

# SAVE OUR NHS SAVE CONNAUGHT DAY HOSPITAL

Connaught Day Hospital, which provides specialist health care to older people, is threatened with closure.

Nancy Taaffe, Waltham Forest anti-cuts union coordinator said: "The NHS is not safe in Con-Dem hands, that's absolutely clear. But these cuts can be stopped. The government says it's 'pausing' to listen. Well, let's organise a protest, or better still a one-day public sector strike to make sure they can hear what we are saying: NO to NHS cuts, no to all cuts!"

Patient Ena Abrahams, 87, receives treatment at the Connaught every fortnight. She told the Walthamstow Guardian:

"We hear all this about protecting the elderly from cuts but this would be a downright and vicious attack on us. It's a haven for so

many people - where are we going to go if it closes? It's got everything you need. You can see a doctor, get a blood test, get regular treatment and so on. From my own personal experience elderly people are treated very well at Whipps Cross, and this is an important part of that. It operates as a ward so to close it is tantamount to shutting a ward down."

Mrs Abrahams, who also sits on the hospital's patient panel, said she believes that its management is trying to make as part of a bid two other trusts Foundation status. major savings to merge with and gain



## NEXT WFAFU MEETING:

**7:30PM, THURSDAY 12 MAY, 7.30PM  
AT THE WILLIAM MORRIS COMMUNITY  
CENTRE, GREENLEAF ROAD, E17 6QQ**

**PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF YOU REQUIRE A  
SPEAKING SLOT FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN**

## MUSIC VICTORY!

The council has announced a u-turn on cutting the music service - showing we can win! The council has said: "the announcement that we will be receiving 90% of last year's funding from the government means that with the continued support of our schools we can now be assured of continuing to deliver our excellent and valued music services to our children and young people." As Nev from the music service campaign, said: "One down, a thousand campaigns to go!"

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

At the Waltham Forest Anti-Cuts Union meeting on 7th April, Paul Callanan from the campaign group Youth Fight for Jobs spoke about the continuing problem of youth unemployment which is a major problem in Waltham Forest. The Education Maintenance Allowance has been cut and now the Connexions youth career service is facing cuts. 2011 is the 75th anniversary of the famous Jarrow march that saw two hundred unemployed men march the length of the country to petition the government to create jobs. Youth Fight for Jobs will be recreating this in October to draw attention to the continuing blight of unemployment on the young in particular. WFAFU agreed to raise £500 from the local trade union movement to sponsor a marcher for the five weeks they will be on the road. *Can you help? Call Stephen on 07981605728.*

**A Youth Fight for Jobs Jarrow launch meeting will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday 18th May in Giggles Nursery on Grove Green Road.**

# 26 MARCH TUC DEMO... AND BEYOND

WFACU believes that the 26 March TUC demonstration of at least 500,000 trade unionists, young people, pensioners and community campaigners has sent a deafening message to the Con-Dem coalition that working class people will fight their £81 billion cuts package.

WFACU recognises that, while the march has given everyone a huge boost of confidence, it won't be enough to stop the cuts. Already the new financial year has seen still more local authority workers losing their jobs, no matter which party leads the council. Cameron and Clegg have public sector pensions in their sights and the announcement of the privatisation of HMP Birmingham is another sign of this government's desire to roll back all past gains of working people in this country to boost the profits of big business.

Therefore, WFACU believes that as soon as possible, the TUC General Council, in accordance with their policy, should:

- Discuss the fight against the cuts and to defend public sector pensions in particular and "support and coordinate campaigning and joint union industrial action, nationally and locally, opposition to attacks on jobs, pensions, pay or public services": TUC 2010 conference (composite 10)
- Discuss coordinating strike action against the cuts.
- Advocate that unions combine to plan for a 24-hour public sector general strike as a step towards a one-day general strike of all workers.
- Discuss with those unions who have already committed to balloting on pensions about organising a midweek march in London to coincide with strike action so other trade unionists can show their support to those striking and demonstrate their support for strike action against these attacks which affect all workers.

More than half a million marched through central London on 26 March on the TUC organised 'March for the Alternative'. In a tremendous show of strength workers, trade unionists, pensioners, young people and families said NO to the Con-Dem cuts. Left is a resolution passed at WFACU's last meeting, with more than forty activists in attendance, on what we think the national anti-cuts movement needs to do to follow-up on the success of the demo...

## SHELTERED HOUSING WARDEN'S PROTEST

On Wednesday 13 April more than 60 people lobbied a Waltham Forest council cabinet meeting. Among other issues this meeting was due to vote on the fate of 14 wardens in sheltered housing across the borough. The Labour-run council is doing the dirty work of the Tory/Liberal government, making £65 million budget cuts over four years, despite £40 million in reserves.

For the residents of sheltered housing the effects will be devastating. Many are severely disabled and need help even to dress themselves. Cutting the wardens will endanger their lives. But as usual the cowards who vote through the cuts are picking on those they think are weakest, most vulnerable and least likely to fight back. On the lobby a number of the residents had been given lifts to the town hall in order to force the cowardly councillors to see who it was that they were hurting. Scandalously, the cabinet approved the next round of council cuts, axing 118 jobs including the warden's posts.



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