

CLASS



WAR DAILY

The only daily anarchist newspaper in the world.

MONDAY 4 MAY 2020



BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT

After the biggest work break you'll ever get to see, your thoughts may turn to why work – or why your particular job is needed - many jobs are already classified as non essential by the Government.

Why the wasted hours travelling for mind numbing boredom? Many jobs serve no useful purpose at all and cutting these would mean people could do really productive and useful work for need not profit.

We need to reorganise completely the nature of work and why we need to get rid of it. Peter Kropotkin, the Anarchist Author of Mutual Aid, said that the best and finest example of anarchist self organisation was the National Lifeboat Institution. Here, people without any financial reward or inducement place themselves in great danger on a daily basis. We can see many examples of mutual aid working well recently.

At Grenfell Tower it was local people who met the Community's needs instantly while Government at both local and national levels failed completely. Since the virus, a vast range of community self help and aid schemes from food delivery to friendly chats for people in isolation has emerged.

Accordingly Class War are asking people to stay at home and not return to work, both for eliminating the risk of catching the virus and talking to their families and friends about what is the purpose of their own work.

DO YOU WANT TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT?

STAY IN BED ALL DAY – THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS!

A South London anarchist doing a food run

GROUND CONTROL TO MAJOR TOM

You would have had to have had your head buried in the sand, to avoid the state fanfare accompanying the centenary birthday of Captain Tom this week, whose sponsored laps around his garden have raised a staggering 32 million pounds for the NHS. While Tom's efforts are gratefully received and should be applauded, they hold an unfortunate utility for the ruling classes control of the current situation.

The Tory press and the boot-licking BBC 'reality machine' have done much to deifying poor Tom's efforts in raising money for a service our tax contributions should adequately have been able to cover; an NHS that would have been able to cope, if not for the hollowing out of public expenditure that was accelerated in the last ten years of 'austerity realism'.

I'm increasingly tired of a narrative that suggests we are somehow 'all in this crisis together,' a narrative evoking the 'spirit of the blitz.' This cretinous nationalism, supported by the 'we will carry on' brigade is a constructed mythology, one that hides the class dynamics underscoring this crisis.

Poor communities and low income families are disproportionately suffering, and are also those most likely to be at the coal face of the crisis; staffing the logistics centres, delivering the take-outs, working in the supermarkets, caring and nursing for the sick, while also living in overcrowded accommodation. So, thanks Tom, but fuck the Tory reality machine.

For those in our class, still convinced that Boris is doing his best, here is a staggering statistic. The UK (one of the world's leading economies) now makes up for 11.5% of all GLOBALLY recorded deaths due to Covid 19.

It's high time we held this fucker to account.

WE CANNOT GO BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE WHEN THE LOCKDOWN ENDS

THERE'S a new mood in this country as a consequence of the terrible pandemic that has killed so many and sent our whole society into lockdown.

We see it every Thursday night as people come to their doors and windows to clap and bang pots in support of the heroic NHS workers risking their lives to save ours.

There's a new respect too for front-line workers of other kinds keeping the country going: for shopworkers, transport workers, refuse workers who have to keep coming into work and of course for the postal workers who for many vulnerable people form their only regular link to the outside world.

In the labour movement we are used to learning about the sacrifices of earlier generations.

We all honour the sacrifice made by the generation who defeated fascism in World War II, we rightly recognise the sacrifices of our forerunners from the Tolpuddle Martyrs to the Bryant and May matchwomen whose struggles gave birth to trade unionism.

Now we can talk about the sacrifices of today: the workers who are continuing to work because we need them, even though it puts them at risk of catching this deadly virus.

And we know that in periods of great sacrifice in the past our movement has stepped up.

The labour movement after the second world war was not prepared to let the world of the Great Depression, mass unemployment and poverty return.

They knew it had given birth to fascism. And they knew that they had proved they deserved better.

That generation built the welfare state and the NHS for which we are all now so grateful.

Many of the workers putting

themselves in harm's way for our sake today have been those given the rawest deal by bosses and politicians, paid poverty wages, languishing on insecure contracts, unable to afford a decent place to live or a proper holiday and unable to look forward to a comfortable retirement.

Look in contrast at the huge rewards given to CEOs like Royal Mail's Rico Back, given a £6 million holden hello, yet who, like so many corporate bosses, doesn't make an obvious contribution to society at all.

I'm not saying that's always been true of company bosses. You could look back at someone like Henry Ford and say he was an innovator, his car manufacturing kept people in work, people used those cars—that's a contribution.

But what are bosses at our big privatised services doing today?

Our union proposed to Royal Mail management and the government that we could become another emergency service during the crisis.

We have an unrivalled infrastructure, a network going to every single address in the UK every day of the week, and postal workers are some of the most trusted faces in the communities they serve.

But we're not using those assets. Royal Mail is so narrow, so inflexible, it keeps us delivering commercial advertising — pizza delivery leaflets and the like — and won't put itself at the public's service at this time of crisis.

There's a political bias from the Tories as well. The government is clearly prioritising companies like Amazon. There's no rational or logical argument, no case based on trustworthiness or speed of delivery, that would lead you not to use the company that already has the infrastructure in place. It's bonkers.

We see the model of privatisation, the world of competition, the market-driven philosophies that we've lived with too long and that have contributed to this thinking. It's time we challenged them.

I hope each union is able to highlight that simple contrast between the value of the front-line worker during this crisis and the value of the highest-paid people in the organisation.

My union has long been pushing the New Deal for Workers agenda, arguing that changes in the world of work are essential because the current system is making work increasingly intolerable for millions.

Employers have taken liberties and a few have grown very rich while inequality widens.

That stems from a globalisation process that has seen a handful of giant companies become very wealthy, extremely powerful, and they've been able to dictate to the workforce.

And I think even the Conservatives under Boris Johnson have started to realise that that's gone too far, that public patience with that process has worn thin.

- Excerpt from Dave Ward interview with MS

Have a story, complaint, hate mail or just fancy sending us a letter shoot us an email:

classwardaily@gmx.com

Want to stay up to date and make sure you get every copy join us at:

facebook.com/classwardaily