

TYNE & WEAR LEFT UNITY

AUTUMN BULLETIN OF TYNE & WEAR LEFT UNITY



Cuts aren't inevitable. We can stop them!



A CABINET OF MILLIONAIRES: IN IT FOR THEMSELVES AND SOD THE REST OF US!

Lie Number 1: We're all in it together

After the coalition was formed one of the most obscene lies of the new Chancellor was that we were all in it together. This lie keeps popping up - Lib Dems especially keen to say they will 'cut with care' or that they are not 'happy' to make cuts. But let's be very very clear. We are not all in it together. This cabinet of 29 includes 23 millionaires, **YES 23 MILLIONAIRES!**

They didn't get there by being hard working class room assistants, cleaners, or factory workers. Most of this is inherited wealth and family business. They are a class apart. Research shows their budget proposals (rise in VAT, cut in business tax, cuts in housing benefits, child benefit, and disability benefit) will hurt the poor most. And the millionaires will not be hurt at all. In fact as business owners these lot actually cut their own tax, while putting up ours. **IT'S A CLASS WAR!**

Lie number 2: Government debt is the highest ever

The UK's government debt is at around 70% of GDP (the total amount of goods and services produced in one year). High yes, but far from unprecedented. Government debt never fell below 100% GDP from 1920 to 1960. It is only in the past decade that it has become normal to think of government debt being lower.

Government debt reached 250% more than four times what it is today around the end of the World War 2 as the result of a 'once in a generation' economic and political crisis. It is certainly

arguable that we are now living through a similarly momentous crisis. And then we created the NHS, jobs and built houses not massively cut to services.

Lie number 3:
UK has one of the biggest public sectors in the world
Public spending in the UK is lower as a proportion of the economy than in France, Italy, Austria and Belgium, as well as the Scandinavian countries. Spending on core areas such as health and education remains comparable or low in relation to other OECD (broadly speaking, 'rich') countries. UK spent just 8.4 %GDP on health in 2007, roughly half that spent in the US and well behind Germany, France and most west European nations. And UK again spends less per pupil than most comparable OECD countries.

Lie number 4:
Cuts are inevitable there is no alternative
Simply scrapping Trident would solve our massive debt problems saving £80 billion in the next few years. Nearly £5 billion could be raised by taxing incomes over £100,000 at 50%. About £5 billion could be raised every year from a tax on vacant housing; £25 billion a year could be raised by closing tax loopholes on the rich. If we spent less money on wars, and didn't give money private companies and consultants to ruin our schools, hospitals and housing we could spend this on real services than our communities need.

(much information from this article is taken from www.redpepper.org.uk)

Who are Left Unity?

& why should you join us

Tyne & Wear Left Unity formed in the summer of 2009 by comrades from a range of political organisations on the Left. These included the Communist Party, the Green Party, the Labour Party, the smaller Socialist groups, anarchists and anyone who opposes the way society is organised at present. Tyne & Wear Left Unity is not a political party but rather, a network of activists and trade unionists who work in alliance where they can and share ideas and information.

Over the last twelve months, comrades have been active in the following campaigns: Northern Public Service Alliance; Defend Welfare Rights; Keep Metro Public; Tyneside Claimants Union; Stop the War North East; No Borders; North East Against Racism; Workers Climate Action; T&W Public Transport Users Group; No 2 ID Cards; No to the Arms Trade; Transition Town; Ban Waste, either by joining or initiating the campaign. This political activity has helped to raise the issues of racism, Fascism, global warming, sustainability, the environment and our countries involvement in imperialist wars. Comrades have also worked in their communities and helped challenge the causes of inequality, injustice and the attacks on the welfare state and vital public services.

Tyne & Wear Left Unity was formed through a dialogue between comrades that recognised the need for socialist ideas to reach a broader audience and the conclusion that most of the political groupings on the far left had failed to achieve that. Hence the idea, that by working together in broad alliances we could raise a banner for socialism that was both coherent and positive; and that as well as being attractive, would help to challenge the widespread feelings of hopelessness in the face of corporate capitalism. That is why we agreed the following aims:

We are a coalition of individuals, activists and groups who oppose the present economic system that causes poverty, war, racism, unemployment, destruction of the environment and a lot more. We believe in working for a society based on human need not private profit. Together we are stronger, we can coordinate our actions, share our knowledge and experiences, learn from discussion, debate and even disagreement to make our fight against capitalism even stronger, our voice louder and our supporters greater.

Tyne & Wear Left Unity meets regularly on the 2nd Thursday of each month at St John's Church Hall, Grainger Street, Newcastle. The meetings begin at 7.p.m. and if you would like to join us, you are very welcome.

LEFT UNITY PUBLIC MEETING
HOW WE CAN STOP THE CON DEM CUTS!
and what's the socialist alternative
with speakers from local trade unions and left unity - ALL WELCOME
THURS 14th OCT 7PM St John's Church Hall, Grainger St, Ncle.