

REBEL BULL

Hereford's regular shit-stirring newsletter
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WE'LL MISS YOU, NHS

RIGHT FROM THE START, THE NEW HEREFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL HAS BEEN A DISASTER.

And recently the debate and 'protest' has kicked off again with much of the local community up in arms about the mixed-sex wards bosses promised would not be a feature of the new hospital.

The new Hereford County has been funded by the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) basically amounting to part privatisation, the same situation that we saw recently at the Hospital in Dudley. Like

Hereford, this was a major flagship PFI hospital that would make Blair proud to be 'New British.' Pity the workers

didn't think so. They went on strike at their jobs being shifted to a private company, and then having to re-apply for their own jobs! Welcome to the PFI.

Among the companies involved with the 'County' are Kodak - the people who give you cameras, films and photo; Alfred McAlpine - the roads construction people; Sodexo - the French catering people with links to the prison industry. Hardly at the cutting-edge of Healthcare! A patient at the new Hospital commented "it's ok for those rich bastards who can afford private health care and a decent service but for us working class folk, we have to put up with all these crappy hospitals and a shoddily run NHS. Its time we controlled our hospitals."

A recent radio report on BBC Hereford & Worcester cited that the facilities in the new Hospital would become out of date in just 2

years and has around 70 less beds than the previous one! Just one of the many problems and faults. Meanwhile, all we here from that twat they call 'Keetch' is "no drinking on the Castle Green" and "drink Bulmers cider and keep the bosses happy." Typical politician whinging on about stupid things that bare no relevance to anyone.



We've seen public health care fail too many times, and part-privatised and privatised health care doesn't seem much different. So is there any solution to the ever-growing problems facing our hospitals? How about a worker controlled health care. After all, who knows best about the situation 'on the ground'? Managers and directors or doctors and nurses? Operating theatres can be empty for days while thousands are on the waiting list. Whose fault: surgeons or those at the top? And in our ever increasingly privatised health system, what purpose do the bosses serve other than to cream off the profits?!

And the problems of NHS surely can't be solved while capitalism still exists. Workers are having to compete and re-apply for their own jobs, in order to keep the costs low and the profits high, even at the expense of the

service - the problems wont be solved so long as health care is run as a business and not a service.

SWAMPED WITH LIES

THE GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION, and large sections of the media shriek ever more hysterically about the bogus asylum seeker crisis. The truth is that there is no crisis, although there are social problems (poverty, homelessness etc.) that only ordinary people can solve, through working and fighting together.

There are NO bogus asylum seekers - they are all fleeing poverty-political persecution (including torture and death) - war. Who wants to leave the country where they were born, where their family, friends and culture are, for somewhere where they know no one, may not speak the language, and may not find a home or half decent job? 150 000 British people emigrate every year, outnumbering the people who enter the country. Where they are employed, refugees often do the worst jobs that no one else will do because of the crap pay and conditions. Governments create refugees by maintaining artificial barriers (borders) artificial labels such as national, legal, and illegal. Money is allowed to move without restriction so that capitalists can maximise their profit at the expense of the rest of us; people are not allowed such free movement.

Cry wolf

Why all the hysteria about a 'crisis'? Governments create refugees through creating and maintaining poverty, repression and war. The main sources of refugees are Afghanistan, Palestine, Eastern Europe,

Somalia and Sri Lanka. Refugees are convenient scapegoats for the social problems that governments create - it's the old tactic of divide and rule. Refugees are a good source of cheap labour due to their desperation and marginal status. The government prefers to exclude 'unskilled' refugees, and to try to force poor British workers into the crummiest jobs through the minimum wage and slave labour schemes of the New Deal. The latest bizarre proposals include using warships to intercept refugees and RAF transport planes for bulk deportation. As a result of widespread opposition, Blair has already been forced to drop plans to withdraw aid from countries that refuse to take back failed asylum seekers.

Resistance

Asylum seekers need our support because they are fellow workers and are at the bottom of the heap, and because allowing the government and bosses to pay below poverty level wages and benefits undermines all of us. Measures such as the introduction of identity cards will also be used by the police to control and attack people who are fighting their bosses, landlords, councils etc. Refugees resist through hunger strikes, escapes and general non co-operation with the prison regime. Such opposition has forced the government to shut the Landmark and Inn in the Park in Liverpool that were slum estate accommodation for refugees. Community groups, schoolchildren and teachers have waged successful campaigns to prevent people being deported.

Contact: National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns, Tel: 0121 554 6947
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SPLASH THE CASH

UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE still under the yolk of capitalism which mean we still have to pay for group expenses, including this newsletter, ourselves - and none of us are what you'd call 'well off'. So if you can spare any money, donations would be very much appreciated. Please send donations to our PO Box address.

If you could also offer help distributing this or future issues of this newsletter, please get in touch.

HYPOCRITE!

HYPOCRITE, PAUL KEETCH, has been voicing his 'concerns' for the Hereford fire fighters saying he supports their campaign for better pay. But as one fire fighter quite rightly put it "who does he think he is, coming here saying he supports our cause?! Come the revolution, he'll be the one telling us to get back to work. All politicians are the same.

Hypocrite." Come off it Keetch, we can see through your lies. Who are you trying to fool! Meanwhile, things are hotting up for the fire fighters. They are close to an all out nationwide strike over lack of pay for new skills. To the barricades.



WHAT'S KILLING FARMING

CONTRARY TO WHAT the NFU says it's not BSE, foot and mouth or a lack of government support that is destroying farming and causing farms and farm jobs to disappear at an alarming rate. It is the CAP that is butchering farming in the UK. Take a look at quotas:

Quotas

Quotas were created in 1984 as part of the CAP in an attempt to control milk production to a furious outcry by the NFU but they soon went quiet when they saw that rather than being a threat it was a valuable asset. They quickly saw that it gave the holder an absolute right to sell milk at an inflated and guaranteed price and as the EU now had the means to artificially engineer a milk shortage the price was likely to stay high. In the UK MAFF implemented the rules in such a way as to allow the sale and loan of quotas so the benefits (the near guaranteed money for the farmer) became capitalised into the price of quotas. So someone who was milking 100 or so cows when quotas were introduced now has an asset worth over half a million pounds. Quotas are now actually speculated upon by land agents and city investors and for the larger farmer provide a comfortable living if they decide to give up farming and live of the rental alone. The losers in this charade other than the taxpayer and shopper who subsidise the entire farce are those who want to get into farming (or the small farmer who wants to expand). Once it may have been possible for anyone to enter farming but no longer, even before quotas price subsidies were inflating farm rents and livestock prices. Now if you want to get into dairy farming you are going to have to pay over £1000 each year to hire a quota for every single cow on top of every other cost.

Ultimately though it is the consumer who pays for this mad lottery (a few pence on every pint of milk and through taxes) and as

of ever the proceeds are not distributed evenly but are concentrated with the big farmers who can then afford to bid more for quotas squeezing the smaller farmers out, who on average employ more people as they can't afford to spend so much on capital investment on machinery and chemicals and so contribute more to the local community than the rural food factory that is the modern large dairy farm.

The Same Elsewhere

The story is the same in every part of agriculture in the UK; subsidies encourage and reward ever-greater intensification of farming. (Perversely the CAP even rewards those who destroyed the environment: currently farmers are paid for replanting hedges which rewards those who destroyed them in the first place instead of rewarding the good farmers who cared for the land and punishing those who ripped the hedges up in the first place.) It is claimed that this necessary for us to compete on the global market but do we really want to turn yet more of the countryside into a featureless desert so that a few huge farms can compete with Kansas? Wouldn't it be better instead to stop obliterating with toxic chemicals anything that doesn't contribute to higher production and making our farms ever larger and ever more free of workers to try to encourage a lower intensity of farming (organic or not) allowing room for wildlife and the family farm?

WHO ARE WE?

UNLIKE THE MEDIA would have you believe, we aren't a bunch of mindless thugs, hardcore rioters or terrorists. We do actually have few good ideas we reckon the working class, and all the oppressed could use.

Hereford Anarchists are a group of local activists coming from all parts of Herefordshire with the aim of creating a worldwide anarchist society. We are a part of the beginnings of a global movement with the vision of a classless, stateless society where people would live free from authority and oppression of any kind. Such a world would demand organisation on a 'horizontal' (i.e. non-hierarchically) level and would rely on the mutual aid, co-operation and solidarity of the people involved.

We argue that for the creation of such a world, a social revolution based on the direct action of the entire working class and the destruction of capitalism are absolutely vital. While Hereford Anarchists was set up to establish a global anarchist society, we organise locally, concentrating specifically on local issues effecting Hereford and agitate for anarchist revolution in our very own cider swilling, straw chewing county.

For more information on our group and anarchist ideas in general, please write to us:

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