

PIE MASH mutual aid Newsletter



Late June 2022

pienmash.org.uk

THE TORIES KEEP BLAMING US FOR *THEIR* FAILURES

Tory MPs like to pretend that we can't afford to eat because we "can't budget" or even "cannot cook properly" (Lee Anderson in Parliament in May). They hope we don't notice that widespread and growing poverty in the UK was caused by his party's policies.

We at Pie N' Mash were horrified to hear these despicable views being aired by someone so powerful, but weren't surprised to hear this coming from a Tory. The rich people who keep the Tories in power with their funding and their media are getting what they paid for. The rich keep our wages low, our rents high and their profits growing. Politicians could use the state to invest our money in our children's futures, but instead they are cutting the services we need. It's class war by the rich against the rest of us.

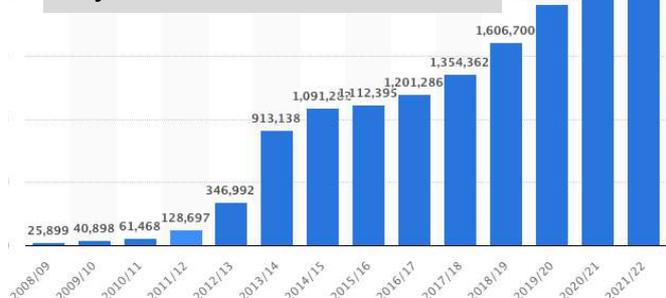
It's this class war that means people are going hungry in one of the richest countries in the world. Lee Anderson claimed that "you can make a meal for 30p a day... and this is cooking from scratch." Anderson doesn't know about how people survive - or pretends he doesn't know. People can't afford food that gives them nutrition and not just empty calories. People can't afford to cook because energy bills have skyrocketed.

Anderson, who gets paid £84,144 a year to spout nonsense in Westminster, also described his local foodbank. This foodbank forces hungry people "to register for a budgeting course and a cooking course" just to get the food they need to survive. This is just another example of the "individual responsibility" lie Tories always use. The chart below shows that 100 times more people are now using food banks than 12 years ago. Have 2.5 million people forgotten how to cook or how to budget? Or have the Tories and their rich donors driven us into poverty?

At Pie N' Mash, we believe people when they tell us that they are in need, and we never blame them for the difficulties they face, ever. We understand that times are hard at the moment for far, far too many people. We know that a helping hand should never come with terms and conditions. We aren't a foodbank, we aren't a registered charity, we are a community of people recognising our shared humanity and doing what any good person would do when they see someone in trouble. The Tory dictatorship may want to tell themselves that the poor deserve to suffer, but we see them for the liars and thieves that they are.

We believe in mutual aid, since a person in a position of helping one day may need support on the next. In a world that is so cruel and callous, we believe in helping each other and showing love to everyone who needs a helping hand, and we believe that this is the most revolutionary thing that we can do.

In 2009, 26k people were using food banks. It increased x100 in 11 years to 2.5 MILLION.



GET INVOLVED

Everyone at Pie N Mash is a member of the community and shares their time freely. The more people involved the lighter the load.

We are especially looking for people to **pack food parcels** and do other tasks at The Field

- Tuesday 12.30pm to 3pm
- Wednesday noon to 6pm
- Thursday noon to 4pm
- Friday noon to 2pm

and to **deliver food parcels**

Wednesdays from 4.30 and Thursdays from midday.

and to run our food and outreach stalls in Peckham on Tuesday afternoons and Deptford Thursday afternoons.

If you can only do evenings and weekends, maybe you can pick up donations or do admin!

To learn more or get involved, fill in the application form on our website, or contact us.

DONATE

We always welcome financial support - we'll take cash or you can donate via our website at this link:



PECKHAM SQUARE UPDATE:

Weekly food distribution in Peckham Square is one of the most important, and logistically challenging, parts of the week at Pie N' Mash. Unlike at Deptford Square, we can't currently store equipment at the library next door, and most of us are based further away, which means we are more reliant on cars to transport everything we need.

These issues have meant that we've been struggling to get everything in order each Tuesday. We don't have guaranteed access to a car and, since we have agreed that we need a minimum of 4 people each time to make sure that everyone is safe, we haven't had enough people available between 1:30 and 4 to go ahead with the square. Although we never want to leave people without food, we've been forced to cancel last minute too many times. Each time this has happened we've been really disappointed, so we have taken the difficult decision to take a break until we can sort out these kinks.

Pie N' Mash is not a charity. When we distribute food at Peckham Square we do not believe that one side is "helping", and the other is "being helped". We believe that we are all part of the same community supporting each other, and we need **YOUR** help to make sure that we can keep doing what we're doing.

If you come to the Square for food, we would love to show you how we make this happen, so that you can help us make sure you, and the Peckham community as a whole, gets fed each and every week.

Could you help us bring food to Peckham Square each week? Issues we need help sorting out include:

- 1) **Numbers.** We are finding it really difficult to bring enough people together each week so that the Square can be safe and fair for everyone. Are you free from 1:30 to 4 each Tuesday? Getting involved will involve a causal induction process so that you are prepared to distribute food fairly and safely. We promise this isn't hard!
- 2) **Transport.** We really need a car, or people with cargo bikes or bike trailers, to help us out with moving equipment from the Field (our base) to Peckham Square.

If you want to get involved please contact us at 07857024435.



DROP IN AT THE FIELD

We have free tea & biscuits for all visitors on **Thursday afternoons 12 to 3.30**. We hope you'll stop in for a chat.



GARDENING AT THE FIELD

Sustainability is a massive part of the issue we face ecologically. Join us **Sundays 1-3pm** and learn from Katy how to grow vegetables.

Reading Group

The next Pie N Mash reading group meets Thursday 30th June at The Field:

7pm: Shared meal

7.30: Discussion of

Rewriting the Rules:

An Integrative Guide

to Love, Sex and

Relationships

by Meg Barker



ABOUT US

Pie N Mash is a community of over 300 people in south east London. As a mutual aid group, we work together to make sure we all have what we need to thrive.

ABOUT MUTUAL AID

But our project isn't just about food. It's also about growing the connections between people in our community. It's about getting to know each other and making friends in our local area. It's about understanding what makes our neighbours happy and what worries them. It's about coming together to solve problems and celebrate achievements. It's about helping people when they ask and being able to ask when we need help too.



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