

Campaign Voice!



BPACC Newsletter 3 – March 2012

Web: bpacc.co.uk Email: info@bpacc.co.uk

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/BPACC](https://www.facebook.com/groups/BPACC)

Upcoming Events

Saturday 17th March 10.30am – 12.30pm

“There is an alternative” - Green Party Open Meeting

Friends Meeting House, 52 Wimborne Road, Poole

To discuss public sector cuts, job losses, austerity, longer working lives, lower pensions and how things could be managed differently.

Wednesday 21st March 6pm

Budget Day Vigil - Bournemouth Square

In conjunction with other protests around the country BPACC are calling on local people to send a clear message of “No more cuts – austerity is hurting but it’s not working”

Saturday 24th March 10.30am

BPACC Recruitment and Information Stall – Boscombe

Part of our continuing campaign to raise awareness, build resistance to the cuts and defend our communities.

Wednesday 28th March

Fair Pensions For All

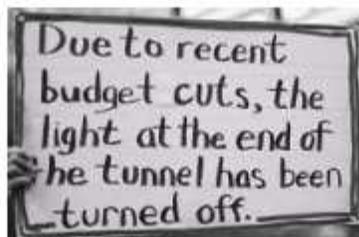
Details to be confirmed

Day of industrial action and rally against cuts to pensions.

Tuesday 3rd April - 6pm

Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Conference Room, Education Centre, Castle Lane East, Bournemouth

Public meeting regarding the future of local hospitals



The Big Switch

So far nearly 190,000 people have signed up to a 38 Degrees / Which campaign to take the power back from big gas and electricity companies by bargaining as a group to persuade them to give us the lowest price. For further details and to sign up visit <http://www.38degrees.org.uk/page/s/the-big-switch#petition>

5 things you need to know about the Legal Aid Bill

1. At least 500,000 people will be denied justice
2. Legal aid cuts cost more than they save
3. The bill undermines the rule of law
4. The voluntary sector can't fill the gap
5. It's not just legal aid: the bill makes it harder for anyone without huge wealth to get justice

This & other False Economy fact sheet leaflets can be downloaded at <http://bpacc.co.uk/resources/>

In The News.....

POOLE'S Remploy factory is set to close, putting around 18 people with disabilities out of a job. It's one of 36 Remploy sites which the government announced will shut because they are unlikely to become financially viable. Phil Davies, national officer of the GMB union, said: "This decision to sack 1,752 people in 36 factories across the country is one of the worst decisions that this discredited coalition government has taken since coming to office".

BPACC members, Trade Unionists, NHS workers and other local campaigners joined thousands of people at a London march and demonstration organised by Unite to stop the Health and Social Care Bill.

THE future of Dorset Enterprises in Elliott Road is in doubt after Bournemouth Council announced they are no longer prepared to provide funding for the factory which manufactures deck chairs along with other wooden products and provides subsidised employment for disabled people. Councillor Ben Grower said "The leader of the council has told us that there was going to be no cut to services but this is a cut to services. The government and council have got to learn this type of service is not all about profit making and money, it's about providing a service for the needy".

BPACC members joined DVLA staff at a lunch time walk-out in protest over plans to shut the Bourne Valley Road office under government proposals to shut 39 regional offices, 10 enforcement offices and 3 processing units. PCS branch secretary, Berewyn Long said "It was unlikely staff could move into other civil service posts, given the cuts" and added "100,000 people recently applied for 4,000 positions in the Department of Work and Pensions".

Local Occupy protestors have taken up a caretaking role in solidarity with campaigners to save Bournemouth Centre For Community Arts in Boscombe. It has been proposed to demolish part of the listed building and replace it with 10 affordable houses leaving only 2 small rooms for BCCA. Campaigners argue the building, although needing some slight structural work, is sound and there are already many empty properties to meet housing needs. The loss of this large community supported centre would be a tragic.

BPACC is a broad movement of local people – community groups, pensioners, students, disabled campaigners, trade unionists and tax payers – opposed to the government's austerity measures.

JOIN THE RESISTANCE!

Following recent protests and high profile media coverage, many companies have withdrawn from participating in unpaid work placement programmes and the government announced that young people could now end a placement without having benefits sanctioned.



This was only a minor concession. There are around 6 different programmes that involve coercing people onto unpaid work placements for up to 30 hours a week with the ever present threat of having benefits stopped. These programmes affect unemployed people of all ages and those on disability benefits. The pressure must be maintained. People want to work but expect to be paid at the least the Minimum Wage. Growth and jobs will not be created through austerity - there are alternatives.