



Newsletter N<sup>o</sup>4    ◊◊◊    March/April 2011

# NOTTS SOS

*Defending jobs, services, welfare & education against cuts in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire*

## Save the NHS campaign grows in strength

Broxtowe members of the people-powered campaign group 38 Degrees met Tory MP Anna Soubry outside her surgery in Beeston Library on Saturday 19 March 2011. They handed her a 38 Degrees petition with over 180,000 signatures from people across the UK concerned about changes to the NHS proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill.

Notts SOS campaigner Nigel Nelson organised the meeting on behalf of 38 Degrees and said *"This White Paper will remove the Private Patient Cap – the cap on the number of private patients hospitals and GPs are allowed to treat. Healthcare providers will no longer have an obligation to ensure money made from treating private patients is ploughed back into normal patient care. This will create a two-tier NHS. When you are at the bottom of the treatment queue, with your 'personal healthcare budget' close to maxed out, if you can afford it, you can 'choose' to pay to 'top up' your family's healthcare."*



Soubry is one of 26 MP's on the Bill Scrutiny Committee who are currently in charge of deciding whether these changes go through. She is therefore an essential target in the Save the NHS campaign. The petition calls for a halt to the radical reforms being imposed by the government, as they:

- Risk breaking up the health service and handing it to private healthcare companies;
- Have not listened to the real experts - doctors, nurses and patients - when they have given warnings about these plans;
- Have been rushed through without testing them properly first; and
- May cut beds, wards, doctors or nurses - implicating patient care.

Come to the *Kill the Bill* Public Meeting on Thursday 21st April, 7pm, Mechanics Institute, N. Sherwood Street, Nottingham and the Notts SOS Health group planning meeting 7.30pm Tuesday 29th March Friends Meeting House. For more information see Notts SOS website <http://www.nottssos.org.uk>  
To sign the petition go to <http://www.38degrees.org.uk> and click on SAVE OUR NHS.

### **Anti Academies Alliance to launch Nottingham/Notts-wide website**

Following a public meeting in Nottingham on 8 March, the Anti Academies Alliance is to launch a new website for teachers, parents, governors, school students and anyone else who wants to campaign against academies across the city and county. This will provide model letters and other documents, information about local and national campaigns and links to sources of further information. It will also include local contacts so that anyone who wants to fight against their local school becoming an academy can find support, advice and information. Further details will be put on the Notts SOS website once the site is up and running. If anyone can help us to develop the website, please contact us at:

[broxtowe@antiacademies.org.uk](mailto:broxtowe@antiacademies.org.uk)

*Notts Save Our Services* **Phone:** 07940 952825 **Email:** [nottssos@gmail.com](mailto:nottssos@gmail.com) **Web:** <http://nottssos.org.uk>

# Out of the Woods?

## Campaign group rambles against woodland cutbacks

*Save Sherwood Forest*, together with forest campaign groups across the country and strongly supported by the general public, won an amazing victory by forcing the government to abandon its proposal to sell 258,000 hectares of state-owned woodland managed by the Forestry Commission. In celebration, campaigners joined national vice-president of the Ramblers Association, Paddy Tipping, for a stroll through Sherwood Pines on World Forest Day – Sunday 20 March.



Photograph from a previous protest in February

But the group warns; “Although we’ve won this particular battle we are not out of the woods yet. Cuts of 25% to Forestry Commission England announced in the 2010 spending review will severely compromise the commission’s ability to retain a decent forestry estate, with protected access and services, and to protect biodiversity, wildlife and the environment; all of which combats climate change.”

In addition, Nottinghamshire County Council is implementing large budget cuts, which will also have profound consequences to those employed to care for the Sherwood Forest area.

In response to these cuts, *Save Sherwood Forest* has joined the newly formed Forests Campaigns Network, and will continue to show the government that it does not intend to let them get away with any further attempts to privatise our forests.

For more information, including future meetings of the group see [www.savesherwoodforest.org.uk](http://www.savesherwoodforest.org.uk) or [www.nottssos.org.uk](http://www.nottssos.org.uk)

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## GET INVOLVED – What can we do?

### **Anti-cuts activities and Notts SOS meetings from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March. More on the web.**

- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March The March for the Alternative in London. Places still available on buses from Nottingham, see TUC website at [www.nottstuc.org](http://www.nottstuc.org) for information.
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March Notts SOS Planning Meeting, 7.30pm at the ICC, Mansfield Road. Everyone welcome – come along and join us and bring your ideas.
- Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> April ‘Save Our NHS – Kill the Bill.’ Public Meeting co-organised by SOS at The Mechanics Institute, 3, North Sherwood Street, 7pm -9pm. Professor Colin Leys and local experts will explain the threat to the NHS and answer your questions about what the dangers are to the NHS and what needs to be done to protect it.

**Many more dates and activities will be available after the Notts SOS planning Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Keep your eyes on the Notts SOS website after this for details. Also keep a look out for local UK Uncut activities, the latest 38 Degrees campaigns on their website, and arrangements for Mayday celebrations and protests in Nottingham on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April.**

*Tell your workmates, friends and neighbours about our campaign and get involved in saving our services.*