



We are a LOCAL campaign fighting to retain our LOCAL hospital.

We are proud to also work with other local groups, fighting for their local hospitals, across the UK.

March 2017

NEWSLETTER

ITS OUR NHS NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION

On Saturday 4th March, approximately 150 campaigners and concerned citizens of Huddersfield and the surrounding areas joined with other Health Campaign Groups across the country, NHS staff and members of the General public, to attend the largest March in support of the NHS ever seen since its inception in 1948.

The March started in Tavistock Square to Parliament Square and covered approximately 3 miles from start to finish. Such was the volume of people involved in the March, Hands Off HRI, ideally positioned at front of the March, were frequently informed by the Stewards, that the tail end of the March had not yet left Tavistock Square. In excess of 250,000 people are thought to have attended, according to London Police.

The March had a carnival feel, with various drumming and steel bands, entertaining the marchers and campaigning Choirs lining the route. The march was very much a family friendly event celebrating our love for OUR NHS. Local MP Paula Sherriff joined the front of the march alongside Julie Hesmondhalgh. Sue Perkins tweeted her support also. The march ended in Parliament Square with an emotional performance from the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Choir. There then followed a range of inspirational talks from NHS workers, campaigning groups, culminating with an emotionally charged speech from Jeremy Corbyn.

Hands Off HRI faced criticism for attending this March mainly from some of the incumbent government's local MPs and Councillors. We had no doubt that in spite of criticism we, as a prominent local campaigning group had to be represented at this march.

Our Facebook page "Official Hands Off HRI" has lots of personal accounts and photographs from campaigners, taken throughout the day".



More events are in the planning for April, May, June and July, and we would like to thank the residents of Kirklees for their continued support.

Contact

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Events Diary

1st April—Protest Train from Marsden to Leeds to join March For The NHS at 11.00 am Victoria Gardens, The Headrow, Leeds.

MARCH FOR THE NHS, SATURDAY 4TH MARCH, LONDON

Yvette Wilson

Meltham Group Co-ordinator, Yvette Wilson had this to say “I was present at the march in St Georges Square back in February 2016. 8000 people attended and I was so proud to march for our local hospital. Just over a year later I attended the national demo in London,

yesterday. It is said over 250,000 people attended. I was so proud to march with Hands Off HRI and all the other local campaigns from around the country, and every other single person who attended. The sun shone and we chanted along the way. People watched and applauded us. It was the best feeling in the world to know you were marching for an adequately funded NHS. I marched for every man, woman and child who will need our health service. The NHS must be preserved. The government must listen and fund the NHS properly and stop its plans for all the future cuts. We must ALL fight to prevent this magnificent service being taken from us. HandsOffHRI – HandsOFFNHS!”



Mike Forster—Chairman of Hands Off HRI

Chairman of Hands Off HRI, Mike Forster had this to say about the organising of the March. “On 10th October over 300 people from Hands Off HRI, Huddersfield, Fighting for Grantham and other local groups, delivered petitions to the Department of Health. I asked to meet with the organisers from Lewisham and four of us had a discussion on Whitehall. We discussed the current crisis in the NHS and the government’s policy of cutting funding to the NHS. Concerned, we decided to call a demo under the banner of Health Campaigns Together. We had expected between 5000-10,000 and are absolutely overwhelmed that in excess of 250,000 people have joined this march today. This signifies that there is a huge determination, across the length and breadth of the UK, to fight for the future of our NHS and oppose the current governments current policy of cuts, closure and privatisation. Locally we shall continue to campaign to keep a fully functioning hospital in Huddersfield and collectively with other campaign groups across the country we will continue to campaign for a public funded NHS”



A man passionately shouts at the march, lofting a sign shaped like a sheep, which says 'I'm a bleating activist'



Demonstrators have marched on the Houses of Parliament in London to protest against private companies' involvement in the National Health Service and social care provision, and against cuts to NHS funding. Photograph by Jack Taylor/Getty

Sorry you missed the biggest post war march for the NHS in London

Despair not—please join us on The Protest Train from Marsden to Leeds where we shall link up with other campaigns including from Lincolnshire, Stoke, Leeds and others in Leeds to March for our NHS—1st April 2017, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow, Leeds.

ALL ABOARD... THE PROTEST TRAIN

Hands Off HRI are Marching for the NHS in Leeds on 1st April 11.00 – 14.00, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow, Leeds

Train Times

- Marsden 9.29 am
- Slaithwaite 9.33 am
- Huddersfield 9.42 am
- Leeds arrival 10.15 am
- March starts at 11.00 am



PLEASE JOIN US