

REBEL CITY

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Who owns London?

The UK has one of the most unequal distributions of land in the world! .6% of the population owns over 70% of the land. Over a third of this is in the hands of the aristocracy- a legacy of the Norman conquest. London is a prime example of how private interests dominate what happens to land. Four aristocratic families still own much of prime land in central London. (see *box overleaf*) However, a new breed of landowner has come to London- the wealthy of the world who want to live and/or invest in London. The Qatari Royal family, for example, are now rivalling the home-grown aristocrats. They own 1 billion pounds of property in Mayfair, all of Canary Wharf and 34% of the 15 most expensive skyscrapers. Other landowners hide behind offshore companies. In the central London borough of Westminster, almost one in ten properties is owned by an anonymous offshore company and can't be directly associated with a specific owner, says Transparency International. (Kensington and Chelsea: 7.3%, and the City of London: 4.5%)

Across London there are estimated to be more than 36,000 such properties.

And on a smaller scale, many people with some money to spare or who already own something have become buy-to-let landlords. So fewer and fewer people actually own any piece of land at all.

Why does it matter? At the recent *Land For What* conference (Nov 11th - 12th: landforwhat.org.uk) over 200 participants discussed how the lack of access and control of land for the vast majority is the main cause of the problems we face. (continued overleaf)

These include a lack of truly affordable housing, erosion of green and public spaces, closure of social, cultural and community spaces and a general degradation of the environment. Land is a limited resource and as the wealthy buy up London, the price goes up and up. So no one can afford to buy or rent what is on the land, whether it be a home, a community garden or a cultural space. In addition, local councils and the Greater London Authority, trying to raise funds as a result of central government cuts, can't seem to resist selling off public land. So the vast majority of Londoners are being priced out of the market and we are losing

valuable community assets such as social housing.

If we are going to effectively create an equal and just society we need to get hold of land, ending the system of private property and turning land into a resource for all. This is the aim of most who attended the conference. However, the mayor of London and other politicians seem uninterested in giving land to the people. It is very much 'business as usual'. Two campaigns in particular, the St Anne's campaign in Haringey and Reclaim Holloway in Islington, show how communities are fighting to take control of what land is used for and who benefits.

London's top landowners

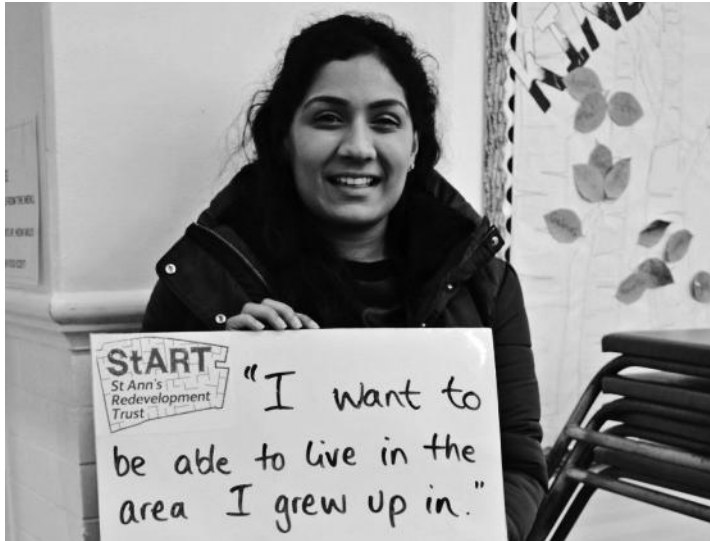
Hugh Richard Louis Grosvenor, the 7th Duke of Westminster is London's wealthiest landlord. He and his family own around 300 acres of land, including some of London's most exclusive addresses, which make up part of the Grosvenor Estate.

The 8th Earl of Cadogan comes a close second to the Duke of Westminster in the London property stakes. Cadogan Estates Ltd is particularly associated with the area around Cadogan Square, Sloane Street and the King's Road in Chelsea, where the company owns the freehold on a mix of residential, retail and commercial property. The Cadogan estate includes some of London's most sought after retail locations and residential property in some of the capital's most exclusive squares. The Chelsea estate comprises several hundred flats and houses and the company continues to develop its residential portfolio. New homes are being built at Cadogan Gardens and as part of the second phase of the Duke of York Square development off the King's Road.

The Howard de Walden Estate owns, manages and leases around 92 acres of property in Marylebone. This covers the streets running east to west from Portland Place to Marylebone High Street and north to south from Marylebone Road to Wigmore Street. The Estate's portfolio is largely made up of Georgian property, including Harley Street and a mix of residential and retail space particularly in and around Marylebone High Street.

To the west of Marylebone High Street, are the 110 acres of London land owned by the Portman Estate. With a history dating back to the 16th century, the Estate covers Oxford Street from Marble Arch to Orchard Street, from the Edgware Road in the west to Baker Street in the east and north almost to Crawford Street. It includes Portman Square, Manchester Square and the residential properties located in Bryanston and Montague Square.

The Community Takes Control: St. Ann's Redevelopment Trust (Haringey)



St. Ann's Development Trust (StART) is an exciting example of ordinary people saying what they want done with a piece of land, rather than private developers or the council. Theirs is a holistic vision for the site, focusing not just on housing, but on the environment and health.

Background

For years Haringey Needs St Ann's Hospital (HaNSAH) had been campaigning against Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust selling of nearly two-thirds of the St Ann's hospital site for housing. They argued that what the people of Haringey really needed was good health care provisions. But in July 2015 Haringey Council approved the sell-off with the aim of building a luxury housing development with only 14% 'affordable' housing.

Campaigners changed strategy and decided that if

there was going to be housing on the site, then it should meet the needs of the local community. Different groups and individuals came together to think about what a community-led development might look like. After five consultations and a survey completed by 300 local residents, a plan is taking shape. The response has been overwhelming support for developing their own plan. StART was born.

Current Situation

StART is now working to realise their vision. They have engaged architects to draw up plans for the site based on the consultations. They will then apply for planning permission and place a bid on the site. This is one of the few examples of a community buy-out outside of Scotland. To ensure this can happen, they will have to raise considerable funds. It will be difficult for ordinary people to raise that kind of money- something the multi-millionaires and property developers have no problem with. But if they are successful, it will give inspiration to others and create a push for land reform that makes it much easier for local communities to buy land.

StART: *"With the potential to build over 500 homes, the scale of this project is unprecedented and could redefine the way we think about housing in London - a community-led development that provides truly affordable homes, green public space, and health and well-being. We believe that local people are best placed to say what's needed and to take a lead in the site's redevelopment and management. We envision both the housing and facilities being community-led developments that are managed by and responsive to the needs of the people who live there."*

Give your support to StART:

<http://www.startharingey.co.uk/>

Reclaim Holloway: Turn a symbol of pain and oppression into something useful

Holloway Prison, in the borough of Islington, the largest women's prison in Western Europe, has now closed. Its residents have been rushed to overcrowded, unfit facilities outside of London. The 8 acres of land are worth potentially £2.5 billion to a developer if the land is used to build luxury housing. This is likely to be the government's aim as house prices range from £450,000 to 550,000 in the area. This is the first example of the government's programme to shut old prisons, sell the high value land in London, and build new mega prisons outside big cities.

Selling off prison land to property developers will contribute to housing difficulties and lack of support services for prisoners, ex-prisoners and the rest of the local population. Local people and former Holloway prisoners need this land for themselves. There are 20,000 households on Islington's housing list. Local people know luxury flats at Holloway will raise rents, forcing more people out of the area. Now that prisoners have been displaced, locals will be too.

The campaign aims to "turn the site into one which can serve the needs of the most disadvantaged in the community. It is black and brown, working class, migrant and queer people and their families that suffer most from state violence, from incarceration, from the closure of support services and from homelessness. It is not just about building social housing but of building a community, the kind of community that will show why prisons are unnecessary". The campaign is working on their own plans for the site which include housing, a women's support centre and community gardens.

<http://reclaimholloway.strikingly.com/>

Walthamstow tenants win major victory over landlord



In February 2016 the 63 households on the Butterfields Estate were issued with a 'no-fault' eviction notice by their new landlord, Butterfields E17. Many of the tenants had lived there for years but for the landlord they were an unwanted obstacle, standing in the way to plans to resell the properties at a profit.

The residents decided to fight back. They set up a Tenants and Residents Association and all voted to stay. Some residents gave up but 49 households remained to the end. With the help of local housing activists, they mounted an imaginative campaign that eventually led to victory. The properties have been bought by Dolphin Living (the same association who bought the New Era Estate in Hackney) who has promised to give them security of tenancy.

The Butterfields campaign has a lot to teach other tenants who are in a similar situation. Campaigners attribute their success to:

- against estate agents who were going to sell the properties.
- Effective use of the press and social media.
- Having a core of people who were prepared to do work with support from others in the community.
- Reliance on themselves and not the politicians.

The estate had been set up 75 years ago by a charity, Glassman Trust, with the aim of providing homes for the less well-off. The Trust sold off 63 of the homes without even telling the residents! This goes to show that all homes are vulnerable. The price of land, in particular land that is designated for housing, is so high that all landlords, whether they be the council, housing associations or charities will be tempted to make easy money by selling off their properties to developers. These developers have no interest in providing homes, but only care about how much they can make out of them.

So whoever your landlord, follow the Butterfields example. Set up a Tenants and Residents Association and find out as much as you can about your landlord and their intentions. By organising you can protect your homes and resist rent increases and sell-offs. There is no 'housing crisis' - only a crisis of greed.

- Regular communication between the residents.
- Regular activities that boosted morale, such as parties, fundraising.
- Using 'shame' tactics to embarrass the landlord and those associated with them. For example, they picketed the landlord's mansion, picketed an auction house where the properties were going to be sold and protested

How to get the boss off your back

We all would like to free ourselves from the slavery that is work- being tied down to fixed hours and having to conform to the whims of bosses and managers in exchange for a barely adequate, and often inadequate wage. Is it possible, within capitalism, to make a living in a way that is independent from the normal work boundaries? The solution may be nearer than what we think, and looking for alternatives helps us to learn more about ways to emancipate ourselves.

Recently, I came across a second-hand bookshop near Kilburn High Road, tucked away from the hectic busy main road. This is not the kind of shop you would expect to survive in the contemporary gentrified London, where only the wealthiest and the well-connected seem to be able to make a decent living and grab opportunities. We also assume that to be able to open your own shop you would need to be well off from the start or not having to worry to have the ends meet while you dedicate yourself to what you really want to do. And yet, the bookshop has been there for the last two years and, besides offering second-hand books at a very reasonable price (most of books are £1.90), it also provides a cosy atmosphere. No fancy branding or big names behind this little local project, just Leyla and Ben, two people who decided to do it their own way, having walked out of their jobs two years ago.

When I interviewed Leyla it was a sunny day at the end of October. I had been there before to buy a book or to have a cup of tea to get a feeling of the place and the one thing I had notice was that the bookshop always had a flow of people coming in and out. In talking to Leyla she confirmed that on the contrary of what people assume and media proclaim, we are not witnessing the end of the book. People still love reading. To set up this sort of project, you need to bring in the skills you have. Leyla is experienced in book exchange and Ben is good at book keeping. To make up for skills they did lack, such as putting up shelves and plumbing, it is important to have support from the community, such as skills exchanges.

Leyla explains that it is difficult to make a living in the first year. They are both keeping some freelance activities to have the ends meet while keeping the shop open 12 hours a day, 7 days a

week. When I have asked whether she thinks this has ultimately been a liberating choice she tells me that although this represents a great commitment in terms of effort and time, they are both happy working for themselves. She also tells me that she finds rewarding having the possibility to choose which people to engage with in the shop, as opposed to the workplace where we are forced to put up with colleagues we have nothing in common with. Another source of emancipation comes from the fact that as the bookshop only deals with second hand books, it is naturally uninvolved with the book market as such. Leyla does not have to flirt with publishers and have the latest bestseller in her shop because the logic of the second hand bookselling is completely different.

How much does running a second hand book shop really cost? The shop is tiny, to maximise space every area is occupied by books. Leyla tells me that the annual rent for the shop is £8,000. They spent some time in researching the area before deciding to settle for this small side street in North West London. Although you need money to start with, Leyla tells me that at the beginning they have brought in their own books, and they have taken a lot of donations. The coffee machine seems to be the most expensive item but it is also helping the business growing.

She calls for more solidarity within the community where people buy local and support each other and for support between different shops, against the rules of capitalism that see competition at every cost as the key factor for success.

Starting a shop like the one Leyla and Ben have in Kilburn is certainly not easy, however isn't impossible either. However, being stuck in a job waiting to be told what to do isn't any easier. We need to start thinking outside the box and get out from our comfort zone.

Of course in London where land values and therefore rents are high, being able to afford to set up your own shop, co-op, community project or social space will be difficult. But creating these self-managed, autonomous spaces is an important way of showing that we can live and work differently.

A Day in the Life of an Anti-fascist



This is a first-hand account of policing at the Dover antifascist mobilisation on 2nd April 2016. Neo-Nazi groups have repeatedly marched in Dover against migrants entering Europe. The police presence on the 2nd was heavier than previous marches due to violence between antifascist and neo-Nazis.

On my way to the protest I'm stopped by police on suspicion of carrying an offensive weapon. I refuse, they ask two more times before admitting this is not a requirement and so begin the search. I have nothing that could be used as a weapon on me but they confiscate my scarf as they feel it could be used to disguise my face. They say I can get it back in a week's time if I give my name and address. I refuse. They give me a ticket to say which officers searched me and leave with my scarf.

Fifteen minutes later I am stopped again. The officer informs me the flag I am carrying could be used as an offensive weapon (maximum sentence: four years). As I am being restrained I inform them that the officers who searched me previously did not agree with them. They do not believe me. I produce the ticket from the previous search and I'm let go.

At the protest we're quickly surrounded by police. They want to clear the road so the neo-Nazis can march along it. A few minutes later the first horse charge comes. The horses push a few people back but there's nowhere for us to go as we're surrounded on two sides by a police line and the other by a metal fence. The police horses to my left crush me against the police line to my right. People

are screaming, some are on the floor.

The horses retreat whilst snatch squads start forming behind the police lines. They give a warning that anyone wearing a face covering may be arrested. The man to my right has a bandana across his face so becomes a target for the police. Four officers grab him and try to pull him away. People around him hold on to him and a tug of war begins. After a tense minute I hear the commanding officer shout 'Leave him, just grab anyone'. They shift their attention to me and try to drag me away. Another tug of war. The two women behind me hold me around the waist and my rucksack. The police give up after about a minute.

This happens three more times as the police attempt to grab individuals from the crowd. The final time is the worst. More police come and push a lot of people back. As there is still nowhere to go people trip over and collapse and soon have police standing on them as they try to grab their targets. I am grabbed by the arms by two officers whilst a third punches me in the face three times. There is a lot of screaming. A woman to my left shouts 'someone is going to die' as people fall on top of each other on the floor, with comrades standing on top of them and nowhere to go. Eventually the police give up and retreat. About six people were taken, likely to be charged with 'violent disorder'.

The lines of protesters and police are in a stalemate. An officer shouts 'You're just as bad as them! They have a right to protest!', I reply 'When you go home tonight you can tell your kids you spent the day helping Nazis march'. I think we won

the battle of words.

The commanding officer appears on the front line and shouts that we must move to the 'designated protest area'. Still reeling from the punches to my head I move back in the direction he's pointing. It soon becomes clear there is no 'designated protest area' and the police don't know what they're doing. Instead we're kettled for an hour as the Nazis march past. There are between 30 and 40 of them and 400 of us with the same number of police.

When I get home I see on the news that, apparently, the protest turned violent and six people were arrested for violent disorder. I realise these were the people who were stood near me, arbitrarily arrested because they were the only ones the police could grab. They will face court and potential jail sentences.

In one afternoon I was nearly arrested for three or

four different crimes, none of which I had committed. I was assaulted by a police officer and subject to arbitrary arrest. But when I considered prosecuting, I was advised not to bother as I would most likely get charged with violent disorder. I still, however, consider myself lucky as, thanks to my comrades, I was not snatched by police. I have since learned a woman who was arrested on the day has been sentenced to one year for violent disorder.

These experiences are shared here to show people who do not go on protests why there is such distrust in the police amongst large sections of society. We will not be free until we have defeated the far right and rid ourselves of the corrupt, violent and racist police force which is becoming increasingly politicised as cuts and deportations are forced on the working classes.



October saw the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street, a key turning point in the fight against fascism in the UK. The battle occurred on October 4th 1936 when Oswald Moseley tried to march his paramilitary group of 'blackshirts' through a Jewish neighbourhood to stoke anti-Semitism and demonstrate the power of the fascist group. The local community, helped by anarchists, communists and other anti-fascists came together to oppose the march and the police who tried to facilitate it. The day ended with the blackshirts and the police heavily bloodied and unable to force the march past the barricades set up on Cable Street. After this defeat the British Union of Fascists (BUF) went into decline, due in part to their inability to hold public meetings or marches even with the support of the police.

On the 80th anniversary anti-fascist groups from around the country came to celebrate the victory and remember that the struggle continues as the far-right begins to rise again. A Yiddish marching band provided the musical accompaniment as around 3,000 people joined the procession from Altab Ali Park and along Cable Street. The mood was jovial as people set off flares and chanted as the march went by. Speeches were made by veterans of the battle as well as Jeremy Corbyn and Sadiq Khan. These Labour politicians glossed over the fact Moseley served in a Labour government before forming the BUF and that the Labour party asked the public to ignore the march, fearing of violence.

Although 80 years have passed there are still many battles yet to be won. Since the Brexit vote hate crimes have increased dramatically and neo-Nazi groups are openly recruiting members across the country. The financial crisis and the austerity aftermath has seen many people fall on hard times and the far-right are hoping to capitalise on this by blaming migrants for the decline in living standards. In some areas of the country neo-Nazi groups have even set up 'whites only' soup kitchens.

We cannot allow the fascists one bit of breathing space, whether this is the ability to march in our streets or set up front organisations for their racist ideology. As in 1936 as in 2016- No Pasaran! They shall not pass!

Against Borders for Children

“Where were you born and what’s your nationality?” – questions you might expect to see on a passport application form. And as from September 2016, these are the questions that the Government wanted answers to for every school-age child aged from just two to nineteen.

These two questions were added to the Schools Census, which takes place every academic term – that’s three times a year; October, January and May. It is a data collection backed by law, on individual pupils and the schools themselves, and is done for all schools that receive government funding. The Schools Census used to collect basic information like pupils’ names and addresses and whether they had special educational needs, but since 2008, there has been a widening of information requested. Not all of this information has any value for children’s education, including the latest change of collecting country of birth and nationality data.

This government decision took place against a background of a consensus in Parliament that immigration and immigrants are a problem – a belief expressed on the one hand by UKIP posters showing hoards of migrants waiting to get into the UK, and on the other by mealy-mouthed hand-wringing from the Labour Party and the Left about listening to the “very real concerns” of “ordinary British people” about immigration.

Then of course there was the Brexit vote. Regardless of the ins and outs of the Brexit campaign, with Project Fear on one side and £350 million a week for the NHS on the other, it is undeniable that the result was an upsurge in anti-migrant sentiment and plain racism. There were racist attacks and cat-calling on the streets and on public transport, parents were scared to send their children to school and migrant children told to “go home” by their classmates. Even I (a 6ft white man with a skinhead ‘hairstyle’) was spat at in the street for wearing a *Refugees Welcome* t-shirt.

In the face of these attacks, a group of parents and teachers launched *Schools Against Borders for Children (Schools ABC)*, saying: “We are concerned that this data could be used by immigration enforcement to target individual children and families. If this information is collected, members of the public, journalists, government departments, and other

organisations will also be able to access schools’ immigration numbers. With a huge rise in racist hate crime since the Brexit vote, we fear for the safety of schoolchildren nationwide.” Their approach is simple – parents refuse to give the information, and campaign to make the policy unworkable. Teachers resist pressure to fill in the gaps.

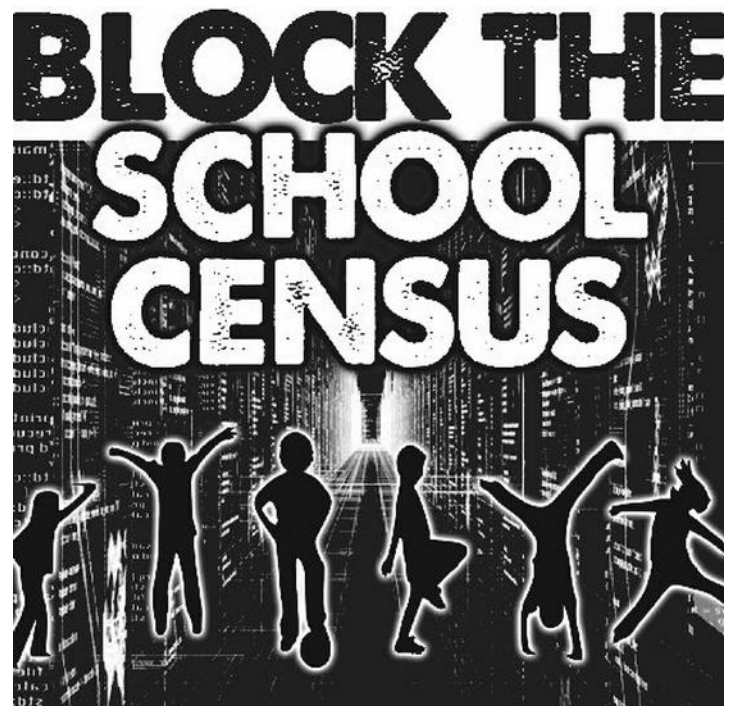
The campaign has already forced the Government to back down on key aspects of this policy. The first U-turn was that the data will not be centrally stored, and therefore will not be as accessible. Then a huge turnaround – the data will not be collected at all as part of this January’s “Early Years Census” for the youngest children. And most recently, parents who have given their data in the past will be allowed to change their minds, and have the data that they have already given erased.

As well as continuing the campaign, Schools ABC has helped set up a group for children and young people to talk about their experiences of racism and organise to avoid or stop harm created by racism. Kids Against Raids and Borders held its first meeting in November 2016, and plans more activity for the New Year.

For more information about Schools ABC and Kids Against Raids and Borders, see:

<http://www.schoolsabc.net/>

For regular updates, Twitter users follow:
@Schools_ABC



Direct Action Gets The Goods



All across the capital workers are beginning to organise and engage in effective direct action without the need for union bureaucrats, relying on themselves and their own rank and file action. This goes for cinema workers at the Brixton Ritzy and the Hackney Picturehouse as well as Crossrail workers. Elsewhere cleaners and food delivery workers at Deliveroo, City Sprint and Uber have organised in grassroots unions like the Independent Workers of Great Britain, the United Voices of the World and the Industrial Workers of The World. Workers who were regarded as the lowest of the low by some, and of whom it was thought that they were not capable of organising, have actually done so. These building workers, cleaners, cinema workers and food delivery and courier workers are showing the way that others around London should imitate. It is possible to organise, no matter how difficult, AND to win demands.

Building Workers Occupy Crossrail

Hundreds of building workers occupied Laing O'Rourke's Crossrail offices on Friday 25th November. Earlier on the same day they blocked Oxford Street. This was in reply to victimisation of building worker activists, involving bullying, intimidation and surveillance at Crossrail sites.

Workers are up in arms about the refusal of Crossrail to rejoin the Joint Industrial Board (JIB) national agreement and to recognise shop stewards. Under the national agreement workers were promised a second tier bonus productivity payments which Crossrail have managed to avoid paying by their failure to recognise the JIB. They plan further actions. Watch out for ongoing unrest at Crossrail!

Ritzy Cinema Workers

Workers at the Ritzy Cinema in Brixton continue their fight for a living wage. They successfully disrupted the recent London Film Festival in pursuit of their demands. Two festival screenings at the Ritzy were closed as workers went on strike. Protests also took place outside the opening of the

musical *La La Land* at the Odeon in Leicester Square and the premiere of the film *The Levelling* at Picturehouse Central in Piccadilly. Ritzy workers called on the British Film Institute, organisers of the festival, to break ties with the Ritzy's owner Cineworld until it meets their demands.

Workers at the Hackney Picturehouse also went out on strike in support. More recently, both Ritzy and Picturehouse workers went out on strike to coincide with screenings of Harry Potter spin-off *Fantastic Beasts*. So far over the course of six weeks, five one-day strikes have taken place, with the recent actions involving a five day strike.

Cineworld's determination to keep cinema staff on low wages comes at a time when the company reported an 8.4% increase in profits!

You can support the cinema workers by joining their pickets and by contributing to their strike fund at <https://www.crowdpac.co.uk/campaigns/250/picturehousestrike>.

John Lewis cleaners

The grassroots union United Voices of the World organised a large moving picket outside John Lewis's Oxford Street store on November 5th, supported by the London Anarchist Federation and others. This was in response to the failure by John Lewis to pay their cleaners the Living Wage and to the continued exclusion of the cleaners from the partnership. The UVW plans to maintain the pressure on John Lewis until their demands are met.

Similarly, two cleaners at Top Shop (owned by the notorious pensions thief Philip Green) who joined UWW were victimised in late October and sacked. The UVW is starting legal proceedings for victimisation. You can support them by contributing via paypal at:

<http://www.uvwunion.org.uk/emergency-appeal>

Or via paying into this account:

The Co-operative Bank

Account title: United Voices of the World

Sort code: 08-92-99

Account: 65755617



Health Tourists?

The government plans to charge people from abroad (aka 'health tourists') for any NHS treatment they receive, and save £200 million. This sounds a lot, but it is only 0.3% of the NHS budget, and half of what is spent on stationary. This is another attack on the principle of free treatment for all, based on need, and a racist diversion ('it's the foreigners' fault') from the real causes of the crisis in the NHS. If we let them get away with it we will all need to produce 2 forms of ID, one of them a passport, when we need treatment. No way! and how would homeless people get help?

The NHS is already funded at less than the EU average, below 7% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product). We are constantly told that the NHS is a huge and unsustainable cost, but what is more important than health? For the government it is clearly other things: outdated nuclear weapon terrorism (Trident update £100 billion); big money mega schemes to benefit the few such as HS2 (£30 billion) - the existing rail network should be improved at a fraction of the cost, new runways for Heathrow, Olympic gold medals (£4 million), renovation of Buckingham Palace (£370 million).

The NHS crisis is not caused by freeloading foreigners, the ageing population, or people abusing ambulances and Casualty instead of going to the doctor. Where do the real 'huge costs' come from? PFI (the Private Finance Initiative) is a Tory idea that New Labour implemented to build hospitals. They are owned by the banks and rented to the NHS, so they are mortgaged to us at an inflated cost over a long period (up to 60 years). The drugs bill is another expense: multinational drugs companies such as GlaxoSmithKlein make big profits from their overpriced products. Overpaid management consultants devise cuts and 'efficiencies' (how to exploit staff more, kick out 'bed blocking' patients such as the elderly, before they have recovered, & privatise further). The £22 billion of cuts that have been made to the Health Service during this Parliament are crucial. Hospitals are being closed, together with Casualty, Paediatric and Obstetric departments (often due to a lack of doctors & nurses). In one

area of London, doctors are being reduced from 600 to 400. The UK now has the second lowest number of hospital beds per head in the EU (and falling). All this is made worse by big cuts in Social Care: support for the elderly and people with disabilities. Increasingly the criteria for what support people receive (or not) is what they can afford, rather than what they need. The Department of Health's funding of the independent (private) sector is increasing, up from £4.1 billion in 2009-10 to £8.7 billion in 2015-16. Social Care cuts mean that 380 care home businesses have become insolvent since 2010, 74 in 2015, 34 in the 6 months to June in 2016. Needless to say our concern is not businesses but people. We need to resist closures and cuts through solidarity and direct action e.g. occupations, and joint action between hospital staff, patients and the community; in Social Care forging links and solidarity between those being supported (the elderly and people with disabilities), care staff, and families.

So put the blame where it lies- not on foreigners but on government cuts, PFI and privatisation.



A Sideways Look at 'The Den'

By Svartfrosk



For some time the triangle of industrial land between Bermondsey, Deptford and the Old Kent Road has been earmarked for redevelopment. It is crisscrossed by railway lines and features the giant SELCHP incinerator next door to Millwall's ground, The Den. Most of the rest of the land is given over to light industry and, where it has become uneconomic to let because of the pending redevelopment, Pentecostal churches and the DIY Space.

Most of the land falls under Lewisham Council, who signed a deal with property developers *Renewal* to compulsorily purchase the units and homes and wave through *Renewal*'s plans. However, the plans have come under more scrutiny, partly because they involve taking some of the land Millwall lease for their community trust and car park. The compulsory purchase offer for one of the homes on the site is £58000. Imagine what that will buy you in London.

Lifting the rock on Lewisham's deal has led to lots of new information scurrying out. *Renewal* have not actually done much property development. They are registered in a tax haven and don't pay any tax. Their chief executive is Jordana Malik, who turns out to be the daughter of Mushtaq Malik, a former senior officer at Lewisham Council. Malik was head of the direct labour organisation and tried to launch an audacious management-led privatisation, with the assistance of then mayor Dave Sullivan. The privatisation failed, but a company called *Service Team* was set up from it and soon found loads of

services transferred to it from other Labour boroughs like Lambeth. And guess who else turns up as a founder director of *Renewal*? Yep, Dave Sullivan.

So, for all this, there must be some major gain to Lewisham, like a decent proportion of affordable homes, right? Wrong – barely 10% are affordable. To add insult to injury, Lewisham Council have engaged a barrister to defend a freedom of information request that might reveal the secret identity of the developer. So much for the Labour Party's commitment to openness and value for money. Lewisham Council is currently making eye-watering cuts, and has more planned. Still, I'm sure those workers laid off, or the housebound losing out on their meals on wheels, or anyone trying to borrow a book in most of the borough will be grateful that the council has its priorities right.



Get involved!

Here is a selection of campaigns and groups that are helping to make London the Rebel City.

London-wide

Radical Assembly: <https://radicalassembly.wordpress.com/>

Industrial Workers of the World: <https://www.iww.org.uk/londongmb>

London Anti-fascists: <https://londonantifascists.wordpress.com/>

Radical Housing Network: www.radicalhousingnetwork.org

Community Food Growers Network: <http://www.cfgn.org.uk/>

Campaign for the withdrawal of the housing act: <http://www.axethehousingact.org.uk/>

East London

East London Radical Assembly: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EastLondonRadicalAssembly>

Tower Hamlets Renters: <https://towerhamletsrenters.wordpress.com/>

Friends of Queens Market: <http://www.friendsofqueensmarket.org.uk/>

North London

Haringey Solidarity Group: local group that campaigns on a variety of issues, such as workfare, as well as producing a regular paper - <http://www.haringey.org.uk/content/>

Haringey Housing Action Group: <http://haringeyhousingaction.org.uk/>

Grenville Community Centre: recently fought off eviction attempt by council - <http://www.gmcc.org.au/>

South London

Southeast London Radical Assembly:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RadicalAssemblySEL/>

Housing Action Greenwich and Lewisham: <http://www.housingactiongl.com/>

West London

Westway 23: campaign to protect the area from gentrification - <http://www.westway23.org/>

Are you interested in finding out more about anarchism?

The Anarchist Federation aims to support and make links between campaigns that empower working class people or that challenge capitalism and all systems of power.

The London group of the Anarchist Federation meets on the first Thursday of every month and hosts regular discussion meetings.

E-mail: london@afed.org.uk

Facebook: **London Anarchist Federation group**

Twitter: **@AfedLondon**

Blog: aflondon.wordpress.com



The AF publishes a range of anarchist material, including the paper **Resistance** and the magazine **Organise!**. The latest **Organise!** (Spring-Summer) is just out, with articles on the Commons, Fight for the City and an interview with a Cuban anarchist. We also have three new pamphlets: **Work, Revolutionary Women** and **A Short Intro**.

For more information about the Anarchist Federation see the website: www.afed.org.uk