



the ACTIVIST

Issue 30: September 2018

GMB News From Around The Region



GMB collaboration with More In Common is a huge success

THE PRIDE OF BATLEY

Community groups from across Batley and the surrounding area came together on Saturday, 22nd September to take part in what was Batley's first ever Pride event.

The event, which was held at Wilton Park, had hundreds of people in attendance, and brought together every section of the community. The day's events kicked off at 11am with an official opening by Mayor of Kirklees and GMB member, Councillor Gwen Lowe.

Stall holders included event organisers Locala, the Batley-based social enterprise healthcare provider, West Yorkshire Police, LGBT+ Sport Fringe Fest, Friends of Wilton Park, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, More In Common and GMB. There was live music throughout the day, an array of food vendors and fun and games for all the family. Although the event was free, people coming along were asked to 'bring a tin to get in' so that volunteers could collect donations of tins of food and other items for Batley Food Bank, which is a GMB supported charity.

Lou Foster-Wilson, GMB's equality officer, said: **"When we heard that Batley was hosting its first Pride we just had to get involved, so as part of our collaboration with More In Common, we took up the opportunity to share a stall with them. It was a great day and a true celebration of the diversity within Batley. This event will hopefully be a springboard for future events, in particular when we take over Batley Market Place for a Show Racism The Red Card event on the 19th October, which will take place during Hate Crime Awareness Week."**



GMB member Gwen Lowe opens Pride

In this issue...

Batley Pride.....	1
GMB@TUC.....	2
Show Racism The Red Card.....	3
REC Profile.....	4
Happy Retirement.....	5
Heart Of Gold.....	6

**Watch out for our
Politics@Work Labour Party
Conference Special coming
soon.**

THE ACTIVIST

GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN

0345 337 7777 www.gmbbyorkshire.org.uk

The Activist@TUC



TUC CONGRESS 2018: MANCHESTER

It is the TUC's 150th year and the celebrations formed an important part of the TUC Congress which was held in Manchester in September. Congress is where the movement decides its priorities for the coming year, and what the TUC should do to achieve them. Each union sends delegates and raises issues for discussion and debate.

This year, the Yorkshire & North Derbyshire regional delegation was made up of Neil Derrick, Regional Secretary, Joshua Smith, GMB young member from GMB Organising Branch and Tommy Hall from Yorkshire C & T Branch. Once again our speakers were second to none and Neil moved Composite 7 on Public Service Outsourcing. In his speech to conference Neil said:

"Many unions in this hall have first-hand experience of the failures of privatisation and outsourcing. None more so than GMB members working in the water industry, living as they do with the legacy of one of Margaret Thatcher's early experiments.

Our members have seen up close what happens when a public service is run in the interest of spivs, speculators and fat cats. Pensions and pay under attack, workforce numbers squeezed and a two person job now done by one. Of course the health and safety risks don't matter to the employer if it means lower employment costs and even more money for shareholders.

Customers pay the price too with higher bills, burst and collapsing pipes and a service stretched to breaking point. Since 1989 the average water bill in England and Wales has increased by 40% above inflation.

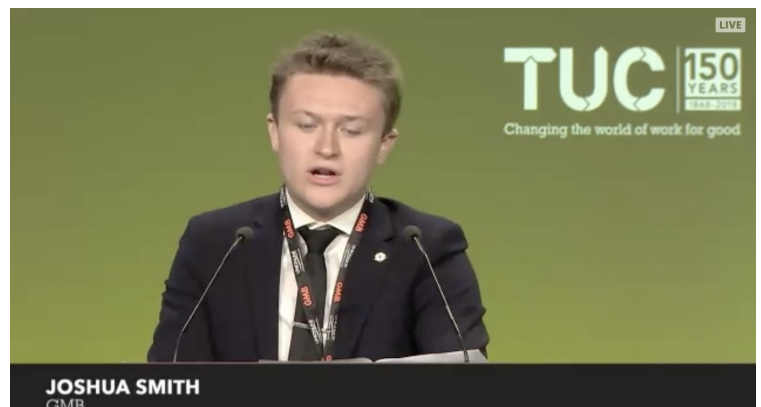


At a time when working people are struggling to make ends meet, they are paying the price for a public service that is no longer focused on the public. Let's not forget that these companies are private monopolies. There is no competition. We all need water and they supply it. Those at the top have been given a licence to print money. GMB research has revealed that in the last five years the chief executive of England's nine privatised water companies each took home an average of £1.2 million through their annual salary, bonuses, pension contributions and shares.

So GMB's 'Take Back The Tap' Campaign aims to take the failures of privatisation by returning our water companies back to public ownership. Labour and the public are fully on board. Privatised water has failed. It is bad for the customer, bad for workers and bad for our environment. Let's take it back."

WELL DONE JOSHUA

Joshua Smith from GMB Organising Branch spoke on Motion 40: Austerity, Artists and Discrimination, which focused on combating under-representation in the creative industries and fighting hardships within the gig economy. Joshua received overwhelming support and a standing ovation.



THE ACTIVIST

GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN

0345 337 7777 www.gmbbyorkshire.org.uk

The Activist



EQUALITY CALENDAR

October sees a busy time in the Equality Calendar for our region, and below are just two of the events taking place.

Women's Equality Conference

Saturday, 13th October is our Regional Women's Conference which will be held at Leeds Civic Hall, (contact louise.foster-wilson@gmb.org.uk if you wish to book a space).

Hate Crime Awareness Week

Monday, 15th October is the start of Hate Crime Awareness Week and we will incorporate Show Racism the Red Card Day which will take place on **Friday, 19th October**.

We have produced posters and leaflets for use and are asking all our activists to go into their workplaces to spread the message that racism and hate crime is unacceptable.

Let's ensure that Yorkshire and North Derbyshire is a sea of red on Show Racism the Red Card Wear Red Day and don't forget to send us your photos. If you are interested in getting involved please contact your local office on **0345 337 7777**.

**SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD**

GMB CONTINGENT INDEMNITY INSURANCE FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE MEMBERS

GMB provides cover for members working in health care in both the NHS and Private Sector. Employers providing health care have a duty of care and are vicariously liable for the actions of their employees. GMB expects that any NHS authority or employer in the health care industry would use their own liability policy to defend their employees. The GMB policy provides GMB members with Contingent Indemnity cover which would be used to protect you from your employer's failings.



Sarah Irvin (Airedale Hospital)

WHAT IS COVERED?

- A) Contingent Medical Malpractice**
- B) Contingent Public Liability**
- C) Compensation For Court Attendance**
- D) Property of Patients Held in Trust or In Custody or Control**

In addition to this free insurance cover, in partnership with UNIONLINE and Blackfords LLP, GMB will cover disciplinary defence costs, subject to GMB rules. In the event of a member attending any proceedings before the Nursing and Midwifery Council, or any equivalent competent body, in connection with a claim against the member, the member's costs will be covered, at the union's discretion.



Kim Storton (Airedale Hospital)

For full details of the scheme and to find out if you are covered: [click here](#) or call GMB on 0345 337 7777.

THE ACTIVIST

GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN

0345 337 7777 www.gmbbyorkshire.org.uk

The Activist

TAXrefundCo.
...tax made simple

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO A TAX REFUND

As a member of GMB Yorkshire & North Derbyshire you are eligible to have your tax code checked by professional tax experts at The Tax Refund Company.

If you know what to look for you might be able to spot where HMRC has sent you or your employer the wrong codes and then sort the problem out yourself. If not, the GMB are working in conjunction with The Tax Refund Company and are pleased to offer you the opportunity to receive a professional tax code review, by their leading tax code experts. They will check the tax you've paid in the last four years and get your money back from HMRC if you've paid too much. The main points to note are:

- If there is no tax refund you pay no fee. The service is entirely free of charge
- For every £1 refunded, you keep 62p (minimum fee £38*)
- You keep 100% of any future savings you make from a new tax code
- Dog handlers in particular are frequently found to have paid too much tax

To have your tax codes checked and see if you are due a tax refund, [click here](#) **This is your hard earned money. Why let The Revenue keep it?**

*If your refund is less than £38 the minimum fee will be reduced to the same value as your refund so you have nothing more to pay.

Any Questions? **Call The Tax Refund Company on 0161 968 7345 (Mon–Fri 9am–5pm) or see their Frequently Asked Questions at www.thetaxrefundcompany.co.uk/fags**

UNIONLINE

YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM

0300 333 0303
www.unionline.co.uk



PROFILE OF A REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER:

"I'm Eric Batty and I've been married to Doreen for 47 years and have 2 daughters and 6 grandchildren ranging from 21 to 7. I am Branch Secretary for Rotherham General & Mcp

Branch, I sit on the Regional Council and Regional Executive Committee. I also sit on the National Branch Reform Working Group and the newly formed Public Services/Local Government Section Committee.

I first became involved with trade unions in 1967 and with GMB in 2000 after leaving Unison. When I left school I went to work at Wombwell Main Colliery where my father was a Branch President for the National Union of Mineworkers, so there was always talk of unions in the family home. I moved on from the colliery to have several other jobs and I was always the one in the workplace to challenge management if I saw injustice and inequality and my passion to be a trade unionist built up from there.

At 18 I decided the military was the place for me, so I joined a mainly Yorkshire Regiment, the 13/18th Royal Hussars, where I was posted to Germany and subsequently did a tour of Northern Ireland in 1972, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Due to personal circumstances I asked for a compassionate discharge which was granted.

I had four more jobs after leaving the forces, eventually becoming a bailiff for Rotherham Borough Council in 1988, and that is how I got involved with the Council and became very active within the Trade Union Movement.

My most memorable moments are attendance at some of the London rallies on pensions and austerity, just seeing the volume of people present all with a common cause to fight the injustice of the Government's war against public services. Also when our current General Secretary, Tim Roache came into the region as Regional Secretary, as he was a breath of fresh air with a real passion to change the region for the better."

THE ACTIVIST

GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN

0345 337 7777 www.gmbbyorkshire.org.uk

The Activist



L to R: Steve Rosse (Cadent Gas) with Paul Bolton and Stuart Renton (British Gas)

GMB'S ARMY OF REPS JUST KEEPS ON GROWING

A big welcome to Steve Rosse from Cadent Gas and Paul Bolton and Stuart Renton from British Gas who have just become GMB representatives. Steve, Paul and Stuart will be a valuable addition to our Brighouse team and we wish them well in their GMB role.

If you would like to become a workplace representative then speak to your GMB Organiser or call your local office on 0345 337 7777.

SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS

Representatives from GMB Organising Branch have had a busy summer working on organising initiatives in the west of the region. Tangerine Confectionary has seen a significant increase in membership. As we go to print, the company has been contacted with a request to meet GMB to discuss a formal recognition agreement.



Neil Derrick and Kalvinder Degun

HAPPY RETIREMENT KALVINDER

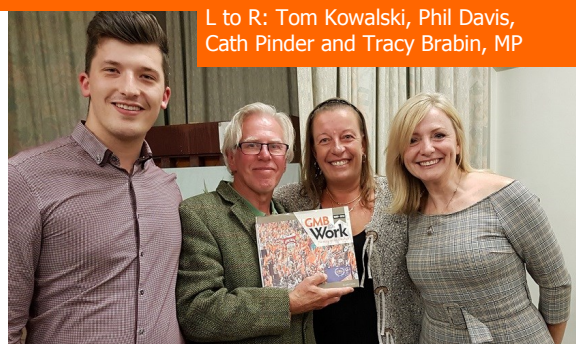
GMB's Regional Finance Officer, Kalvinder Degun, is celebrating her retirement after a staggering 40 years working for GMB. Her career began in April 1978 in the Sick Fund Section, at the regional office which was based in Leeds. The GMB was called the General Municipal Workers' Union and Frank Booth was the Regional Secretary. Kalvinder progressed to the Check-Off Section in 1990 and then became the Assistant Finance Officer in 1989 before finally being appointed the region's Finance Officer in 2000. Kalvinder has worked under seven Regional Secretaries over the last 40 years.

Commenting, Kalvinder said: **"It has been a privilege working with such a variety of people, in particular, our activists and members who are the GMB. I have gained skills and knowledge due to the many changes and enjoyed the challenges. The time has just flown by."**

BATLEY GETS VIP VISIT

GMB activists and CLP members at Batley & Spen Labour

Party presented acclaimed actor, Phil Davis, with a History of the GMB book when he addressed their CLP meeting in September. Phil is famed for his roles in Quadrophenia, Bleak House, Silk, Sherlock, Poldark and Whitechapel, to name but a few.



L to R: Tom Kowalski, Phil Davis, Cath Pinder and Tracy Brabin, MP

THE ACTIVIST

GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN

0345 337 7777 www.gmbbyorkshire.org.uk

The Activist



GMB BESIDE THE SEASIDE

During August and September this year, eight coach loads of retired GMB members from the region enjoyed their annual day out to Bridlington, Blackpool and the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Museum.

York members enjoyed lunch at the Revelstoke Hotel and a sunny day in Bridlington.

Leeds and Bradford members enjoyed another fine day in Blackpool with lunch at the Cliffs Hotel on Queens Promenade.

Sheffield members travelled to Lakeside Park for a three course lunch, followed by visits to the market town of Louth and the Aviation Museum at East Kirkby to view the Lancaster bomber named the City of Sheffield.

A fantastic time was had by all so many thanks to our GMB teams at Sheffield, Wakefield and York for administrating the trips and to Neil Moore, GMB retired member from York, who does a fantastic job in organising and co-ordinating the events.

Latest Inflation: August 2018

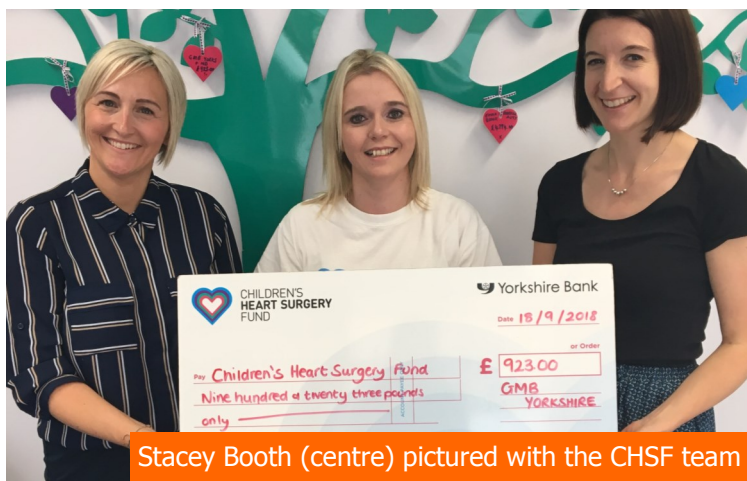
CPI 2.7% RPI 3.5%



GMB Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Region



@GMBCampaigns



Stacey Booth (centre) pictured with the CHSF team

HEART OF GOLD

"As Organiser for the NHS and Yorkshire Ambulance Service, I have had many ideas to help raise the GMB profile in relation to our campaign strategies, but this time it was different. As a regular Heart FM listener I heard about their 'Global's Make Some Noise' fundraiser for small charities and thought how great it would be to help those who access the NHS as a patient and see it from the other side. One of the nominated charities was the Children's Heart Surgery Fund in Leeds.

I came up with the idea of a cycle ride using static exercise bikes loaned by Leeds City Council and thanks to the support of GMB members David Greenwood and Jonathan Edwards, I was able to get them transported to Leeds General Infirmary for the event, all I needed then was cyclists and event organisers for the day. GMB came to the rescue and I had support from GMB members, reps and staff. We even had Roger, the mascot for Yorkshire Rams, on hand to help with peddle power.

There were many memorable moments including GMB Organiser, Neil Cole, arriving dressed as Super Mario. But the best part of the day had to be getting to meet the families of children who our fundraising was going to help; some stories brought tears to our eyes and made all the hard work worth it. We collected over £200 in the bucket collection on the day and then with donations added from branches and staff the grand total was £923. I had the privilege of meeting the Children's Heart Surgery Fund team to hand over the cheque and have a GMB heart placed on their tree in the reception area."

Many thanks to all those involved and if anyone wishes to support the charity contact: Lisa.williams@chsf.org.uk

Stacey Booth – GMB Organiser

THE ACTIVIST

GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN

0345 337 7777 www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk