

## FROM EAST TO WEST, PROTEST IS BEST

Governments across Europe are the ongoing target of protests, despite - or perhaps because of - harsh austerity measures and strict anti-protest laws.

In December former Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich signed a cooperation agreement with Russia rather than the European Union, sparking widespread protests. Official buildings in a number of towns were occupied by protesters. Many were and still are angry about Yanukovich's deal with Russia, but also want to end corruption and create a fairer society. Many demonstrators were killed, but people stood firm in the face of brutal police tactics and government proposals to introduce harsh anti-protest laws.

Reports from the protests warned of a significant neo-Nazi presence. Alongside bringing down a government, those seeking a better society will have to deal with far-right groups too.

In Burgos, northern Spain, people from working-class neighbourhoods

rioted for days in January. Crooked officials and property developers had tried to redevelop a street and charge for car parking - the latest in a long line of crooked deals. In Portugal, tens of thousands of people have protested against the government's recent austerity budget.

In Hamburg, police imposed a Gefahrengebiet - restricted zone - in parts of the city. This gave them increased stop, search and banning powers after a series of protests against the closure of a popular social centre, and the eviction of hundreds of people from long-standing squats. Thousands have continued to protest, ignoring the ban. Others have responded with humour, carrying toilet brushes to show opposition to the measures in reference to a video that showed police confiscating a toilet brush from a man in the Gefahrengebiet.

From Spain to Ukraine, people are standing up for themselves and against unjust governments. It's not always pretty, but it's one way real change in society will come about.

## A WHOLE ROTTEN BARREL



After the Mark Duggan verdict the Metropolitan Police said they wanted to "build trust within the community". I asked friends how we can trust an organisation of "institutional liars". They responded: "You would say that," and "it's just some bad apples". It got me thinking - are the police "institutional" liars?

It was initially claimed Mark shot a police officer. Police also claimed he "pulled a self-loading handgun from his waistband". Both were untrue. Was this the cops lying to protect themselves or something much more? I looked up other cases. Here's a few of many.

In 1999 the police killed Roger Sylvester. The police claimed "he was hitting a neighbour's door in an aggressive and vociferous manner" and "Roger's death was the result of 'excited delirium' brought on by drugs" - both untrue. The initial inquest decided it was an unlawful killing.

The Tottenham Three, jailed for killing PC Blakelock, were released when it was shown their statements were falsified by the police.

The more I looked the more it went on. Harry Stanley - killed by police for carrying a chair leg in a bag they thought was a gun. One cop claimed "the realisation struck me that I was about to be shot at with a sawn off shotgun". Yeah right!

Jean Charles de Menezes - killed on the tube. Ian Blair, Met chief at the time, claimed he "refused to obey police instructions" and the shooting was "directly linked to the London

bombings" (untrue). Reports circulated that Jean jumped the ticket barrier. In fact he walked through, using his Oyster card.

After Ian Tomlinson's death during the 2009 G20 protests the cops said: "there is no evidence that the police had caused Ian's sudden and untimely death" and "officers tried to protect Ian from the protestors but they were pelted with missiles." Total lies. Video evidence showed PC Harwood attacked Ian from behind with no protestors or missiles in sight.

When these statements come from lowly PC's up to the top cops, can there be that many "mistakes"? How is it well trained "experts" kill so many people? Are they really "scared for their lives" as the cops often claim? Or could it be ordinary people's lives just don't matter and cops would rather shoot (or use excessive force) first then make up stories to protect themselves afterwards?

It's not "a few bad apples". These lies are sanctioned by the cops at the highest level. Otherwise why, when it's proved they lied, is no-one held to account? What else is it but "institutional lying" by the Metropolitan Police? If they really want to "build trust within the community", they should get their own house in order before they come preaching to us.

Still don't believe it? Go online and read case after case where the same thing happens. For more info check out: [www.inquest.org.uk](http://www.inquest.org.uk) and: [www.uffc-campaigncentral.org](http://www.uffc-campaigncentral.org)

### A SIDWAYS LOOK

Politicians talked of the recent flooding as a "security threat" - rather than a safety threat or financial threat. It's

a serious problem, but the way they express it is yet another con to justify increased surveillance and repressive laws to stifle dissent, including protests about climate change and fracking.

## TOTALLY INDYPENDENT

Newsletter of Haringey Solidarity Group  
[www.haringey.org.uk](http://www.haringey.org.uk)

"What crime is robbing a bank, compared to owning one?" - Bertolt Brecht

## WORKFARE? UNFAIR!

Workfare is a government scheme where individuals are expected to work for their benefits or risk losing them.

This scheme has been adopted by many businesses across Britain such as Homebase, Marks & Spencer, Poundland, Argos, and charities such as Shelter and the Salvation Army.

Haringey Solidarity Group (HSG) has voiced its opposition and is fighting back against this unfair and unjust scheme. Workfare exploits unemployed people who are made to work for no financial gain. Employers can replace full-time permanent staff with unpaid temporary workers, leading to job losses. This increases tension between unpaid and paid workers.

HSG is involved in a UK-wide grassroots campaign called Boycott Workfare, to end this forced labour. In the last year in Haringey we have picketed Homebase on Green Lanes and more recently Marks & Spencer in Wood Green.

The M&S picket was co-ordinated with Radical Islington who likewise targeted M&S on Holloway Road, as part of a week of action called by Boycott Workfare. It was a great success with many people involved. We leafleted staff in the store asking them to whistle-blow about M&S practices, encouraging shoppers and the public to boycott the company. The pickets were well received, with people recounting their experiences of working for free for M&S and others.

Although the Boycott Workfare campaign has succeeded in convincing many companies to withdraw from the scheme, there is still a massive use of workfare. We believe it is important to continue campaigning against this issue with further actions.

For more information and to get involved:  
[www.boycottworkfare.org](http://www.boycottworkfare.org)  
[www.haringey.org.uk](http://www.haringey.org.uk)  
[info@haringey.org.uk](mailto:info@haringey.org.uk)



## SAVE ST ANN'S!

Haringey's only hospital is again under threat. Plans to redevelop the St Ann's Hospital site have been rumbling on since 2006. Now, the managers of the site, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust, are planning to sell off two thirds of the site to property developers. They claim the site is underutilised, has poor facilities and is a liability and that the only way they can afford to provide the healthcare facilities we need is to sell our land.

We don't agree that the site is a liability. We think it's a community

asset that needs to be protected and improved.

How can the Mental Health Trust claim that the site is 'surplus to requirements' without the evidence of a healthcare needs assessment and a thorough exploration of alternative options that could improve the health of local people?

There are huge health inequalities in the borough and Haringey has one of the worst records in the country for child development by the age of 5. This is unacceptable. People from this part of the borough have to travel

miles in an emergency. How about an A&E or an Urgent Care Centre on site? Protesting can save our local NHS services. Last year the Mental Health Trust proposed moving the mental health inpatient wards from St Ann's to Chase Farm Hospital in Enfield. The plans were challenged by campaigners and the Trust backed down.

If the Mental Health Trust got this wrong, how can we trust the rest of their plans?

Hospitals can be places that provide jobs and training for local people and attract other services and community

facilities. We want a hospital that is the pride of our community, not just a collection of disparate services shoved into the corner of the site so that the Mental Health Trust can offload its 'liability'.

We say we already pay for universal healthcare out of our taxes and demand services that meet the needs of local people now and for the foreseeable future.

Join the campaign for better services:  
[haringeyneedsstannshospital@gmail.com](mailto:haringeyneedsstannshospital@gmail.com)  
[facebook.com/HaringeyNeedsStAnnshospital](https://facebook.com/HaringeyNeedsStAnnshospital)  
Twitter @StAnnsHospital





## BANKING ON FOOD

Haringey's food bank has re-opened at the Selby Centre in North Tottenham following eviction from its previous site.

Four food banks a week are opening across the UK. Since last April they have provided over half a million meals to desperate families. It's obvious they are a result of the financial pressure on the working class. People have to cope with benefit cuts imposed by the government, huge price rises of the energy companies and rip-off prices in the main supermarkets. It's not surprising that many people have to 'Eat or Heat'.

The government claims food banks are evidence of the 'Big Society' in action. Rubbish. They only exist because we are getting poorer and can't afford to buy our own food, due to dodgy government policies like the benefit cap, bedroom tax and workfare. Many people are sent to food banks by JobCentres when they cut off benefits or won't provide emergency money for essentials like food. Surely this can't be right?

Whilst food banks obviously provide a vital short term lifeline to families in need, we ask why they are needed in the first place. The government wants a low wage economy with huge profits going to their friends in big business. They don't care if families have to rely on food handouts as long as they don't have to pay for them.

The main Haringey Food Bank is based at the Selby Centre, Selby Road, N17.

Opening times: Wednesdays & Thursdays: 12 noon - 5pm.

Phone: 07460 519 019

## YOUR HEALTH, YOUR RIGHTS

### Register with a GP

The NHS can only plan health care facilities for the population they know about! Register with a GP so the NHS knows you exist. Claim your rights! Remember a doctor's surgery may turn you away if you are not registered. We want more and better NHS facilities in this area.

### Tell your GP to refer you to a public, not private clinic or hospital

The government says you have a right to choose which hospital or specialist your GP sends you to. Some facilities now are run by private companies working within

## 1000 MOTHERS MARCH



Ever since coming to power in 2010, the Coalition has made it perfectly clear who is going to pay for the financial crisis. Not the filthy rich who caused it and continue to pay themselves obscene salaries and bonuses, whilst dodging income tax which the government reduced for them anyway.

No, the working poor and those on benefits are forced to carry the can. The £500 a week benefit cap leaves families paying exorbitant rents to wealthy landlords, using money which would be better spent on food and fuel bills. The disabled, who often need to provide a spare room for a carer, are hit by the bedroom tax.

Then Haringey Council demands 20% of Council Tax from the most vulnerable families. Last year 23,000 families were landed with court costs of £125 because they could not pay this new tax on poverty. And, as fuel prices soar by 10% per year, benefits are pegged to a 1% annual increase. More and more families in Haringey are facing ruinous debt, eviction and relocation outside London - away from family and friends - and forced to rely on food banks for their daily needs.

Following the resounding support for the 1000 Mothers March last

NHS hospitals. Don't use them! Their profits come from our taxes and the NHS budget!

### Demand proper access to urgent, weekend and evening care

You are now supposed to get treatment or advice outside surgery hours by phoning 111. But the 111 service is an example of how privatisation messes things up. Channel 4 programme 'NHS Undercover' reported the privatised 111 service was 'unsafe' because they didn't have enough staff to handle calls.

We want an out of hours/urgent care centre at St. Ann's. (The hospital A and E departments at the Whittington (Archway) and the North Middlesex (Edmonton) are too busy and too far away.) When our own GPs are off duty we need local places to treat us.

year, it is time again for everyone to support families struggling to survive and to send a clear message to this despicable, inhumane government. People deserve better: affordable housing, living wages and a welfare system which adequately provides for the most vulnerable and people in need.

**Mothers, family and friends, join the 1000 Mothers March for Justice 2014: 11.00, Saturday, 29th March: assemble at Bruce Castle Park, Lordship Lane, N17. 11.30: march to Tottenham Green East, N17 for rally and speakers.**

## TURN UP THE HEAT

38 Degrees Haringey is a health campaign group who last year fought successfully to get local doctors to agree not to assist privatising your health services in Haringey and to protect the NHS!

Health services in each borough are now run by a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), comprised mainly of doctors who decide on the provision of and payment for local health services. 38 Degrees suggested amendments to the CCG's constitution that would help keep big business like Virgin out of healthcare.

In Haringey, after gathering 2000 signatures, many months of campaigning, writing to GPs and councillors and hounding the CCG, 38 Degrees pushed them to agree a constitution that helps stop privatisation locally. This is one of only three CCGs in England to do this!

### What we believe and what we do

We support a publicly funded NHS and aim to stop any privatisation in Haringey and beyond. We engage with the public as widely as possible so everyone knows what's happening to their health services. The recent Health and Social Care Act attempts to privatise your health services by forcing CCGs to tender contracts with private companies. Our ongoing actions and monitoring of our local CCG will stop that.

### Other campaigning

We try to inform the public about what

## WHITTINGTON: STOP DICKING AROUND

In July 2013 we stopped the sell-off of most of the buildings, loads of jobs and beds at the Whittington Hospital. Amazing! Four years ago we saved the Accident and Emergency and other departments.

But this year there is a new proposal to sell off hospital assets, which will be another big challenge to overcome. Under the destructive 2012 Health and Social Care legislation all hospitals have to become Foundation Trusts. These are independent hospitals, like business units, that can be taken over by a private company.

In 2012 the Board of the Whittington Hospital made an appalling first application to become a Foundation Trust, massively reducing the operation of a proper fully-functioning hospital. They did not tell or consult with anyone and took the cuts decision in five minutes. They presented their plans as a done deal, but we thought otherwise.

Our campaign was relentless. The 'stop the sell off' message sped across the community via our coalition, through our mass leafleting and petitioning. We held a huge public meeting, a demonstration and lobbied the Board at their monthly meetings.

Our coalition includes hospital and local trade unions, who have financially aided and actively supported the campaign. We also have support from other campaign groups, hospital staff, patients, local newspapers, local political parties and MPs. Islington MP, Jeremy Corbyn, asked several awkward parliamentary questions to the Minister of Health. This coalition of various groups has been vital to our success.

The hospital Board has behaved very strangely. They produced a plan that they now admit was completely inappropriate.

We remain very concerned that the new model is based on early discharge of patients in an area which has a population with high levels of need. We are also concerned about proposed massive job losses.

So we are not going away! We want to thank everyone who helped in our recent victory. There is still more to do, locally and nationally.

**For more information and to get involved see: [www.dwhc.org.uk](http://www.dwhc.org.uk)**

is happening to their health services by holding public events. Through meetings, workshops and film showings - events at which all are welcome - we develop ideas and tactics to further our campaigning.

We work with Council committees that check the way health services are run in Haringey - most recently on the St. Ann's Hospital development. We work with Healthwatch - a government-instituted body which is meant to give people a say in the provision of healthcare.

The work of 38 Degrees is ongoing and open to anyone interested in campaigning. For further information: [rodwells1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rodwells1@hotmail.co.uk)

## FREE HEALTHCARE: GOING, GOING, GONE

The coalition government's Health and Social Care Act took effect on 1 April 2012. It will bring about changes to the NHS that will transform it into something very different to what we have been used to.

Nobody outside Parliament voted for these 'reforms'. They were not mentioned in any party's general election manifesto. Despite the NHS being admired as one of the best and fairest health services in the world, the

Coalition decided it knew best. What are the results?

The most basic principle - that everyone in the UK should have the same access to health care - has now gone.

Provision of health services is no longer guaranteed by government but has been given to groups of doctors organised in Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). They decide which health services to provide in their area.

Their decisions will be based on what they think local priorities are, within limited budgets set by central government. Certain types of patient and treatments - the least expensive - will become more attractive. Complex and long-term illnesses may receive less attention as a result. The 2012 Act also introduces the possibility of CCGs charging for health care, like dentists do now.

This is another nail in the coffin of a health service which has been free for

all to use and paid for by tax.

The 2012 Act means that services such as ambulances, after-care and services to children, pregnant women and people with mental health issues need no longer be provided free of charge. This is all part of the new profit-oriented health service which, we are told, is based on 'patient choice'. What is more likely to develop is not patient choice, but choice of patient.

## KILLING JOKE

What's the difference between Harold Shipman, the infamous doctor who killed 15 patients, and Conservative Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt? Read on and find out.

Two years ago the ConDem government introduced the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Despite the government promising that the NHS is "safe in our hands", the law will result in ill health and bad social care.

Under this Act all health services have to be put out to contract. Private companies like Virgin Health Care and Bupa will use their vast resources to win these contracts. Where they don't win, they will be able to afford legal challenges. The NHS with its stretched budget won't be able to compete. The result? Full-on privatisation of the NHS.

So what's wrong with NHS privatisation if health care is still free? Well, firstly, it's not free. Secondly, it'll be care so poor that only those that can't afford to pay for better will accept it. Thirdly, privatisation doesn't work for ordinary people: just think of the railways, gas, electricity, water, etc.

Currently, NHS health care is (pretty much) free to use, but it's not free - it's paid for by our taxes. Under the present system, the richest pay the most and the poorest pay the least, and everyone gets a decent standard of care regardless of what they earn.

And regardless of what the media might say, the NHS does provide a high standard of care overall. The World Health Organisation in 2000 ranked the UK 18th in the world for health care. The US is ranked 37th. In terms of spending on health care per head, the UK was ranked 26th and the US was 1st.

This means that the fully privatised US system is the most expensive and provides poorer health care than 36



other countries including Morocco, Dominica and Costa Rica.

In the US vast amounts of money are spent on advertising, billing, lawsuits and a profit margin for the private insurance and health care providers. We don't want or need that - but that's what we'll get if we don't fight to stop it.

33% of money spent on the NHS already goes to private companies. Since the Health and Social Care Act came into effect last year £7 billion of new contracts have been awarded to the private sector. We are rapidly moving towards an American system of healthcare.

One further statistic: the US spends the most on healthcare but it has the highest rate of infant mortality and the lowest life expectancy of any developed country. The US system is literally killing people. What kind of model is that?

Back to the joke: Harold Shipman is in prison and can no longer kill his patients. But what are we going to do about Jeremy Hunt?

## WHO CARES?

Up to 1981, the health and social care needs of older people were firmly rooted in the NHS. Care and treatment dealt with multiple and complex conditions. Proper rehabilitation managed by hospitals ensured successful discharge from hospital.

In 1981 Thatcher's government removed a huge number of hospital beds. Many critical services for the elderly were transferred to local authorities that lacked expertise and facilities. The residential care provided was often inappropriate and dismal.

Having relieved the NHS of many of its responsibilities for older people, Thatcher set about doing the same for local authorities. The introduction of Care in the Community in 1991 rapidly led to an underfunded and poorly-serviced care system.

Now, care requirements are assessed by local authorities with shrinking budgets. Some councils help with critical needs but many older people, because

of means-testing, have to fend for themselves or rely on family and friends.

There is minimal provision for conditions which particularly affect the elderly. Osteoporosis is not always screened and little is spent on Alzheimer's or physical and mental stimulation. Care homes, generally run by private companies, charge for the provision of essential physiotherapy. These care homes receive the briefest of inspections, and abuse and neglect are not uncommon.

Care workers for older people are often poorly trained, paid the minimum wage and many are on zero hours contracts. This could be the case in Haringey as the Council uses private agencies. Crucially, the workforce is undervalued, with a high staff turnover. Whilst pensioners often praise their carers, the development of essential, trusting relationships is hard to achieve under these difficult conditions.

Tory and Labour governments as well as the ConDem coalition are all responsible for this scandalous situation. How can the UK claim to be a civilised country when it treats its vulnerable, senior citizens in this way?

the tiny amount of "work" they do to find you a home.

In today's "private rented sector", if you complain to your landlord about disrepair it's tempting for them just to evict you, and put up the rent for the next tenants. But some private tenants have educated themselves about the rights they do have. Collectively

we have forced landlords to put right damp, disrepair, dodgy boilers and deposits. We've also supported others who've come to us with problems around private tenancies. Haringey Private Tenants Action Group has taken the struggle onto the streets. With other groups we have organised People's Housing Inspectors to go into local letting

agents and challenge them about their policies on fees and tenants on Housing Benefit.

Come and join us for another People's Housing Inspection of letting agents and other actions in the future.

[www.haringeyprivatetenants.org.uk](http://www.haringeyprivatetenants.org.uk)  
Twitter: @haringeyrenters  
[haringeyprivatetenants@gmail.com](mailto:haringeyprivatetenants@gmail.com)