

# Public Meeting on Austerity ahead of 2015 General Election

Written by Administrator

Friday, 20 March 2015 11:14 - Last Updated Monday, 23 March 2015 10:48

## STROUD FIGHTS BACK AGAINST AUSTERITY

The average UK person earned £33 less each week in 2014 than in 2009, or £1750 less than 5 years ago. It's not only wages - terms, conditions and pensions are also being cut

Those who can't find or are unable to work have been faced with an cuts to benefits, and the threat of sanctions. More and more people rely on foodbanks - over 900,000 received 3 days emergency food in 2013/14.

In England, local government spending has fallen 29% between 2009 and 2015. Gloucestershire County Council has cut £120 million from its budget - with services like libraries and youth centres closing or being left to volunteers to run.




The NHS is experiencing it's worst funding squeeze in 50 years and thanks to the Health & Social Care Act 2012, the market in our NHS has expanded - services are forced into expensive auctions or 'tenders' with more and more privatisation taking place - our local non-emergency ambulances are now run by Arriva and the pharmacy service in our community hospitals will now be run by Lloyds.

The Royal Mail has been privatised, and the expansion of free-schools and academies are slowly privatising our education system.

Disabled people and women have been hit hard by policies like the bedroom tax and cuts to legal aid.

### HOW CAN WE FIGHT CUTS & PRIVATISATION? COME TO THE PUBLIC MEETING AND HAVE YOUR SAY

**MONDAY 23rd MARCH, 7pm**  
The Old Town Hall, in The Shambles,  
Stroud, GL5 1AP

 [contact@stroudagainstcuts.co.uk](mailto:contact@stroudagainstcuts.co.uk)  [@stroudanticuts](https://twitter.com/@stroudanticuts)  07734 058789

## STROUD AGAINST THE CUTS AUSTERITY ELECTION DEBATE

**MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> March 7-9.30pm**

(debate starts at 7.15pm prompt)

**STROUD OLD TOWN HALL**

The Shambles, GL5 1AP

Chaired by Rev. Simon Topping, and featuring the following candidates and representatives:



**Haydn Jones**, District Councillor for Severn



**Sarah Lunnon**, parliamentary candidate for Stroud



**David Drew**, parliamentary candidate for Stroud



**Adrian Walker-Smith**, parliamentary candidate for Stroud



**Sue Powell**, parliamentary candidate for Gloucester



**Caroline Stephens**, parliamentary candidate for Stroud

[www.stroudagainstcuts.co.uk](http://www.stroudagainstcuts.co.uk)

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Our next public meeting is again at The Old Town Hall in the Shambles, Stroud (GL5 1AP). We will be looking at the effects of Austerity in the UK and discussing "How we can fight cuts and privatisation", all in the context of the forthcoming General Election. All are welcome, and entrance is free, with a collection to cover costs.

Candidates from local political parties will be present to debate in a question time style event.

Confirmed speakers:

Adrian Walker-Smith, Liberal Democrat candidate for Stroud constituency

Caroline Stephens, UKIP candidate for Stroud constituency

David Drew, Labour Party candidate for Stroud constituency

Haydn Jones, Conservative Stroud District Councillor for the Severn ward.

Sarah Lunnon, Green Party candidate for Stroud constituency

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Sue Powell, Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition candidate for Gloucester constituency

We have now been informed that a representative for the MyStroudMP campaign hopes to attend (Richard Wilson, the candidate, cannot)