

KEY WORKERS UNITED

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SO WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE KIDDING MR JOHNSON? IF YOU THINK YOU CAN DUCK AND DIVE 'COS NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOUR P45

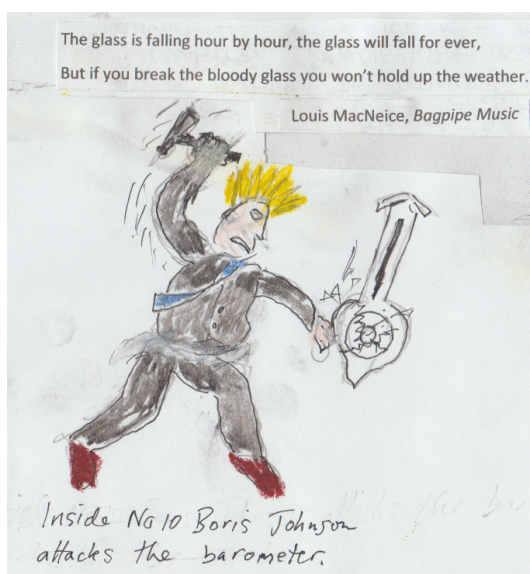
NOR4NOR SAYS: DEFEND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

ON GREATER ANGLIA AND EAST MIDS RAILWAY

JOIN THE TUC MARCH, LONDON, 18th JUNE

WE HAVE HEARD a lot about WW3. But WW2 and a half has been going for many years in Britain, from 1979 to be precise. It's been a war on the working class and its organisations as well as the NHS, education and state industries. And it continues today despite the fact that Boris Johnson is toast, soon to be Cinders. Partygate, corruption and the most vicious attack on migrants add up to the most reactionary Tory government since Thatcher. But at the same time, Johnson is rushing through further attacks on civil rights, the railways and colluding with 'fire and don't rehire' at P&O Ferries.

The opposition is out there. We have seen a fightback from BLM, women and climate activists. The P&O campaign offers a tipping point in the workplace because it has caused widespread anger amongst the public and is a national fight- Hull, Dover, and Liverpool are in the frontline and a boycott campaign using imaginative tactics can be a beacon. On the railways, RMT members have voted overwhelmingly for industrial action and pay and cuts- again prompted by the government's pressure on the rail companies and Network Rail and proposals to curtail the right to strike on the railways. Now, more than ever, community- based support is needed. A widespread pay campaign would be the logical response to the cost of living crisis but 'Can't Pay, Won't Pay' would be a good



slogan. The next two years will be crucial in the face of 9% inflation, recession, massive unemployment and cuts. What we have to do is to build a movement to go 'beyond the fragments'.



Postal workers in Norwich join the fight for an 8% pay rise with no strings. The CWU is fighting the derisory 2% pay offer coupled with compulsory Sunday work and annualised hours.

BARNEY HERE

BRITISH RAIL BARNEY

I wish I could give you a cheery message here, but I can't.

While this idiot is in number 10, nobody is safe. He wants to ban trades unions and lawful strikes. He hates the RMT like Thatcher hated the NUM. He MUST NOT WIN.

It took over 500 years for working people to get workers rights in this country.

One Act of Parliament could unfurl centuries of struggle. People need to wake up in this country, and quickly.

I am based in the West Country, but this rail dispute is a national one. Network Rail, drivers, guards, etc. I have a lot of pals in East Anglia and it is about pay (wage freeze for 3 years), but more importantly t's & c's, jobs, etc. 89 % is a very impressive mandate from RMT members. It has scared the Government, to be honest. Let's hope common sense prevails and a deal is sorted out quickly, but if not, the whole of the trades unions in this country are looking on this dispute. This is massive. It could be one of the most important in the UK ever. I know we have your support, as we support your unions and workplaces. **Take care all, and best wishes. Keep fighting.**

Whatever would Gerrard say?

by John Sillett

Gerrard Winstanley was “leader” of the Diggers movement in 1649 during the “English Revolution”. Winstanley became a pioneer for common ownership and the democratic running of society and turned that into action when numerous “Diggers” communities were set up around the country, growing food collectively and feeding and housing the members of the community collectively too. Although largely forgotten until recently, Winstanley’s ideas were celebrated by the Bolsheviks in 1917.

But what would he say today when, on the surface, the sort of society he wanted, and was developed by the 1945 Labour Government, with welfare, the NHS, free education for all, public housing and much nationalisation, has been now robbed from us, bit by bit, over forty years.

Well the first thing he’d say, I think, is that the post war reforms did not have any real democratic form. Without a say in the running of things, people could not be convinced that they owned them. If they didn’t feel they owned them, then they wouldn’t fight to keep them.

The second thing I think he’d say, is that those things that make for a civilised society need to be attained by the struggle of those who will benefit from them. Just as the Diggers occupied the land upon which they would grow crops, workers and communities need to actively attain those resources.

And thirdly, Winstanley would, I think, warn us, using his own experiences, of the dangers of the establishment to violently oppose our attempts to create a better world. Digger communities were attacked by thugs hired by landlords, attacked by troops with the backing of the legal system, and those opposing forces were backed by the established church. We’d need to create our own forces and law, democratically run, in order to defend what we gain.

Engaging learners in informal learning (part one)

by Ian Duckett (NEU)

In a world where teachers stand, at what might be called the intersection of education and social care, learner engagement is a complex business and are concerned, not only with straightforward engagement, but learning and developing skills of employability and enterprise, and is increasingly directed at those on re-engagement and intervention programmes in schools, colleges, alternative provision and home education schemes.

The Ways of Engaging project, among other things, attempts to resolve some of the difficulties identified in Tackling the NEETs Problem, with activities such as researching a topic that interests the learner – using the internet, library, newspaper, or another route to find out information about a subject of their choice and presenting the information in an interesting or original way. The project started with work in an alternative education provision and is currently the subject of a Learning and Skills Research Network (LSRN) project in East Anglia. Some of the activities are being further trialled in LSRN’s Ways of Engaging project with YMCA Norfolk in Norwich and Great Yarmouth, as part of the charity’s Life Ready project.

How can learners engage in education when many won’t be returning until September and some may choose not to return at all? As a result, the gap will be even wider than it was before, disadvantage will increase, and schools will find themselves having to repeat

parts of the curriculum for those who have fallen behind.

Developing skills for learning

I believe the curriculum should have been replaced with an emergency curriculum based on stimulating multi-disciplinary, or personal, social and health education (PSHE)/ citizenship-based projects aimed at developing generic learning skills, such as communication and problem-solving. It is something that the home-educated and vast army of those excluded from mainstream education provision have faced for years and it provides the idea of what is becoming increasingly known as “build back better”.

Ever since I can remember this has been at the heart of what I have tried to achieve as an educator. As a young teacher reading Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire as a crusade for humanity and educating, I saw it as an act of love that enabled me to see dehumanisation, both as an historical reality and as an individual experience in the lives of many of the learners I worked with.

This informed my teaching for many years. As time passed, I saw the matter in greyer terms, but remain wedded to the view that barriers to learning are neither purely educational concerns to be addressed by teachers nor problems to be solved by social workers. In almost all cases they existed and continue to exist at the cusp of education and social care.

... And justice for all

Attila the shelf stacker

What is it with some companies that when you leave, they try to steal your holiday pay in lieu of holidays not taken. Withholding pay to which an employee is entitled is unlawful. However you have three months less one day to appeal to an Industrial Tribunal to seek justice. If you need to use a tribunal, which is part of the justice system, make sure you have your Trade Union’s backing, for which you may need to get approval of your case from a paid official or legal department. Nowadays on the Tribunal application you need to have spoken to ACAS (Advisory, conciliation and arbitration service) and get a reference

number. They are not part of the legal system but it’s probably worth using their early conciliation service as this will give weight to your case if it reaches a Tribunal.

Here, it’s not just cash in lieu of unused holiday the company tries to steal. Over the years we have lost double time on Sundays and bank holiday supplements. Then there is the bonuses for good mystery shopper visits. A good visit report meant rewards all round as well as reaching sales targets. Some products also had commission for any store assistant but that’s all gone now. At one time the company boasted they always paid over the minimum wage but that got abandoned about three years ago. Just before the pandemic, an ominous circular was put on the notice board to say that the store’s labour costs were too high. I think many of us older ones knew this meant we were to be replaced by younger and cheaper workers and two years on that’s exactly

what’s happened. It’s been pretty bloody and nasty as one by one, older workers, many with long service, were persecuted and forced out. I’ll say this, being in a Trade Union is invaluable but everybody needs to be in one for the best results.



May Day march in London – support for P&O workers