

Issue 2  
July 2016

## A TIME OF CHANGE

"Our country now faces profound change. The people have voted to leave the EU and the result must be respected" said Len McCluskey, Unite general secretary, following the EU referendum on 23 June 2016.

The result of the EU referendum has shown the UK to be divided. What is clear from the result is that there is a huge amount of work to be done to unite the country. There is also a lot of work to be done now to ensure that the rights and protections that EU membership has given the people of the UK are protected, and Unite the union will fight to make sure this happens.



The EU referendum campaign has shown that there is real despair in communities right across the UK. Len said "Too many feel that they have been abandoned by a political class that is not interested in their concerns and has imposed upon them an endless, grotesque austerity programme".

Recognising that there will now be a significant and difficult period of discussions between the EU and a new UK Prime Minister, Unite has vowed to do everything in its power to safeguard workers' rights, jobs and living standards.

As part of this, the TUC have launched a petition to MPs calling on them to protect workers' rights and to not cut a single right when interpreting EU law into UK law post Brexit.

<https://campaign.goingtowork.org.uk/petitions/don-t-cut-a-single-workers-right-in-uk-law?source=email>



## Regional Secretary's Welcome



The outcome of the EU Referendum has sent shockwaves through the UK political and economic system.

However, we must now work together to ensure that workers' rights are protected and defended against any future attacks.

We must, also, this month remember Jo Cox MP who was so tragically murdered in a politically motivated incident in June. Our thoughts will always be with Jo and her friends and family.

**Karen Reay**  
**Regional Secretary**

## POSSIBLE ACTION AT ARRIVA YORKSHIRE

Bus drivers at all Arriva depots in West Yorkshire are on the brink of industrial action following a lack of progress regarding this year's pay claim.

Talks have been ongoing for over six months, with the company making more than one unsatisfactory offer to members. These offers have all been rejected by members and the latest offer is currently out for ballot with a closing date of 15 July 2016.

Phil Bown, regional officer, said "should the latest offer be rejected by our members at Arriva, then a ballot for industrial action will commence on 18 July 2016 for three weeks".





# FIGHT GOES ON AT FIRST LEEDS

Workers at First Leeds have set two more dates for industrial action in the coming weeks. Meetings have been held with the company and these resulted in offers which were significantly less favourable than previous offers. Members, at a meeting, voted overwhelmingly to continue their action to secure a decent pay deal.

The decision to continue with the industrial action follows the suspension for two weeks of 14 workers, including the Branch Secretary.

Phil Bown, regional officer, said "the company seem in no rush to resolve these issues, but our members have voted to continue the struggle in the face of company opposition".



## WORKING TOGETHER ON WATER

A full time Union Officer from Sydney, Australia, recently visited the Leeds regional office to share best practice. Margaret Buchanan from Professionals Australia, is a colleague of Justine McCarthy, a former Leeds Officer FTO, and Justine contacted the Unite office after Sydney Water wanted to make changes in working practices citing Yorkshire Water as a model for these changes.

Whilst on holiday in the UK, Margaret took the opportunity to contact the Leeds Regional Office and Kelvin Mawer, regional officer, arranged for Margaret to meet with Unite reps and Yorkshire Water managers, as well as a visit to a clean water site in York.

Kelvin said "These meetings have given Margaret valuable knowledge and information to ensure our Australian colleagues can combat any changes that are a detriment to Union members. This highlights the strength of Unions across the world and shows how we can work closely together for our members".



## REMEMBERING JO COX MP

The politically motivated murder of Jo Cox MP on 16 June 2016 was a huge shock to everyone at Unite the union. As news broke of the attack on Jo in the heart of her constituency there was a deep sense of confusion and then grief.

In the days following Jo's murder we saw people right around the world coming together to show their respect and to show that we are united and that we will stand up to the hatred that led to this tragic event.



***"We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us"***

# NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE

Pressure has been building on the Home Secretary, Theresa May MP, to set up an independent enquiry into the violent policing at the Orgreave coking plant in 1984.

A rally was held on Saturday 18 June 2016 and a specially commissioned flag was flown on town halls, with Wakefield Council being the first local authority to agree to do so.

The rally was attended by members of the public, as well as Unite the union regional secretary, Karen Reay, and Unite the union staff and lay members.

Joe Rollin, Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign Chair, said "People from all over the country are telling us they have written to the Home Secretary, Theresa May, urging her to speed up the decision she promised when we made our legal submission to her six months ago.

After Hillsborough, the demand for accountability of those to whom we entrust responsibility for ensuring law and order in our communities has become unanswerable".



## NORWEGIAN GLOBALISATION SCHOOL 2016

The Norwegian Globalisation School is part of a decade-long exchange between Unite lay representatives in our region and their Norwegian counterparts. Over the years it has produced fertile discussions and action points between the two groups.

Every other year the unions alternate between a visit to Wortley Hall near Sheffield and a trade union centre in Norway. This year's programme at Wortley in early June focused on the EU which is always a great subject of debate, not least because Norway has never been a member of the EU. In the light of the UK referendum it was the ideal opportunity for all the reps to consider each other's views from different political and historical perspectives.



A workplace visit is always organised for the Norwegians and this year they were hosted by the Unite Branch at Bradford First. We also had Ian Lavery MP standing in for Jeremy Corbyn and John Dunn from the Orgreave Truth and Justice campaign, as well as Regional Committee member and trade union studies lecturer Steve Davison. For the Norwegians the visit was capped off with coffee with Sheffield City Councillor and Lord Mayor Denise Fox.

Regional Committee Chair, Dick Banks commented: " The exchange is always educational, inspiring and great fun. Being able to sit down with trade unionists from other countries always helps us to have a broader perspective on life and politics and you always come away with a sense of purpose and solidarity."



# JOIN US AT THE GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW - HARROGATE

12 – 14 JULY 2016

## *Our History* *Strength & unity*



Unite the Union would like to invite you to our free exhibition.  
Let us take you on a journey through our history.

- Discover the Yorkshire Luddites and what caused their uprising.
- Explore our struggles over the past 200 years including; Farming, Mining and the Suffragettes.
- Why Unite is as relevant today as ever, with campaigns such as 'Sports Direct Shame' and the 'Save Our Steel' campaign.

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## SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD



The retired members from NE/999/3, at their recent branch meeting held in regional office, Call Lane on Thursday, 23rd June were more than happy to have their photograph taken to show their support to an issue which can have an impact on all areas of peoples' lives who live and struggle daily with racism.

***#ShowRacismtheRedCard***



# LEGAL AND AFFILIATED SERVICES COORDINATOR SUPPORTS BARCLAYS REPS

Unite reps at Barclays, Millshaw Court, Leeds invited the regional legal & affiliated coordinator to attend another of their regular open/awareness days.

Held on Tuesday, 21st June, this is part of their ongoing commitment to helping and supporting existing and potential new members in the workplace. A thoroughly enjoyable day, as always with our very hard working reps.



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