

## HOSPITALS, GPs, AMBULANCES, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, COUNCILS... THE CUTS CONTINUE



While Chancellor Philip Hammond was announcing a £2bn National Insurance rise from the self-employed and a few dollops of cash to distract the natives, the real work of this Conservative Government carried on as usual. In the real world cuts are wrecking havoc in the NHS, education, the legal service, the police service and throughout local government. Just two examples of the cuts and chaos which affect Lowestoft below:

### EAST OF ENGLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE TRUST (EAST)

Three patients died and a fourth needed intensive care during an experimental scheme to “reduce unnecessary visits to A&E” (ie to save money). The trial has been scrapped, for now, The trust was investigated by health regulator NHS Improvement for failing to meet its financial targets (ie for not cutting enough) including spending £4.2m on hiring private ambulances (ie it can't afford to buy or crew its own). It was engaged in a lengthy dispute with one of the Clinical Commissioning Groups which funds it (or doesn't in this case). Unison has accused EEAST of “appearing to tolerate a bullying culture”. The trust is consistently missing response times targets. The cuts continue.

### NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK MENTAL HEALTH TRUST (NSFT)

After closing hospitals and day centres and replacing

them with “out of hospital teams” (to save money) a leaked reports revealed that an astonishing 32% of newly recruited staff left within a year.. The Campaign to Save Mental Health Services in Norfolk and Suffolk referred to the “radical redesign”, which involved cutting 136 beds and losing experienced staff , as “disastrous”. “Unexpected patients deaths” nearly doubled between 2013 and 2016. The Trust's performance was placed by patients in the country's bottom four and it was the country's first to be put in special measures. The cuts continue.

### PHILLIP HAMMOND: THE MAN AND HIS MONEY

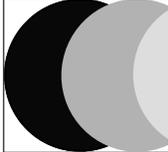
Jeremy Corbyn declared his tax returns and the usual suspects condemned him for imaginary omissions. Hammond confidently responded that he wouldn't declare his because it was nobody's business. Well, according to the Daily Telegraph, he is “the second richest member of the cabinet with a net fortune of £8.2m”. Mostly made from, yes you've guessed it, a private healthcare firm and “consultancy work”. Hard work that consultancy lark. He also owns a number of buy-to-let properties including a £600,000 cottage whose ownership he transferred to his wife. So if he bumps into ex-BHS owner Philip Green they will have something in common to talk about. We don't know what taxes he pays, if any.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- Support LCAC by joining our leafleting every Saturday, 11-1pm, in the town centre precinct, outside the Britten Centre.
- Join our email list - keep up to date with activity in your area.
- Forward this leaflet and pass it onto friends and workmates.
- Want to know more? We can supply a speaker for your group or trade union branch.

Contact us

info@lowestoftagainstthecuts.org.uk  
01502 569174 / 568684 / 574010



# LOWESTOFT COALITION AGAINST THE CUTS

email  
info@lowestoft  
againstthecuts.org.uk

phone  
01502 569174 / 568684

# BY-ELECTIONS Labour: Lost 1, Held 1

The usual political commentators and “senior Labour figures” expressed shock at the by-election loss by Labour of Copeland and the relatively poor performance in Stoke. They were unanimous in blaming Jeremy Corbyn.

Local issues were important in both constituencies. UKIP's newest leader, Paul Nuttall, standing in Stoke, revealed himself as a very nasty piece of work and a serial liar. Copeland is the site of the Sellafield reprocessing plant and Corbyn's conversion to nuclear power didn't convince.

### New Labour Failed

But it is astonishing that those who constantly attack Corbyn, in particular many of the Labour old guard, are blind to how much politics has changed. Under Blair and Brown the Labour vote had already declined by four million votes. In Scotland Labour totally collapsed well before Corbyn became leader. The fundamental economic policy of the Blair/Brown years was to pander to the market, to encourage banking and corporate excess. Inequality visibly grew while benefit payments and personal debt masked inadequate incomes. Whole regions were left to decline. New hospitals were paid for with future debt while Labour ministers opened the door to privatisation. With the financial collapse workers were left weaker, worse off and then

presented with the bill. We all have to live with the consequences of Blair's warmongering. That is what New Labour did.



### Corbyn and McDonnell Have to Choose

Those who joined Labour and voted overwhelmingly for Corbyn want nothing to do with policies which were economically disastrous and failed politically. Labour now has to offer a strong and credible alternative not only to the failed Labour policies of the past but to the Tories, to UKIP and to the stay-at-home cynics.

That is the problem. Nuclear power will poison and mortgage the country's future but Labour had no programme to replace those Sellafield jobs. Many Labour MPs will do all they can to undermine Corbyn yet John McDonnell's proposal “to listen to Progress” (the Blairite group within Labour) implies ditching radical policies. Labour demands proper funding for the NHS yet fails to say where the funds are to come from. Income and wealth inequality have to be confronted and serious taxes levied on those who monopolise the country's wealth. The message on the doorstep from Labour canvassers should be “We will tax the rich”. That is the way to energise the electorate and to win elections.

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