

## **The Government Must Address Poverty and Inequality**

### **-Or the NHS will always be in a mess!**

Yet more evidence was released last month, showing the devastating effects of poverty and inequality on children born since 2010. Researchers writing in the European Journal of Public Health said data suggests that cuts to social security benefits and services are key to understanding the increase in babies being born smaller or earlier.

Dr David Walsh, a senior lecturer in health inequalities at the University of Glasgow, who led the study said

“Babies that are born from premature, and at low-birth-weight are themselves at considerable risk of a whole set of adverse outcomes in later, childhood and adulthood, so the effects will be felt for years to come.”



**HIGH BILLS - LOW INCOMES**

# **COLD HOMES KILL!**

unite  Community  membership

Colin Hampton Coordinator of DUWC commented on the findings

“Every public health professional in the country and internationally, will say that the biggest driver of both physical and mental ill health issues is poverty and inequality. The problems of underfunding the National Health Service are intrinsically related to this. The demands on health professionals will continue to soar and the costs to the NHS and wider economy will inevitably rise if government does not seriously reverse the moves towards greater inequality and poverty.

“DUWC have been putting forward this position for many years but politicians are fixed on short-term issues. The future generations will count the cost of our inaction.” Colin went on to say.



# Call to ACTION

**OFFGEM PRICE HIKE**

**10% RISE IN ENERGY PRICES**



As of October 1st, Ofgem will hike its price cap from **£1568** to **£1717**. The 10% increase will plunge 400,000 more households into fuel poverty, bringing the total to six million homes. For older people who had previously received the Winter Fuel Payment, this equates to an increase of 131% on winter 2020/21. It will make some pensioners' real terms energy bills higher this winter than at any other time. Unite4Energy wants - Fair energy prices and energy justice, Energy for all, A worker led transition to a carbon neutral energy mix and an end to the forced imposition of pre payment meters.



**65%**

INCREASE ON PRICES  
SINCE THE COST OF  
LIVING CRISIS STARTED



# ***BOLSOVER CASTLE HOLDS THE EXHIBITION***



**As we near the end of our Miners' Strike Exhibition we have had some great feedback. We have now had 2683 people come to visit the exhibition. Most recently we held the exhibition at Bolsover Castle for a week in October, and had an amazing 677 visitors. We also held talks from Steve Brunt and the Women's Action Group. We are going to Clowne next on Friday 15th November until Sunday 17th November. Esther Fisher Assistant Coordinator for the Centre said, 'It has been a privilege to be part of something so special and meaningful, I have loved meeting so many people from the Strike'.**



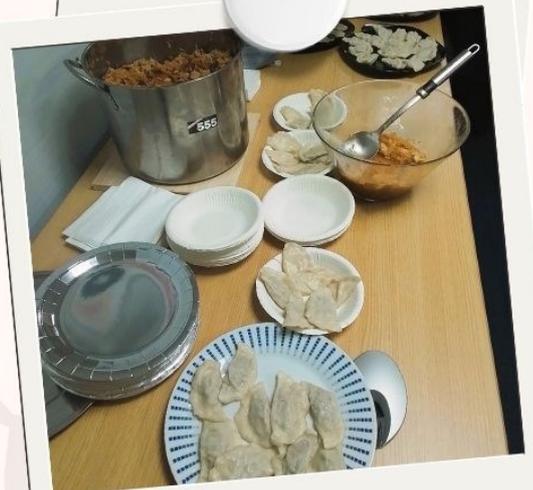
**Speakers to the left, Kate Alvey, Janet Wilson and Hilary Cave.**



# HELP IS HERE OPEN DAY IN SHIREBROOK



On Friday 25th October we held an 'Open Day' to celebrate the work of our project and to gain valuable feedback from the community. The project run by Joanna and Marcin has been helping migrants living in the area since 2020. We wanted to bring back together some of those people we have helped, along with members of the Polish Community Group, District Council workers and other community projects to celebrate the work carried out. We had some amazing Polish food enjoyed by all and we are looking forward to our next get together!





# A NORTHERN REQUIEM AT THE ICONIC CROOKED SPIRE CHURCH



The Northern Requiem shines a light on the communities who were robbed of their livelihoods when the pits were closed. Jonathan the director said: “There was never any consideration as to what the people who worked there would do when everything changed. It was not just about the jobs – it was the fact that everything revolved around the pit.

“The idea of a requiem is that you’re praying for the soul of the departed. The ultimate goal of such things, if you’re of a Catholic bent, is the soul’s triumph over death. That’s how it works in the context of mining – everything died 40 years ago but it’s now looking hopefully to the future that things may get better.

We were able to bring the exhibition to the Crooked Spire on the week leading up to the requiem. Photo below from Derbyshire Times. The Northern Requiem will be held again in Sheffield at the Victoria Hall on Saturday 5th April.



# TO KEEP IN THE SPIRIT OF SINGING ...HERE ARE SOME FESTIVE SONGS TO INSPIRE RESISTANCE!

## O Little Towns Of Great Britain (to the tune of 'O Little Town of Bethlehem')

O little towns of Great Britain  
Why do they to you lie  
Your bills are steep, the prices leap  
Since power was privatised

But where are OFGEM's finest  
When setting unit cost  
They're working for the companies  
Consumers can get lost.

## Scrap the Means Test (to the tune of 'Deck the Halls')

Stop the payment what a folly  
Fa la la la Lala lal la la  
Companies have got the lolly  
Fa la la la la La La la la  
Ten pence over pension credit  
Fa la la la la la la la la  
Scrap the means test all should get it.  
Falalalala lala la la



**Since our Power was Privatised (to the tune of  
'Good King Wenceslas')**

Since our power was privatised  
My feet are flipping freezing  
I will not put on the light  
And turning down the heating

I switched on the news last night  
Heard some voices cruel  
Profiteering companies  
Taking us for fools

The essentials of our lives  
Are not for private profit  
Power and water nationalise  
Fat cats take the big hit

Government should now desist  
Don't cut winter fuel  
Labour you are better than this  
National renewal

**Oh Come All Ye People (to the tune of  
'Oh Come All Ye Faithful')**

Oh come all ye people  
Rise up in defiance  
Oh come ye oh come ye  
To make a stand  
Never to bow down  
Strong when we're united  
Our strength is all our people, our strength  
is all our people, our strength is all our  
people, working as one

**Lost My Winter Fuel Payment (to the tune of 'Hark the Herald  
Angels Sing')**

Lost my winter fuel payment  
That was worth three hundred pounds  
We've not got the broadest shoulders  
From the rich it should be found

Watching as our bills do rise  
Private profit hits the skies  
Unite the union does proclaim  
Join our winter fuel campaign



# *We need benefits advisor volunteers*

**We rely on volunteers giving up their time to support and help others. In return we can offer great training opportunities, the potential to go on to start paid employment, make new skills, and become involved with campaign work alongside a great team of people!**



**Meet Alena our new volunteer receptionist at Shirebrook and we say goodbye to Naz, our volunteer who is leaving to go on to an apprenticeship, we wish her well.**



**Get in touch to find out about our great volunteering opportunities**

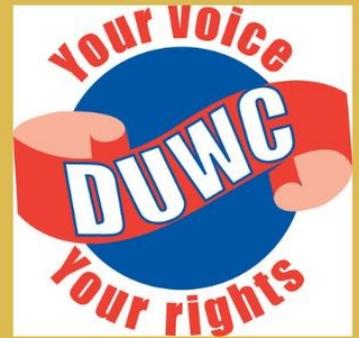
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**We cover outreaches in.....**



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231441**

**WE ARE CLOSED FROM 24TH  
DECEMBER AND RE OPEN ON  
THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY**



