

**CROYDON COMMUNISTS**

Croydon North  
by-election special  
newsletter  
10-17 November 2012



# WHO IS PAYING FOR THIS CRISIS?

**E**ver since the economic crisis hit in 2008, working people in Croydon and the rest of Britain have been told by all three Establishment parties that 'we're all in this together'.

And yet it seems as if it is working people in Croydon North and across Britain who bear the burden of this **CAPITALIST** crisis. In fact all three parties are 'in it together' to make sure that it's us not their friends in the City or the boardrooms who pay the price.

**1 CUTS IN PUBLIC SERVICES AND BENEFITS** The last Labour government planned £130 billion spending cuts. The Tory-LibDem coalition has added an extra £83 billion. Already these cuts are heavily impacting on ordinary people's lives but 80% of the cuts are still yet to come. Pensioners, single parents and the disabled have been hit, as well as the unemployed.

**2 MASSIVE JOB LOSSES** Unemployment in Britain is officially over two and a half million people - and that's just the government's sexed-up figures. In Croydon North unemployment is more than twice the national average with more than ten thousand people unable to find a job.

**3 NO CONTROLS ON PRICES** While the gas, electricity, oil and supermarket monopolies make record profits.

**4 TAX CUTS FOR BIG BUSINESS** Both Labour and Tory-LibDem coalition governments slashed corporation tax far below the USA, France, Germany and Japan. Even with one of the lowest tax rates in the developed world more than £125bn per year is lost through corporate tax dodging.

**5 WASTING LIVES AND MONEY ON WAR** The three main British parties support the war in Afghanistan and more nuclear weapons for Britain.

**FIVE REASONS TO  
VOTE COMMUNIST!  
MAKE A REAL  
DIFFERENCE**

Promoted by Dr Martin Graham, on behalf of Ben Stevenson both at and printed by Communist Party, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon CR0 1BD



# BRITAIN FOR THE PEOPLE NOT THE BANKERS

**T**he coalition government – and New Labour – seem to forgotten how Britain ended with such a massive deficit in the first place. More than **£1,350,000,000,000** of our money has been spent to bail out shareholders, the banks and money markets. The cost? **£1,350 billion** in shares, bonds, loans and guarantees.

Just half of that money would pay for:

- ★ 400 new hospitals AND
- ★ 3 million new homes AND
- ★ 500 new schools AND
- ★ Electrification of all main rail lines AND
- ★ A national water grid AND
- ★ Solar panels on all public buildings AND
- ★ 5 million new jobs and apprenticeships

**CAPITALISM  
WE CAN'T  
AFFORD IT!**

[www.communist-party.org.uk](http://www.communist-party.org.uk)

## The cut's don't work

Only the Communist Party puts workers, pensioners, the unemployed, single parents and the disabled FIRST.

Ahead of big business profits, the rich, privatisation and war.

That is why we OPPOSE all cuts in public spending, services, jobs, pensions and benefits.

Britain is one of the richest countries in the world. But one-tenth of the population own more than half that wealth.

A Wealth Tax on the super-rich would fund all the investment we need in public services, industry, housing, public transport and the environment.

**WE CAN AFFORD FIRST-CLASS PUBLIC SERVICES, PENSIONS AND BENEFITS by fair taxes on the rich and big business profits.**

## Unemployment epidemic

The unemployment rate in Croydon North has reached epidemic proportions thanks to the policies of New Labour and the Tory-Lib Dem coalition. It's just not just the cuts in jobs and funding to public services that have sent unemployment sky-rocketing.

When the Communist Party stood in 2010 we warned that these cuts would not only devastate Croydon's communities but it would also devastate the local economy including in the retail and leisure sector that the local council seemed enamoured with. After all, if working class families are struggling to make ends meet the last thing they're going to do is go on a shopping spree or eat out at a restaurant every evening.

Even with the rise of McJobs and young people taking whatever crap work they can find, more than ten thousand people in Croydon North – more than double the national average – are 'officially' unemployed. Both youth unemployment and long-term unemployment continue to rise.

**We need real public investment to create decent jobs and the people of Croydon North need it now!**

# SAVE OUR NHS THEY PROFIT WE LOSE



## CROYDON COMMUNISTS

support the "Croydon Alliance for Public Services". If you'd like to get involved email [croydonstopthecuts@gmail.com](mailto:croydonstopthecuts@gmail.com) or contact Croydon Communists and we'll pass on your details



**D**espite the news that Croydon A&E will not face immediate closure, the cuts in health services across South London is going to place a massive amount of additional pressure on Croydon University Hospital (formerly known as Mayday Hospital).

Even without these cuts the coalition government is trying to flog our NHS through the back-door. Since they've done such a lousy job – running a terrible service whilst making eye-watering profits in

the rail and communications industry – Virgin have actually been employed to run Croydon University Hospital since the beginning of this year.

Less than a year into the contract a damning report points to "a recent, sudden and sustained failure in performance." And the government claims that private companies know how to run a public service better than workers and members of our community?

After thirty years of privatisation – by both Tory and

New Labour – isn't about time that they accepted the blinding obvious?

You can't run a public service for profit without it costing more to the taxpayer and more to service users and without a decline in quality and access to the service.

Despite their actual record, every Establishment candidate will pledge to defend the NHS when seeking election.

**Vote for someone who actually has a record of fighting NHS privatisation and against cuts and closures?**

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# STEVE REED YOUR 'LABOUR' CANDIDATE

**Working people in Croydon can be forgiven for thinking that New Labour candidate Steve Reed offers an alternative to the Tory-Lib Dem coalition.**

His election material so far has blamed Cameron and the Tory council for Croydon's problems. But who is this 'people's champion' imposed on us from Lambeth? And what is his record in office?

Under Steve Reed's 'leadership', Lambeth Council has developed a damaging reputation through the destruction of local jobs and services, all in the name of what he dubs a 'co-operative council'.

His pet project aims to keep the ghost of Tony Blair alive and well in the Labour Party by dressing up pro-big business and pro-austerity policies as staff and user empowerment.

Steve Reed's record in Lambeth speaks for itself, it's one that any Tory council leader would be proud of – hundreds of council workers have been made redundant, children's services have been outsourced and he's proposed replacing professional council workers with volunteers.

*For more information on Steve Reed's record visit the Lambeth Save Our Services website*

[www.lambethsaveourservices.org](http://www.lambethsaveourservices.org)

## FOLLOW THE COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN IN CROYDON NORTH

**Online: [Croydoncommunists.org.uk](http://Croydoncommunists.org.uk)**

**e-mail: [croydon@communist-party.org.uk](mailto:croydon@communist-party.org.uk)**

**twitter: @CROcommunists**

**Phone: 02086861659**

# BEN STEVENSON YOUR COMMUNIST CANDIDATE



**Ben Stevenson is a working class fighter, active in local working class politics since moving to Croydon from his native Birmingham.**

Active in his union Unite and deeply involved in local campaigning through the Croydon Save Our Schools Campaign and the Croydon Trades Union Council he has experience working in the peace movement locally and nationally serving on the General Council of the Woodcraft Folk and as the Chair of Students Against War in his native Birmingham.

Ben Stevenson says: "We've had two years of coalition cuts to jobs, pensions and public services which has only further weakened Britain's economy. And worse is to come as 80% of the cuts planned have yet to take effect.

"Working people are sick of slimy professional politicians who are more interested in toadying up to the super-rich and spivs in the city, and feathering their own nests, rather than representing the interests of the people they were elected to serve.

"We deserve better than this government or the lacklustre 'Tory-lite' response being offered by the Milliband-Balls 'purple' Labour plan of exactly the same policies dragged out over a couple more years. "There's a fight for our future coming – and as always Communists will be there to provide a strong voice for pensioners, workers, the unemployed and young people in Croydon and the rest of Britain."



## Communist Party the Party for workers and their families

- I want more information about Communist Party policies
- I want to help with the election campaign in Croydon

name

address

postcode

phone

e mail

Return to CP, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon CR0 1BD