



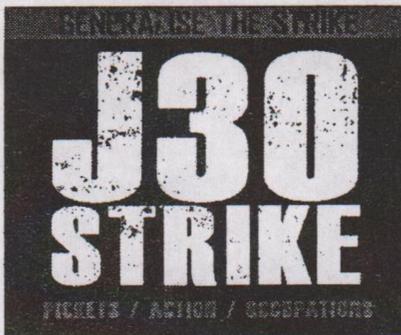
Notts Uncut

Notts Uncut Newsletter - Issue 3

July/August 2011

Welcome to our 3rd newsletter—The Strike Edition! If you have any contributions for future issues please e-mail nottsuncutaction@gmail.com

Notts Uncut offer our support and solidarity to all workers striking on 30th June. We believe that it's deplorable to raid pension pots to pay for the bankers crisis. We believe that obscene executive bonuses and massive scale tax avoidance are unaffordable, not the existing terms and conditions of hard working public sector employees. But as well as being about pensions, this strike is about principle. It's about right and wrong: Is it right that pensions should be slashed while debt repayment to



speculators is increased? Is it right that the public sector (including HMRC) should be decimated while billions remain outstanding in uncollected tax?

And is it right that our government should rely on the idea of two wrongs making a right by using the previous assault on private sector pensions as justification for its current stance?

We at Notts Uncut believe that it's wrong, for this reason we stand shoulder to shoulder with all striking workers proudly defending their rights. During the strike and over the following weeks we'll deliver this message to the people of Nottingham through our many planned activities. For too long ordinary people have been required to subsidise the excesses of the super-rich. Together, in solidarity, we can end this.

Victory to the 30th June Strikers!
Victory in the battle to save our public services!
Solidarity amongst the ordinary people of Britain!

The Great Pensions Robbery— Ask a policeman



Now here's a question that any police officer should have no difficulty in answering. Imagine you are patrolling Acacia Avenue one evening when a figure emerges from the garden of number 47. He's wearing a stripy top, a small eye mask and over his right shoulder there's a bag marked "SWAG".

Upon questioning this character you're told that he's just burgled number 47 and he's making his way home with his ill gotten gains. Clapping on the handcuffs you read him his rights. "You can't arrest me" he replies, "my mate burgled number 45 last week and you didn't do a thing".

What do you do now?

- A) Nick him and his mate then restore the stolen property to its rightful owners? OR
- B) Apologise and give him a lift home?

I think that the answer is obvious but the logic seems lost on those who castigate public sector workers fighting the assault on their pensions simply because when a similar assault was committed on the private sector the criminals got away scot free.

Unemployed Suffer Under Con-Dems

I want to send a message today from the unemployed of Nottinghamshire, who are not often heard. I don't pretend to speak for all of us, but I know that many of us will wish the best of luck to the teachers and everyone else who's on strike today. I'll be in town on the day showing my support. The unemployed may not be able to strike, but 30th June is our day too.

I was made redundant in August 2010 – one of the thousands of redundancies which are a direct result of the economic crisis. Since then I've been claiming Job Seekers' Allowance, which is one more thing this Coalition Government are just dying to cut, along with the NHS, schools and the pensions of those workers who are on strike today. The wealthy people in power keep telling us we have to accept all these cuts for one single reason - that there's not enough money to go around. But there certainly seems to be plenty of cash going around the millionaires in the cabinet and their chums, including the bankers whose greed CAUSED the crisis in the first place. They get 32% pay rises (they're already getting hundreds of thousands of pounds), while we're told to tighten our belts. And then there's all the unpaid corporate tax by the likes of Philip Green (owner of the Arcadia Group) – I wonder when he last spent a week living on beans on toast? The Uncut campaign highlights these injustices, so remember some of the figures next time someone tells you there's not enough money to pay you a decent wage – or that we can't afford to let the unemployed have a decent life. We're only unemployed because there's too few jobs around, and that's the fault of the people in charge. There's plenty of work that needs doing, and they CAN afford to pay us properly for doing it.

Now when I sign on, you strikers who work on the other side of the desk have to tell me I might have some job chosen for me where I won't get paid, but if I don't do it, my benefits could be stopped. In the US they call this 'workfare' (instead of welfare). This system they're trying to bring in threatens the jobs of people working now and in the future, as fully paid real jobs are taken over by an unpaid workforce, desperate to hold on to our benefits.

So working or not, it is in all our best interests to resist the Con-Dem's vision of a flexible (i.e. powerless) workforce, divided and willing to work for poverty wages in a cut society. We must all stand together in unity to demand better paid, unionised jobs with decent pensions and working conditions – that is what work should be about. This is a fight for all of us.

Sam Chambers
unlaw@hotmail.co.uk

Save the NHS - we haven't forgotten our struggle to prevent Andrew Lansley dismantling the NHS and letting the private sector buy up the profitable parts. Despite making cosmetic changes to the Health and Social Care Bill the government still want most NHS care provided by private healthcare companies. This will inevitably lead to a deterioration in the standard of care as profits will come before patients.

If we can afford to continue to prop up the banks with billions of pounds a year—we can afford the NHS. If we can afford to let Vodafone off a £6bn tax bill—we can afford the NHS

Notts Uncut will be supporting Notts SOS at the "Save Our  Day of Action" on Saturday 9th July. We will be meeting outside Parliament St Boots at 10 am. Please see our website for more information.

To find out about our planned activities during the June 30th strike and over the rest of the summer please see our website www.nottsuncut.co.uk or find us on Facebook and Twitter.