

UNISON Members Defend the NHS



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Welcome from the new Branch
Secretary

Contact Hampshire
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Hampshire UNISON congratulates and sends its gratitude to workers in Wigan who took strike action to defend the NHS and won.

UNISON, Unite and GMB workers at the Wrightington, Wigan and Leeds (WWL) NHS trust voted to take strike action to prevent 900 members of staff being transferred to a wholly owned subsidiary company.

The trust's aim was to put support staff on to worse contracts in order to cut costs. The introduction of arms-length companies in the NHS is part of a wider attempt by the current government to dismember the service, with a view

towards introducing a privatised, insurance-based system by stealth.

This is something NHS workers refuse to accept. Happily the workers at the WWL trust won their dispute; the action they took led to the trust abandoning its plans, protecting their working conditions and the public who depend on them.

That our NHS is being stretched to breaking point is news to no one. Speaker after speaker at this year's annual National Delegate Conference gave their accounts of how the impact of cuts and reforms are being felt in their workplaces and communities. It is clear

that the situation facing workers in the NHS, social care, and the wider public sector is growing increasingly difficult. Delegates at the conference made their voices heard; members want support from the union's leadership to help them take actions to preserve in-house provision and defend our public services. This means, among other things, logistical help to enable them take industrial action when there is support for this among members in a workplace.

More attacks are on the way but union members and community organisations are determined to fight back, together we can save our NHS.

inclusive learning project

"It's never too late to return to learning"

Hampshire UNISON

Learn with UNISON!

UNISON has a fantastic training programme for activists, but did you know that we also offer a range of life-long learning opportunities for all members?

Regional Learning Development Organiser Louise Barter is working with a number of branches in the South East, to help develop a structured and systematic approach to learning and organising in the region.

Hampshire UNISON is one of the branches taking part in the project, which is funded by the Union Learning Fund and backed by the Depart-

ment of Education.

"Everybody gets something out of learning a new skill, and it's brilliant that UNISON are able to offer members and potential members opportunities to improve their skills, at a time when training Budgets with employers are under immense pressure," Louise says.

"It's never too late to return to learning, and the courses offer a great opportunity to get people together and learn in an informal and relaxed environment, a far cry from the memories of school days."

We hope to encourage members to take up informal learning opportunities to help improve their English, maths, and digital skills; and can also offer a range of practical short courses such as Stress Management, Confidence Building, the Menopause, Managing your Finances, and Dealing with Change at Work, delivered by the Open University.

We will soon be sending out a survey to members to register interest in courses, so look out for it and take the opportunity to return to learning!

Tolpuddle Martyrs



The annual Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival took place on 19-21st July.

The festival commemorates the deportation of six agricultural labourers in 1834 for "administering an unlawful oath". In reality they had been punished for attempting to form a trade union branch, despite the fact the law allowed for this.

What followed was a mass campaign that forced the government of the day to



back down and pardon the men .

Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival is a celebration of working class solidarity, of a vision of equality and freedom, and of what we can achieve against the odds and despite the efforts of the powerful.

Hampshire UNISON hope to put on a coach to Tolpuddle next year, so get in touch if you are interested.

Tolpuddle Old Chapel Trust



The Methodist chapel used by four of the six of the martyrs still stands as an empty building in the Dorset village. It is in urgent need of repair and a local community organisation has taken it upon themselves to help save the building. You can find out more about them online. The trust has put out an appeal for donations.

The building is a part of the history of our movement. Let us know if this is something you would like the branch to donate towards.

Retired Members

Could you design our banner?

Our members often attend events and demonstrations and we have, so far, constructed signs for them to carry. However, your committee thinks that the time has come to have our own banner.

Can you help with the design, which will be of the type carried by two people? While purple and green are the UNISON colours, we offer you total freedom with the design and colours used.

The only stipulations are that it reflects Hampshire and it

says 'Hampshire UNISON Retired Members Section' in large letters across it.

Send me a sketch of your ideas to Hampshire Unison, Clarendon House, Monarch Way, Winchester SO22 5PW or simply a description by email to dianabarnes@outlook.com

Go on, have a go: maybe in the near future a banner of your design will be paraded at events around the country!

Diana Barnes
Chair of Hampshire UNISON Retired Members Section

Obituary -
Lewis Pennycook

We are sad to note that UNISON activist Lewis Pennycook died aged 101 on 8th July.

Many members will remember him: over those years he had held all the posts in UNISON Retired Members' Section: Treasurer, Secretary and Chair, and was still attending our AGMs, well into his nineties with his mind as sharp as ever, until three years ago.

Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

Step up for public services!

Report: Step up for public services — 12th May Trades Union Congress demonstration

Thousands of trade union members, including two from Hampshire UNISON Retired Members Group, marched through central London in the rain to protest against eight years of austerity caused by the primary school economics and greed of Wall Street and our own financial centre in London.

Primarily the call of this mass demonstration was for the proper funding of our public services and the NHS, a ban on zero hours contracts, a minimum wage of £10 per hour, repeal of the Trades Union Act and a crackdown on tax dodgers. The march took place in a carnival atmosphere with music and dancing.

Most unions were represented, with the purple of UNISON visible as far as the eye could see. It was encouraging to see how many young people were supporting this well organised event. The many police in attendance were relaxed and friendly, apart from their wretched helicopter chattering overhead.

On arrival at Hyde Park, union general secretaries were in abundance, including our own Dave Prentis.

They made lively speeches interspersed with talks by working members explaining how austerity was making their

lives and those of their families very difficult.

A few songs from one of the Sex Pistols and then the star turn, Jeremy Corbyn. He is an impressive speaker and we hope if he gains power he does everything he says he will.

Chris O'Neill



Welcome to the Hampshire UNISON Summer Newsletter

Since I took up the role of Branch Secretary in early May, myself and the branch team have been working hard to ensure that we are doing our very best for our members. We have developed and agreed a branch strategy which keeps you, the membership, at the heart of what we do.

We have established a strong branch committee. Enthusiasts from among you have been newly elected to branch officer roles, joining with our experienced branch officers we have great ideas and energy; we are working together with a real sense of purpose. We have set systems in place to ensure that we are effective and efficient in everything that we do; in managing consultations, mentoring new stewards and branch officers and in our communications; the new website is up and running, next we will turn our attention to our Facebook page & twitter.

We have established and maintain both a case and contact register enabling us to allocate convenors and stewards, as appropriate, to a member enquiry or case. These systems and procedures mean that we have a clear overview of what is happening on the ground amongst our membership. It also helps us to be transparent and accountable to you.

Most recently we have established a Transformation 19 (T19) Strategy Group. Our Hampshire County Council (HCC) members will know what T19 is but many of you may not. As part of this Government's austerity agenda councils have suffered huge funding cuts. This has led to a great many consultations and has meant that there have been threats across the county to our members' jobs and to our public services; all Hampshire UNISON members will feel the impact of the cuts.

We all know someone who has been affected whether directly or indirectly; you may have been made redundant, you may have had your hours cut, your workplace may have been contracted to a new private employer or you may be someone left behind covering an increased and unsustainable workload. You may be a service user, or know someone who is; these cuts will reach us all.

What can you do?

- Tell us about the impact of the cuts in your workplace and to services where you live, email unison@hants.gov.uk.
- Become a workplace steward – it is vital that, if you don't already have a steward in your workplace, that you come together and elect one. Your steward, with support from the branch, and training from UNISON, will speak out for UNISON members in your workplace.
- Get involved and stand for a branch officer role, a small number of posts remain: Disability Officer, Environment Officer and Welfare Officer. You will be supported in your new role and training is provided.
- Take a look at the new website and tell us if there is any information that you would like to see there that isn't already, thank you.

We are looking forward to hearing from you,

Emma
Hampshire UNISON, Branch Secretary

Don't miss another issue! Contact unison@hants.gov.uk and supply us with an up-to-date email address to receive regular news from your branch by email

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