



Woking Constituency Labour Party NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011 issue



Tory / Lib Dem Coalition – end of term report

With the Coalition now in power for six months, our worst fears are being confirmed. The economic recovery initiated by Labour is, as predicted, threatened by the reckless behaviour of the Coalition. The budget deficit has to be reduced but this should be when the recovery is stronger. So far, the Coalition is directly responsible for the following.

- Youth unemployment is at record levels
- Abolition of the allowance to keep young people in education
- Inflation has risen to 4.8%
- With the VAT hike, inflation will rise sharply next month
- The number of jobless has soared to 2.5 million

And there is worse to come. Local Councils face a cut of 9% in their **total** spending. This includes non-discretionary expenditure which in poorer areas can be considerable.

The opinion polls suggest that many Tory supporters are concerned by what is happening. But none of this would be possible without the complicity of Clegg and his Liberal Democrat colleagues.

The Tories have an agenda – that is, to cut back the role of the state and to transfer the burden of social care for the elderly and disabled to the voluntary sector. By reducing expenditure, the Tories expect to cut income tax before the next general election. Are we happy to see the NHS and education slashed? Are we happy to see our public infrastructure crumble due to lack of investment? Are we happy to see the genuine poor and disadvantaged made to suffer? *Paul Blagbrough*

Picture: march organised by Surrey Labour Party against draconian cuts

Dates for your Diary

Feb 5th Surrey County Party Meeting
2.30pm. **Open meeting – all welcome.** Winning seats in May and cuts to Surrey's budget

Feb 19th Education – The Tory Threat.
2.00-5.00pm (see page 2)

Feb 23rd Open General Meeting on NHS and the Police 8pm. Speaker Martin Phillips, Labour S.E. Rep of NPF, followed by **Annual General Meeting** at 8.45pm (see enclosed flyer for details and agenda)

March 13th Open Political Meeting
3.00-5.30pm at **Bishop David Brown School** Sheerwater. Speakers include **Fiona MacTaggart MP Slough.**

May 5th Local Elections

All meetings at Owen House, unless otherwise stated



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Surrey County Labour Party – open meeting for all

EDUCATION – THE TORY THREAT

Tory attacks on education through Gove's reforms

Saturday 19th February, 2pm to 5pm at Owen House, Woking

Speakers invited include:

Andy Burnham (Shadow Education Secretary) and Fiona Millar (Anti Academies Alliance)

SPRING QUIZ

Guess which politician made these comments:

Question 1.

"Liberal Democrats have costed, in full, our proposals for tax cuts. We can tell you, penny for penny, pound for pound, who pays for them. We will not have to raise VAT to deliver our promises. The Conservatives will. Let me repeat that: Our plans do not require a rise in VAT. The Tory plans do. Their tax promises on marriage and jobs may sound appealing. But they come with a secret VAT bombshell close behind."

Question 2.

"Labour and the Conservatives have been trying to keep tuition fees out of this election campaign. It's because they don't want to come clean with you about what they're planning. Despite the huge financial strain fees already place on Britain's young people, it is clear both Labour and the Conservatives want to lift the cap on fees. If fees rise to £7,000 a year (*they are now, of course, rising to £9,000 a year*), as many rumours suggest they would, within five years some students will be leaving university up to £44,000 in debt. That would be a disaster. ...

We all want our children to do well and to have the opportunity to go into further and higher education. The proposals to raise tuition fees will serve only to ensure that only a chosen few get that opportunity."

Answers

Q.1 N. Clegg, Esq Q.2 Mr N Clegg MP.