/or incapable: it is to protect their safety and respect their rights.

This sister has a strong and effective union rep at her side, and RMT lawyers are already looking at this case. It is unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of pregnancy.

TRANSFER TALK

Over 1,500 workers face being shuffled around like pieces on a chessboard from 30 April, as LU proposes to transfer the employment of all workers involved in engineering, major projects, change delivery and PMO activity to Transport for London.

Directly-employed TfL staff have worse terms and conditions in many regards than those that have been won by LUL employees. Now, 1,500 LU engineers face a potential levelling down.

The RMT has demanded a halt to the transfer. Workers are not disposable commodities to be moved around by our employers depending on what's best for their accounts!

ADMIN UP IN ARMS

Stations, revenue, and SRT administrators have been presented with a new "charter", setting out what our "customers" - that is, station staff and managers - can expect from their admin teams.

Many admin feel this is like telling us we aren't doing our jobs properly.

Stations administrators, like station staff, have taken a battering in the "Fit for the Future" process, with huge amounts of additional work. This charter feels like a slap in the face for all that hard work.

Admin and station staff need to remember that we're all in the same side.

NIGHT TUBE DRIVERS' WIN

Night Tube drivers have won their fight with management for a fair chance at moving into full-time jobs.

As usual, management remained intransigent until strike action loomed, with NT drivers delivering a whopping vote in the ballot - at which point management suddenly saw the injustice in the 18-month bar and agreed to relax it.

The dispute resolution has put Night Tube drivers on a level par with full-time station staff applying to be full-time drivers. This is good news, as we did not want to go from one grade being unfairly disadvantaged to another being unfairly disadvantaged instead.

(UN)HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FIT FOR THE FUTURE!

Fit for the Future, which "celebrated" its first birthday on 3 April, changed normal working life for every member of station staff.

Supervisors are now managers, disciplining their immediate colleagues; ticket sellers are now supervisors; CSAs now do cash-handling work.

Many of us were displaced, and nearly 1,000 frontline posts were slashed by LU, meaning fewer people had to do more work. Our strikes clawed back hundreds of jobs, but we're still left facing a cut of between 400-500.

We should continue to fight these cuts. If we stand together, we can win.

What is Tubeworker?

Tubeworker is a rank-and-file socialist bulletin, published at least monthly, written by Tube workers, for Tube workers. It is published by the socialist group Workers' Liberty, but is produced in editorial

meetings open to all workers. Supporters from outside London Underground can help with public distribution.

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