

03/07/2016 Press Release: Campaigners mark 69th anniversary of NHS founding

What: Picnic with food and drink, music, face-painting and sharing of thoughts on the NHS

When: Wednesday 5th July, from 6pm (till around 8pm)

Where: Trinity Pocket Park, next to the Trinity Rooms (opposite Stroud Hospital/Stroud Maternity Hospital)

Description:

It's the 69th anniversary of the founding of the NHS on Wednesday July 5th 2017 (1), and campaign group Stroud Against the Cuts (2) will be holding a bring

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and

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share picnic

involving music, face-painting, and thoughts on the past, present and future of the NHS - including

short updates on local and national NHS campaigning

. The event is

part of the

national

Health Campaigns Together week of events and action in every area

(3)

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which kicked off with

the

“Not One Day More” demonstration in London on Saturday

1st July

(4)

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Organisers are inviting people to d

ress in 1948-style or wear NHS blue/white, and to prepare

"party pieces" - short comments on recent experiences of the NHS, memories of how the service has changed, and perspectives on which aspects of the NHS we should celebrate.

Quote:

James Beecher, one of the organisers said: “We want to celebrate the principles behind the NHS – of comprehensive and universal health care provided on the basis of need not ability to pay, paid from taxation – the fairest way. We think high-quality, prompt, healthcare needs well-trained, well-rewarded workers – and that achieving a system that provides this efficiently and affordably means a service that is publicly owned and run – accountable to the public. On Wednesday, we will both celebrate the NHS and reaffirm our commitment to fight the policies which have undermined our the service in recent years and

decades - through privatisation, emphasis on competition rather than cooperation, and attacks on the terms and conditions of workers – from doctors and nurses to cleaners. We'll be mentioning the ongoing local Minor Injuries Units, privatisation of the Out of Hours service, the problems of the 'Sustainability and Transformation Plan' for Gloucestershire and other aspects of health campaigning locally and nationally."

[More information is available on the Stroud Against the Cuts website](#) and on [Facebook](#)

Notes:

1. The 5th July is the day then Health Secretary Aneurin Bevan launched the *NHS* at Park Hospital in Manchester (now known as Trafford General Hospital)
. Stroud Against the Cuts held a similar celebratory picnic last year and plan to hold a larger event to mark the 70th anniversary in 2018.

2. [Stroud Against the Cuts](#) was formed in November 2010, and in 2011/12 successfully fought to prevent privatisation of Gloucestershire's community health services – the event, like that campaign, is organised under the Keep Gloucestershire's NHS Public name through which the group is affiliated to national groups Keep Our NHS Public and Health Campaigns Together.

3. [Health Campaigns Together](#) is a national network of national and local groups campaigning on health policy.

4. Members of Stroud Against the Cuts joined [thousands of people at the Not One Day More demonstration in London](#), on a coach of 65 people including members of Unite Community, Cheltenham & Gloucester Against Cuts, Unite the Unison and other groups.