

JUNIOR DOCTORS' STRIKE

Junior doctors working in the NHS are extremely well-trained, dedicated and hard-working. As the government merrily decimates the Welfare State, they are much-appreciated by their patients.



The NHS is underfunded and understaffed, yet hospitals provide a full range of services for five days a week with staff working some weekends in order to provide full and other emergency cover. The system works well yet the government insists on meddling despite the objections of medical professionals who know best.

The government is insisting that a full range of services be provided seven days a week, resulting in existing staff being stretched more thinly - a change which makes no sense and endangers patient safety.

Junior doctors do not accept the new contract and Jeremy Hunt, the Health Secretary, has said he will impose it without further negotiations. Junior doctors are fighting for quality in our NHS and we should support them at every turn.

WHO WE ARE

In 1991, Haringey Solidarity Group (HSG) emerged from the Anti-Poll Tax campaign, formed by Haringey residents with a wide range of backgrounds and views. We wanted to create a long-term, vibrant, non-hierarchical group, unlike political parties where ambitions and posturing displace real politics.

We believe in ridding ourselves of the current system which places profit and power before people's needs. This involves getting organised, fighting back and collectively taking those decisions which affect our daily lives, communities and workplaces.

We think people must take control of their community and workplace struggles, support each other, encourage practical solidarity, build the necessary skills and knowledge for those struggles and generate strong, permanent, grassroots networks.

Many of us are involved with

local residents', community and campaign groups within the borough. We support workers in dispute, campaigns against public service cuts and threatened community amenities. We are active on environmental, housing and claimants' issues and resist oppressive policing and state controls.

We encourage everyone to share their views at our open, monthly meetings where consensus is the aim. We would welcome your involvement, either as an individual or a campaign group, at our meetings and discussion evenings and with practical activities including distributing this newsletter and producing other materials including posters and leaflets.

If you would like to learn more about HSG, then visit haringey.org.uk, befriend us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter @_hsg_, contact us at PO Box 2474, London N8, phone 0845 2235270 or email info@haringey.org.uk

LOCAL GROUPS

Below are a few active local groups that we think are worth supporting:

Haringey Independent Cinema
Not for profit community-led film club

haringey.org.uk/hic

StART (St Ann's Redevelopment Trust)

Organising for affordable housing on St. Ann's hospital site
startharingey.co.uk

HAPS (Haringey Alliance for Public Services)

Defending public services in Haringey
hapsnews.net

Our Tottenham

Campaigning for community-led regeneration in Tottenham
ourtottenham.org.uk

Haringey Housing Action Group

Mutual support group taking action on housing issues
haringeyhousingaction.org.uk

Haringey Migrant Support Centre

Advice and support for migrants and asylum seekers
haringeymsc.org

Haringey Federation of Residents' Associations

Umbrella organisation for residents' groups
hfra.wikispaces.com

Haringey Friends of Parks Forum

Forum for friends of parks groups
haringeyfriendsofparks.org.uk

Haringey Defend Council Housing

Fighting for social housing in Haringey
facebook.com/HDCHpage/

Tottenham Rights

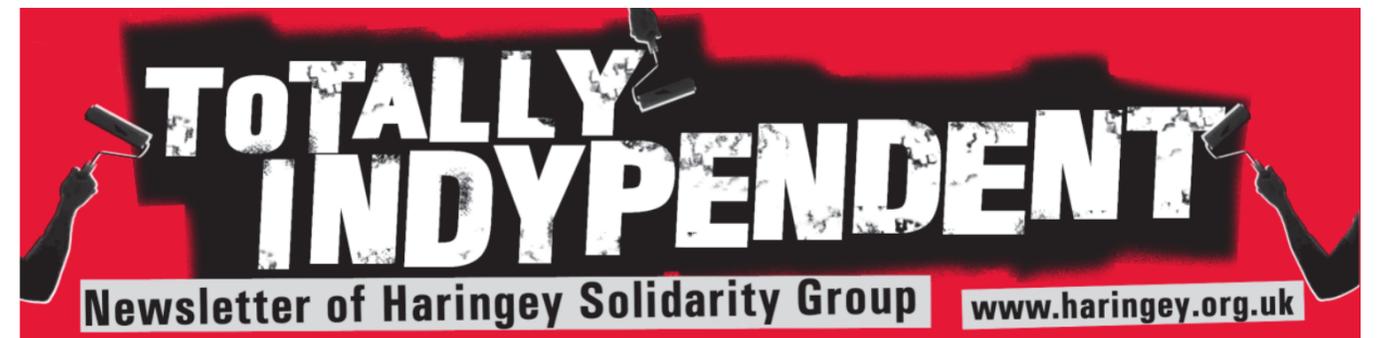
For rights and justice in Tottenham
tottenhamrights.org.uk

Haringey Justice for Palestinians

Campaigns for justice for the Palestinian people
hjfp.org.uk

Wards Corner Community Coalition

Stopping demolition of homes, businesses and market at Seven Sisters
wardscorner.wikispaces.com



"I have long been of the opinion that if work were such a splendid thing the rich would have kept more of it for themselves" - Bruce Joseph Grocott (Labour party politician)

THE GREAT HOUSING SWINDLE

Years ago, Margaret Thatcher got elected. Her and her gang nicknamed 'The Tories' conned loads of us to buy our council houses. At the time people said, "Don't do it, it's a con". Yet many fell for it. Some wanted to make a quick buck. Others saw it as "protecting" their housing security. Not trusting local authorities, buying seemed the best option. When huge repair bills arrived and interest rates hit the roof, many were evicted for mortgage arrears or left with huge debt. Now, these homeowners who took housing out of the council's stock are again realising they were conned by 'The Tories'. Haringey Council needs to build 20,000 new homes in the borough. One place they are looking to do this is our council estates. They plan to knock down whole estates and sell the land to private developers

who will 'redevelop' the land. Private developers don't do this to 'help the poor of Haringey' or 'improve our housing and security'. They do it for big profits for them and their shareholders. If this goes ahead, council tenants will probably be rehoused. They may have less security and rent levels may rocket but at least they will have a home. Property owners, though, will be 'bought out' for market value plus 10%. But with homes being knocked down, what will "market value" be? New homes will be hugely more expensive. This has happened throughout London. Few people move back in as they can't afford the prices. Tenants renting off private landlords (who bought ex-council homes cheaply) will be evicted. Landlords will make a profit and move on. We have made these our homes

but the Council and landlords don't care if we are homeless. 'The Tories' are a gang. They inflict more extortion, stress and fear than most gangs we hear about. There is an alternative. Residents on Broadwater Farm (and other estates) are getting together and fighting these attacks on their homes. People are realising that the Council's (another gang) lies are just that - lies. Most won't move back onto their estates. Most will end up miles from family and friends. It's time to fight back. If your estate might be up for 'regeneration' (read demolition and rip offs), speak to your Tenants' Association or set one up. Talk to people on other estates. But most of all fight like mad. These are our homes not the Council's. Councillors need to understand we tell them what to do, not the other way round. Haringey Solidarity Group will happily help where we can.



DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS

We hear politicians claim "the NHS is safe in our hands" but do any of us believe these lies?

Go into any A&E. Try and get a GP's appointment. If you have drug or mental health problems try and get help. Ask anyone with care needs how they cope. We all know the results.

Money won't solve it all but cuts are killing our health care slowly. When I say "ours" I mean workers and claimants. People like politicians and "the rich" have private health care. They don't use the NHS.

Staff do their best. Like us they are low paid and have difficulty getting health care for loved ones.

One quote I saw recently summed it up, "Zero hours' contracts, 15 minute visits and neglected elderly people. That's the reality of care in the UK today."

I know moaning won't help. I know I need to do something but the question is what? Beating the crap out of people like Cameron and Osborne won't help (will it?).

I should support the junior doctors. I should join campaigns and demos to support our NHS. I should let the politicians know I won't take it anymore. I should kick up a fuss. And I would love others to do the same before they totally destroy our access to free health care. I want more not less. Don't you?