

Spring 2023 Issue 24 Free

Enough Is Enough! Bolton UNISON members support nationwide disputes

> Bolton UNISON AGM With stalls, speakers, a raffle and review of the year

Bolton Women Lead the Way!
Building a powerful army of strong
and brilliant women leaders



UNISON at 30!

Members and activists pay tribute to Britain's biggest trade union



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Building a powerful army of strong and brilliant women leaders

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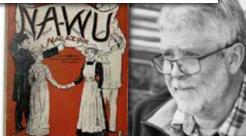
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Intro...

Jayne Clarke, Acting Branch Secretary of Bolton UNISON gives her review of the year...

elcome to your local UNISON magazine Battling for Bolton. You'll find most of the paperwork for the Annual General Meeting at lunchtime on Wednesday 8th March at Bolton Town Hall. All members are invited, and I hope that you will be able to attend.

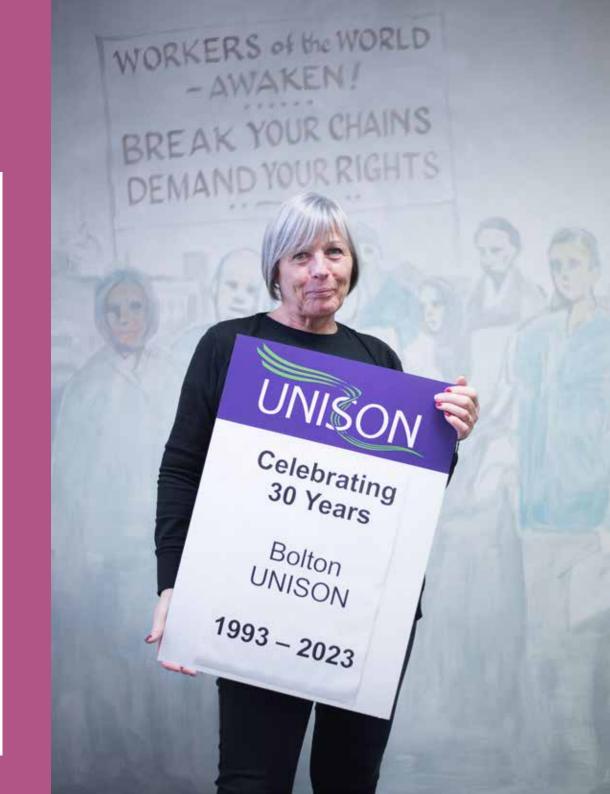
It's been a privilege to take on the role of Acting Branch Secretary, while Andrea Egan has continued her role as President of UNISON nationally, and to say we're very proud of her is an understatement. Andrea and other members of the union's National Executive are committed to making our union stronger and more accountable to members, working hard to deliver changes to ensure that UNISON is more responsive to the needs of members and local branches.

We've seen a year of unprecedented political and economic crisis over the past twelve months. We've all felt the direct impact of spiralling inflation with energy bills and other essential living costs rocketing. Rising fuel costs have had a huge impact too, particularly on those who need their cars for work, such as our low paid care workers.

Christmas should have been a joyous time, but, as poverty has increased with more and more families struggling, for many it was a time of despair and misery. UNISON's welfare charity, *There for You*, saw a massive rise in applications, particularly here in the North West. I'm proud to say that North West UNISON branches also donated the most money to support this vital union work. Two designated Energy Support Funds for members were completely exhausted within 24 hours (despite the Tory energy 'cap'). The next Energy Support Fund is due to be launched in March so look out for details.

Workers across the country have had enough of pay freezes, under staffing and crisis management. We support all those workers fighting back to demand better pay, as well as improved terms and conditions. As 2022 ended. we saw more join that fight...postal workers, dockers, barristers, Chep workers. OCS contract workers at Harbour Blackpool Hospital, Arriva bus drivers, train drivers, Polyflor workers as well as paramedics, nurses and many others across the NHS. A number of us have joined their picket lines organised through UNITE, RMT, ASLEF, UNISON, CWU and others to give branch support and donations. Workers on strike have always said this solidarity is a real morale booster and very much appreciated.

We saw massive cuts and restructures last year within Bolton Council and our members in Bolton at Home, Bolton





Cares and Bolton College have had their own fights too. Membership with the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) continues to grow. Bolton UNISON has been actively involved in UNISON North West's Care Workers for Change campaign. With support from Bolton UNISON Branch, members are increasingly standing up to (sometimes hostile) employers and we are beginning to see some really positive results.

Sadly, we saw the closing of Harvey Nursery, the Council's last remaining nursery, but we're proud of our members and their campaigning fight. They gained widespread support and publicity which won the nursery extra time.

It's good to know that as a branch, together, we lead on our organising and calling on employers to improve terms and conditions. Within Bolton Council we have successfully argued for a Disability Policy and a Reasonable Adjustment Passport for those who need additional support to remain in work. We are encouraging other employers to follow suit. There is a lot of work being done regarding equalities and to encourage people to participate in the union. Our Self Organised Groups (SOGs) have

developed over the year, particularly the Black Members' and Women's Groups, and we hope to build on this success through developing groups for Disabled Members and LGBT+ members.

We've been fortunate to work positively with other organisations over the past year. We had a successful stall at Bolton's Pride event in summer celebrating and supporting the fight for LGBT+ equality. Some of us also took part in the Ellen Strange Memorial Walk, an annual event which remembers a victim of domestic abuse in 1761 on Holcombe Moor and helps to shine a light on the fight against domestic abuse today. Andrea Egan has chosen The Endeavour Project as her presidential charity - this Bolton based organisation supports women and children who continue to suffer from the effects of domestic abuse. A collection in support of Endeavour is planned for the AGM.

The working-class struggle is not over, but we're fighting back together, and it's never been more important to be part of Bolton UNISON and organising together for positive change.

Unity is Strength!

75 Years Of Our NHS

July sees the 75th birthday of the National Health Service, one of the first universal health care systems to be established anywhere in the world...

t the end of Second World War, the British people elected the first ever majority Labour Government in 1945. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Clement Atlee, Aneurin Bevan was appointed as the Minister of Health and put in charge of setting up the NHS.

A Government leaflet was sent to every household in June 1948 which explained that the NHS 'will provide you with all medical, dental and nursing care. Everyone - rich or poor, man, woman or child - can use it or any part of it. There are no charges, except for a few special items. There are no insurance qualifications. But it is not a charity. You are all paying for it, mainly as tax payers, and it will relieve your money worries in time of illness'...

"The NHS is one of the greatest achievements in history" says Dr Marks, a former chair of the British Medical Association (BMA) council, who qualified at the start of the NHS "Before that healthcare in this country was a disaster, particularly if you were poor. The unmet needs were not known until the NHS started, and people who had been ill for years and years came forward for help because they did not

have to worry about paying for it."

Infant mortality rates, life expectancy and the nation's health steadily improved once NHS care became freely available to working class people.

"The NHS saved the lives of my daughter and I when I was 34 weeks pregnant in 2011" recalls Bolton UNISON member. Cat Woodall-Crook "I was unaware I had severe preeclampsia as I didn't have the usual symptoms. My community midwife picked this up on a regular check and I was admitted to hospital after some time in the day unit. The staff on the ward were great, very re-assuring which put me at ease. My daughter was born during an emergency caesarean section, I was under general anaesthetic. She was growth restricted and weighed just 3lb 8oz. She needed help to start breathing and spent time in neonatal and SCBU. Without the help of the NHS neither of us would be here to tell the tale."



UNISON's Roots In Prestwich and Bury

As UNISON celebrates its 30th anniversary, few people know that the union's ancestor was born in a pub in Bury by workers at Prestwich Asylum...

ot many people know it, but UNISON owes its ancestral formation to staff at Prestwich Asylum, as it was then known, who met representatives of other Lancashire based asylum staff at the Mason's Arms to form the National Asylum Workers Union on July 9th 1910.

The old pub on Bury New Road in Whitefield is now a cafe and patisserie called Slattery, but it has a unique place in trade union history. with that founding meeting leading to a trade union family tree that ends with the modern day UNISON.

The National Asylum Workers Union's aims were "To obtain by legislation improvement of the statute of Asylum Workers, reasonable hours of duty and of freedom, fair rates of wages, abolition of vexatious restrictions and other grievances, and a better regulation of the relations



between employers and employed: to assist members if wrongfully dismissed: and to provide legal aid when necessary, and to promote the



welfare of asylum workers..."

The first edition of the National Asylum Workers magazine has a history of the birth of the union, which came about after the Asylum Officers Superannuation Act conferred "boons upon officers (with

The story of COHSE



National Asylum Workers Union - founded

1910

Poor Law Workers Trade Union - founded

Poor Law Officers Union

Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers Union

National Union of County Officers

Hospitals and Welfare Services Union

1946

Confederation of Health Service Employees



handsome salaries and comfortable pensions)...but did not confer such grand boons upon the humbler workers..."

In fact the 'humbler workers' became 'weekly out of pocket of a sum larger than they could comfortably afford'. The Act left these workers worse off than before as they had to contribute a large sum towards their pensions from their own wages.

The Union was officially launched in Preston in September 1910 and grew to over five thousand members, and records from 1912 show that Prestwich had the most members of any institution in the



country, numbering 310 members, or 86% of eligible staff (91.8% of them being men). By 1920 it had fifteen thousand members. In 1918 the union organised a strike at Prestwich for a 48 hours week. The union won improved national pay and improvements in conditions.

The National Asylum Workers Union was renamed the Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union in 1935, and in 1946 the union merged with the Hospitals and Welfare Services Union to form the Confederation of Health Service Employees, or COHSE.

In 1993, COHSE merged with NUPE (the National Union of Public Employees) and NALGO (National and Local Government Officers Association) to form UNISON, the country's biggest public sector trade union.

So UNISON can trace its ancient roots right back to Prestwich Hospital staff and the Masons Arms on Bury New Road...and the current UNISON regional office is based at Arena Point, near Victoria Station at the very start of Bury New Road.

UNISON President Andrea Egan Supports Unique Charity

Helping people and their pets to escape violence and abuse...

olton UNISON President,
Andrea Egan, has chosen
Endeavour as her favoured
charity this year, and is urging
members and branches to donate
towards its fine work. Indeed, at the
Branch AGM on International Women's
Day, 8th March, at Bolton Town Hall,
stewards will hold a bucket collection
to raise money to support the charity.

Endeavour, formed in 1997, helps those affected by domestic abuse, and even launched the UK's first domestic abuse pet fostering service, removing a further barrier to women, men and LGBTQI+ victims leaving abusive relationships.

"I have been an activist in the women's movement all my working life, fighting on many platforms for the rights of women, and through my job role seeing the impact that domestic violence has on women and their families" says Andrea.

Together with the pet fostering service, Endeavour also offers whole family support, safety planning, legal support, advice on sexual health and physical wellbeing, and help with food parcels, clothing and furniture essentials .It also runs an outreach service, a young

person's project, a BAME project and counselling for improved mental health.

"My roles as a worker and an activist are not exclusive and I have seen first-hand the work and services that Endeavour offers" Andrea adds "What stands out for me with The Endeavour Project is they will not leave anyone behind, a principle strongly associated with the trade union movement. They have a range of services, and I could not be prouder to have The Endeavour Project as my President's Project."

To find out more about Endeavour,

and to volunteer, see www. endeavour project. org.uk

To donate via BACS payments - Sort code: 08-92-99; Account number: 67208159



UNISON



Emily Davison plaque

Bolton Women Lead The Way!

UNISON's Cat
Woodall-Crook
recounts training
for women trade
unionists, and
urges everyone
to get involved...



long with Christine Collins and Leanne Greenwood, I took part in UNISON's Women in Leadership training. It was excellent and something I recommend is offered to all women members, stewards and activists in the union.

For those who are not active in UNISON, the training is an education in the variety of activities anyone can get involved with, even if you are not a steward. We dis-

cussed experiences of missed opportunities and barriers to progression. And we focussed on how society views and treats women

and girls, and the structural sexism we must overcome just to compete for the opportunity to lead. It was infuriating, supportive, motivational and empowering.

Stage 2 was an education in trade unionism and women's oppression. It was informative and enraging; understanding that oppression of women is because of their biological sex and class for the benefit of capitalism. We learned about the women of Glasgow and the rent strikes. We met Scottish women who had become leaders of their unions, and won amazing campaigns for members, all whilst fighting for the right to lead - because they are women.

On Stage 3 we visited Parliament to learn some of its powerful history. We heard how one woman, Emily Wilding Davison, a suffragette, hid in a broom cupboard to gain access to Parliament, protesting that women were not able to participate in democracy. This incident is commemorated by a plaque installed by Tony Benn with help from Jeremy Corbyn.

The training gave us the chance to look at our life paths to identify our strengths and the direction we choose to travel next. It was a journey, and through it we found our people, or, our allies. We supported each other and learned through each other. We all developed and carved new paths, taking on leadership roles, supporting and coaching other women, becoming activists for change and seeing our worth.

The facilitators Vicki, Lyndsey, Teresa and Diana could not have been any more brilliant. They were welcoming, informed, inspirational, focussed, supportive and positive. They each have different lived experience that are unique and motivate you to action.

Women in Leadership demonstrated how we each have our own path and can create change by getting involved with UNISON. It showed that we can be all be involved in different ways that are manageable for each person. It might be by attending a protest, attending a training course, going to a union meeting, starting a campaign in our workplace, writing a petition or a letter to our MP, becoming a workplace contact or a steward.

they progress.

To empower more women at grassroots level to get involved, I believe that UNI-SON needs to invest in this course and the three women facilitators. It has the potential to build a powerful army of strong and brilliant women leaders for the future of our union: women who build each other and take women with them as

There is lots more information available for any woman member who wants to find out about Bolton UNISON Women's Group, Women in Leadership Course or other opportunities to become active within the union. Please don't hesitate to contact the branch office - 01204 338901



The Bolton Bard...

UNISON's Martin Challender is getting recognition as a poet with his work being published...

uring the first Covid lockdown, Branch Communications Officer, Martin Challender, entered a poetry competition which led to his work being published in a local anthology called *Poetry From The Platform* in 2021. More recently Martin was invited to read his poem for a short film which is due to be entered at the Bolton Film Awards in October 2023.

"I've always liked poetry" says Martin "When I saw the competition in the Bolton News, in which people were invited to submit poems with a journey as the theme, I thought 'Why not have a go?'. I started with ideas about teenagers going to Manchester on a first date and took it from there. I was delighted the judges liked my finished poem, Two Returns For Manchester. With positive feedback and added confidence I kept on writing. Since then I've had other poems published, both in print and online."

In 2022, Martin read his poem for a short

film being recorded by North West independent film maker, Kitty Handley. The film, which was recorded at Bolton's Trinity Street Railway Station, is set to be included at Bolton's International Film Awards in October 2023.

"Completely out of the blue, myself and some of the other poets involved with Poetry From The Platform, were invited to be involved in a short film" Martin recalls "I was apprehensive about being recorded and seeing myself on screen, but it was a great experience. We were all invited to a special preview at Bolton's Platform 5 Gallery. The film maker had done a brilliant job. It totally exceeded my expectations!"







Bolton Is The Worst Area To Own An Electric Car

With climate change raging, why is Bolton the worst area in the UK to own an electric car?

new study has revealed that Bolton is the worst area in the UK to own an electric car. The study, by International Drivers Association, analysed the number of electric car charging points on ZapMap and ONS data to establish which area in the UK with a population of more than 100,000, has the lowest number of charging points per 100,000 population.

...And Bolton came top, with only 8.3 per 100,000 available. With a total of 24 public charging devices across the area and a population of 288,248, Bolton is the area with the least access to charging points for electric vehicle owners.

The data found that Milton Keynes is the area in the UK with the highest number of charging points per 100,000 people, at 137.3.

"The UK's charging infrastructure still has a way to go despite the many benefits that electric vehicles have to offer" says a spokesperson from International Drivers
Association "It will be fascinating to see, particularly as fuel costs continue to rise, how the electrical charging landscape continues to evolve over the coming years."

Bolton UNISON members may also wish to question Bolton Council on the findings, given its commitment to alleviating climate change....



Goodbye To Jayne!

Bolton UNISON'S AGM on 8th of March will be the end of an era with the retirement of union stalwart Jayne Clarke.

ayne has been active in the union over many years. In November 2013 she became a UNISON Steward in Children's Services. Since then her UNISON roles have included, Deputy Convenor, Branch Membership Officer, Assistant Branch Secretary... and she has become Acting Branch Secretary since September 2022.

Jayne started working for the Council in 1978 and joined NALGO when it was a closed shop. She is a veteran of the 1984 nine month Bolton Nursery Nurses strike when she worked at Wolfenden Nursery, Halliwell. Jayne (pictured) can be seen on picket duty during what was a landmark local dispute. Some of the strikers occupied the Bolton Town Hall switchboard to stop calls being taken for a full day. They also stormed the barges that Bolton Council was launching in Barnoldswick and created some more disruption.

Jayne has always been an activist and trade unionist since starting work. She was seconded, firstly, as part of the direct debit switch, then took on the role of CVS case worker, before taking on the Membership Officer role, and then Assistant Branch Secretary. Indeed, she has been active in all levels. at regional, local and national level. and has attended many conferences mentoring new delegates.

Jayne has truly encompassed everything you would want in a union steward, Branch Secretary, and more importantly as a great friend and comrade...

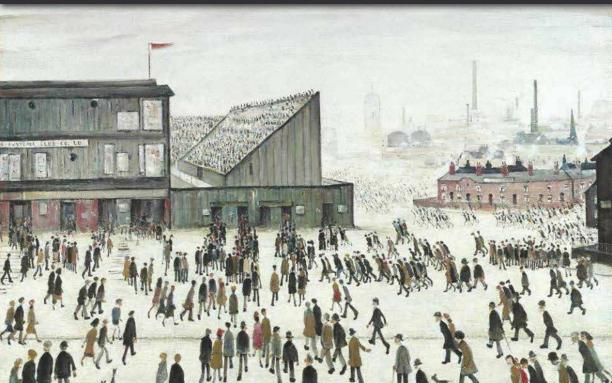
Christine Collins

Bolton
UNISON
Stewards
pay tribute
to Jayne
Clarke...

"Jayne has been a rock, and given me confidence to grow and is an inspiration."

"Jayne always is supportive and very passionate about all her members, especially her fellow workers and continues to stand up to management and has fully given everything to everyone..."

Bolton Wanderers Fans To Be Celebrated In Lowry Exhibition



In March, LS Lowry's Going To The Match, will be on show at Bolton Museum, with fans centre stage...

rotters fans and their stories are to be celebrated as part of a new exhibition, *Going to the* Match: LS Lowry & Bolton Wanderers, opening at Bolton Museum on 25th March. Lowry, Going to The Match. Image courtesy of The Lowry

Lowry's painting, Going To The Match, features fans flocking to see Bolton at their old Burnden Park ground in 1953. It was owned by the trade union, the Professional Footballers Association, which sold it last year at auction for a record £8.1million. The Lowry bought it, with a gift from the Law Family Charitable Foundation, after a campaign to keep the painting in the north.

Now the Salford arts centre is to loan the work to Bolton Museum, which is making it the centrepiece of a whole exhibition exploring LS Lowry's links to Bolton and the wider history of Bolton Wanderers, working with Bolton Wanderers in the Community to include fans' recollections.

"Lowry's painting is a great representation of how ordinary fans help make a football club what it is" says Phil Mason of Bolton Wanderers in the Community "We look forward to bringing some of these stories to life as part of the exhibition, which will celebrate the vital role Bolton Wanderers continues to play in our local community. I am sure the exhibition will be enjoyed by all visitors, whether they are football fans or not."

The Lowry's CEO, Julia Fawcett, adds that "It is fitting that, in making good on that promise, the painting will be on view in Bolton, in an exhibition celebrating the very football club that inspired LS Lowry."

Going to the Match: LS
Lowry & Bolton Wanderers
runs from Saturday 25th
March to Sunday 26th June,
with the painting on show
for two months during this
period.



From Bolton UNISON Chair to Top Volleyball Coach...

any might think that representing trade union members is poles apart from elite volleyball coaching but for Bolton UNISON Chair. Phil Chanin.

they fit seamlessly together in the same game vein.

"There are parallels with UNISON because you have to be organised

and have got to be looking ahead" explains the union chief who has coached volleyball in America and Europe, and has been connected to the girls-only Salford Volleyball Club for over thirty years, pushing its teams and players to the very highest levels.

"You can't just sit back on your laurels and say, 'That's how we played last week, we'll do it again the week after', because situations change" Phil argues "Some of the problems you come up against in UNISON or volleyball will constantly be changing so you have to be thinking ahead and planning your stuff, and making sure your team is ready for those new challenges...

"With the juniors, they're pushing big style because they're playing in tournaments come January and March, so it's planning ahead for them" he adds "It's the same with UNISON – what are the stewards going to be coming up against? What are the problems that we think are going to be here in twelve months' time?"

Phil began by playing basketball and volleyball at school, and hoped to represent his university in the former sport but discovered that it didn't have a team. It did, however, have a volleyball team, so he zoned in on that and has never looked back, initially playing at county and National League level, while coaching in Horwich to earn extra money to pay the monthly subs.

"In 1992, I had a couple of girls who were decent and to get the pair to the next level I took them to Salford Volleyball Club where I got asked to coach their junior players" Phil recalls "I've been there ever since...in fact, a few who I've taught have later brought their daughters, which makes you feel really old!"

Over that period, Phil, who has volleyball's equivalent to football's pro-licence - the international FIVB level 2 - has coached two Salford teams in the National Volleyball League, one of which was ranked second in the country at one stage. He also saw two of his former players represent Great Britain in the 2012 London Olympics, while he officiated at qualifying matches in Chicago for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, and coached England against a representative Rest of the World team.

Three years ago, he retired from coaching the National League teams to get his weekends back from travelling all over the country, and now concentrates on the Salford juniors, about to compete in the Under 15s Volleyball England Grand Prix.

For this, he'll be planning ahead, using his scheming skills, as he does with his union work. It all looks a possible tall order but, at 5ft 9", Phil has never had a problem in the land of the giants..."I've just had to use a bit of brain" he laughs. Good advice, whatever the game...

Veteran UNISON member, Derek Coleman, Looks Back....

As UNISON celebrates thirty years of history, retired member, Derek Coleman recounts his varied career from the 1960s onwards...

erek is one of a small number of trade unionists whose membership has included all three of UNISON's founder unions, COHSE (Confederation of Health Service Employees), NALGO (National and Local Government Officers Association) and NUPE (National Union of Public Employees)...

"From 1964 to 1968 I worked in the NHS as a COHSE member at mental health hospitals including Prestwich in Manchester. I challenged poor practice which occasionally included brutality or unnecessary restraint from senior staff. Despite this I worked with many fine nurses who had therapeutic and honourable intentions despite institutional constraints.

"In 1969 after qualifying as a psychiatric nurse (RMN), I became a Mental Welfare Officer for Manchester Council. Liberated from working in a hospital I flourished with the support of my manager and colleagues. As a NALGO member one of my proudest achievements was winning the NALGO Football Cup in 1970" (pictured).

"From 1971 to1973 I did my Social Work course at Teesside Poly where I was elected as student rep during a fight for a standardised national social work qualifications. It was a battle we eventually won, resulting in what became the CQSW, a forerunner of today's Social Work training.

"I was a family caseworker from 1973 to 1975 at Oldham FSU which had its own professional body to represent workers. In the challenge to my own redundancy





the procedure resulted in a 2-1 vote in my favour. Regrettably, the 'one' was Chair of the FSU nationally and used his power to overrule the two independent tribunal members.

"I returned to Local Government as a Senior Social Worker with Bolton Council's Child Guidance from 1975 to 1980. It was very much a professional middle class environment alongside Educational Psychologists and Psychiatrists. I joined NALGO and was supported by Dave Gibbons, who was highly amused by my professional challenge to the judgement of his



Assistant Director. Dave respected my preparedness to stand up in court on behalf of a child and their family. I was threatened with a disciplinary action, which didn't materialise, and following my intervention the magistrates found in the family's favour.

"Between 1981 and 1989 I worked as a housing worker in Salford as a member of NUPE. I then returned to Social Work in Manchester as a member of NALGO and then UNISON as a social worker from 1989 -2007. I have been actively involved in various disputes and campaigns over the years, and for me a key message is the power of unity. The photograph of the 1989 NALGO Strike outside the Pendleton Office demonstrates this unity: We are a group of both NALGO and NUPE members together, with my presence ensuring none of our NUPE members went in..."

UNISON 30 Years

UNISON CELEBRATES 30 YEARS...

UNISON was formed on 1st July 1993 when three unions, NALGO, NUPE and COHSE merged to form the biggest trade union in Britain. It now has over one million members. Here, Bolton UNISON members and activists define what the union means to them...



'I've been in UNISON since I joined the Council 14 years ago and have used the branch for advice and guidance before, and to point me in the right direction. Absolutely it's a good branch and brilliant for the benefits, they tell you what you can get and they've been helping people with the cost of living." Ann-Marie Talbot, Case Manager at Health Protection Team



"I've used offers and things like that but I've never needed them for anything so far. But I pay in because you never know when you will need them. I always read the emails and, ves, they've been good." Joanne Naisbitt, been in UNISON for almost 19 years, and has worked in Customer Services, and now in Planning and as a bar supervisor at the Albert Halls



"I've worked for the Council for nearly 25 vears, and unions are there to give the advice, support and protection you need. Everybody should make sure they are part of UNISON..." Alan Norris. **Building Support** Officer on Security And Response

"I'm now a retired member, but joined when it was originally NALGO. I think the branch is wonderful. These days more than ever, people need to join unions because without the unions there's not going to be any breakthroughs for the workers. It's nice to have all the unions together which is what it is, so you combine the manual and the white collar workers so they can do a lot more. It's better being one big union."

Lynda Lang, Retired Member



"I have worked within adult social care since 1998, and I firmly believe that being part of UNISON helps to protect workers' rights and it means that you are part of a collective organisation that can provide you with support if and when you need it. I think this is more important than ever in our working lives." Heather Ashworth, Deputy Manager, South District Team



"UNISON has done an awful lot for me. I was off work for six months, poorly with stress and anxiety, and they helped a lot with HR and management and got me back into work. And they get us cheap tickets for the panto!" Viv Pope, works at Harvey Children's Centre



"Wherever I've worked from the age of 18, I've always been a union member. Stronger unions help to ensure that we have much better conditions and improved health and safety. Being part of UNISON should be a natural part of working life for evervone."

Gaynor Cox, Housing Arts Officer with Bolton At Home and UNISON Steward

"UNISON was formed 30 years ago bringing three unions COHSE, NALGO and NUPE together. The aim was to increase unity amongst workers fighting for better rights. In the face of government and employer attacks we need this more than ever. People are beginning to fight back. We stand together - black and white, public and private sector, disabled people, women, men and all LGBT+. Solidarity with all those resisting pay cuts, poorer work experiences and discrimination. Together we are stronger."

Karen Reissmann, health worker, UNISON activist and NEC member





"I've been an active Bolton UNISON member, steward and branch officer since UNISON was founded in 1993. Previously I was a steward and branch officer for Bolton NUPE. For me the principles of solidarity and working together for the members are what it's all about. Every UNISON member can be proud of what we have fought for and achieved collectively over time. Here's to the next 30 years!"

Martin Challender, Bolton UNISON Communications Officer

"After starting as a Hospital Social Worker in 2009 I only became active in the union from 2018 onwards. The more people join the union and get involved, the stronger and more effective UNISON can become..."

Leanne Greenwood, Social Worker and Best Interest Assessor with Bolton Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Team





Together we can build a stronger and more effective union.

Why not ask colleagues, family members and friends if they are UNISON members?

Joining online has become easier than ever!

People can join UNISON by phone with the QR code...



Don't forget that apprentices and students can join UNISON for just £10 a year!

UNISON 30 Years



"As the Mayor of Bolton I wish UNISON many congratulations on the occasion of the 30th anniversary. It is a great achievement and you should be very proud."

Councillor Akhtar Zama, Mayor of Bolton



Happy 30th Birthday UNISON! From everyone at GMB Bolton 23 Branch..." Jo Pitchford, GMB Branch Secretary



coming year." Yasmin Qureshi

all the best for the



"Solidarity and best wishes to Bolton UNISON on its 30th anniversary. Thank you for your terrific support of the Winter Hill 125 commemorative event in 2021, which did so much to make it a resounding success. A great example of the power of strong community action."

Chris Chilton, Chair of Organising Group Winter Hill 125.



"Congratulations to UNISON on the 30th anniversary of establishing a trade union for all public sector workers. This is a huge milestone. The union's commitment to defending and strengthening public services and improving the terms and conditions of their members will ensure that UNISON will go from strength to strength."

Eileen Turnbull Secretary and Researcher, Shrewsbury 24 Campaign



"In an era of punishing Tory austerity, below inflation pay rises and multiple attacks on workers in every way, Bolton UNISON stands firmly with its members in every fight back. It is an example of how we need our unions to be moving forwards. Thank you to all its reps and officers."

Karen Buckley, Convenor of The People's Assembly Manchester



"UNISON is an important part of Bolton life. It is one of the most outward-looking unions in town and has played in an active part in a wide range of community projects, not least the celebration of the Winter Hill Mass Trespass of 1896. Congratulations on your 30th birthday!" Professor Paul Salveson, Historian and Writer.



"Wishing you a very happy 30th anniversary. The BFAWU will always have a special place in our hearts for your branch following the incredible support you gave to our Hovis members in their fight against zero hours contracts, a victory that your members played a huge part in achieving with us. Solidarity is a word that often gets used but when you see it in action it's an incredible thing to be part of. Congratulations on the work you have done and best wishes for the work vou will continue to do in the future. Solidarity always!"

lan Hodson, National President, Bakers'. Food & Allied Workers Union



"Having worked with Bolton UNISON doing the Battling For Bolton mag for over ten vears, we love this branch - the best in the world! And congratulations on the 30th anniversary. Onwards and upwards!"

Steven Speed and Stephen Kingston, Mary **Burns Community Group**



"Congratulations to Bolton UNISON on the 30th anniversary, and we give 100% support to the fight for fairer pay and conditions to all members!" **Bolton UNISON HQ mural** artists Andy Smith (pictured left carrying the Winter Hill banner that he created) and Louise Garman (Director of neoartists studios in Bolton)

Bolton UNISON - Solidarity in action.

Arriva Buses Bolton



Calvin Street Bolton



Over the past year Bolton UNISON members have stood shoulder to shoulder with numerous groups of workers fighting for better pay and conditions. Workers on picket lines have always said that our support has given them a much needed morale boost.

ere's some photos of recent picket lines supported by UNISON, including the AQA dispute where exam board workers at Manchester University fought the ■ 3% pay offer; the Arriva bus workers strike which eventually secured an 11.1% pay rise; the ongoing ASLEF train drivers and RMT workers strike for better pay and conditions; the Chep UK long running strike in Trafford which secured an inflation matching pay rise; the ongoing CWU post workers strike; the victorious OCS hospital workers strike which ended with a 14.7% pay rise; the UCU Bolton University strike for fair pay, and the ongoing ambulance strikes...







Bolton UNISON — Solidarity in action.



Bev Rostron, with daughter Jane, Beth Hart and daughter Angie



Lisa Perry with husband Dave, and Joshua, Dylan and Ben



Lisa Timmins and niece Isobel



Samantha Lee, with husband Jason, and Phoebe and Freya.



Katie Sabinsky with Darcy, Rachel, Joanna, Connor, Olivia and Maisie



Fe Fi Fo Fun at Jack and the Beanstalk

This year's Bolton UNISON panto day at the Albert Halls was another knock out, sell-out performance, with Maureen Nolan as Fairy Sunshine, and Corrie's Connie Hyde as Poison Ivy.

e asked members what they thought of the branch taking over the theatre and discounting tickets...

"This is our first time visit to the panto and it's brilliant; a nice incentive and saves a lot of money, over half the price which is a bonus." Samantha Lee, with husband Jason, and Phoebe and Freya.

"It's brilliant, we came last year to see Beauty and the Beast and the kids really enjoyed it. My dad gets us tickets as he works for the Salvation Army, and this year there's eight of us..."

Katie Sabinsky with Darcy, Rachel, Joanna, Connor, Olivia and Maisie

"It's brilliant. We had a fantastic time last year so as soon as I saw tickets were going out this year I thought 'Get in there' because they really enjoy it. For my daughter, Jane, it's nice and noisy, there's lots going on, there's lights and everything and she really gets something out of it. And Bev enjoys it too. I've never heard of any other union doing anything like this, they should do though, especially now with money being so tight. Being able to take your kids to an affordable panto is really good, it's special and starts Christmas off."

Bev Rostron, with daughter Jane, Beth Hart and daughter Angie

"We come every year, it's great fun, fantastic. I wouldn't be able to afford it if UNISON didn't do the discounted rates for us." "I like the playing and I like the drama", adds Isobel Lisa Timmins and niece Isobel

"It's our first time at the panto and I think it's brilliant and cost saving for employees. So it's good stuff!"

Lisa Perry with husband Dave, and Joshua, Dylan and Ben





Palestine Solidarity Campaign at AGM

Anne Webster is a retired UNISON member and former Branch International Officer. She will be at the Branch AGM on 8th March with a stall on behalf of

Greater Manchester Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

olton UNISON fully supports the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) and all those working to secure peace, equality, and justice and against racism, occupation, and colonisation. PSC is the biggest organisation in the UK dedicated to securing Palestinian human rights. PSC brings people from all walks of life. Anne has been to the occupied territories and met with Palestinian trade unionists. to see for herself some of the everyday difficulties that people face. She will be highlighting the fight to ensure that pension funds divest from companies profiting from Israeli human rights violations.

"I've been a member of UNISON since it started, and I'm proud to be

in Bolton Metro Branch - a branch that fights for people's rights and justice in the workplace, in wider society and internationally" says Anne.

To find out more about Greater Manchester Palestine Solidarity Campaign seewww.pscmanchester.org. uk/ Paul Salveson, a lifelong trade unionist, socialist and acclaimed historian will have some of his books on sale at the AGM...

Paul has had several successful books published covering, local history, railways and radical politics. His Will Yo' Come o' Sunday Mornin', tells the story of the original Winter Hill mass trespass in 1896. while Socialism With A Northern Accent, makes a powerful case for developing regional democracy for people living in the North.

Trade Union Hero To Address Bolton UNISON AGM

Eileen Turnbull and the Shrewsbury 24 Campaign fought and won a battle for justice which took almost 50 years...

ay back in 1973-74, 24 building workers were put on trial for alleged picketing offences during the national building workers strike against low pay and awful working conditions. Six of the Shrewsbury 24 were jailed for offences including 'conspiracy to intimidate', yet none were charged at the time and the arrests came five months after the union action.

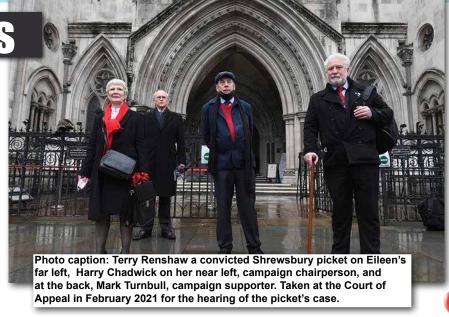
The trials took place against a background of the then Conservative Government attempts to weaken

the power of trade unions. Trade unionists always maintained that the convictions were a miscarriage of justice, and in 2006 the official Shrewsbury 24 Campaign was launched to clear the names of all those involved.

In March 2021, almost fifty years later, three appeal court judges agreed that the prosecution's destruction of witness statements and the withholding of that information from the defence had denied the pickets a fair trial. The

convictions could not be allowed to stand.

It was a huge victory and was achieved from information uncovered by the dogged determination of the Campaign's voluntary researcher Eileen Turnbull, who has written a book A Very British Conspiracy: The Shrewsbury 24 and the Campaign for Justice (Verso) documenting for the first time how the state, the police and big business colluded to get those original convictions.



Eileen, who will be speaking at Bolton's AGM in March and signing reduced priced books, is an amazing woman. She spent twelve years searching for the evidence to get the convictions overturned; and then, having written one of the most important books in trade union history, is giving the proceeds to The Casa, a club and meeting place for the labour movement set up by sacked Liverpool dockworkers.

All the top people in the labour movement describe Eileen as a 'hero', and Frances O'Grady, General Secretary of the TUC, actually broke down in tears at the book's launch at the TUC Congress last October. Yet Eileen is quick to pay tribute, not only to the team at the Shrewsbury 24 Campaign, but also to the unions, including Bolton UNISON, that helped to finance and support the long, long fight for justice.

'Adversity' doesn't begin to describe the odds stacked against Eileen, with the routine blocking of information that could help the case coming from all sides...

"My absolute disappointment was that the Gordon Brown Labour Government refused our request to release documents relating to the Shrewsbury trials on the grounds that they came under Section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act, that deals singularly with national security matters" she says "Once we were turned down flat I didn't just take it. That's when I started to look for it myself, and to do that I had to go to the length and breadth of the country.

"And whilst I was looking for evidence which would quash criminal convictions, in that time I also picked up information which was crucial,



A VERY BRITISH CONSPIRACY The Shrewsbury 24 and the Campaign for Justice

EILEEN TURNBULL

and discovered exactly how and why these prosecutions were brought in the first instance" she adds "I discovered the role of the then Tory Government, the role of the employers, the judiciary and the police, and all of

the factual information is in the book and tells the story."

Indeed, fifty per cent of the book's shocking content has never been aired before. But this is not just a dusty history lesson. It has major implications for now, as a series of strikes have hit the country, the anti-union propaganda is ramped up and the Government is looking to pass even more legislation to weaken trade unionists right to strike for a better way of life.

Obviously conditions have changed since the national building workers strike in 1972 – Eileen points to increased mutual support among official trade union leaders and the rise of social media in which trade unionists can connect directly with the public. But the story of the Shrewsbury 24 is central not only to the past but also to the present and future...

The Bolton UNISON AGM will be hosting a genuine working class hero in Eileen Turnbull. No-one who cares about justice, human rights and the rights of trade unionists to fight for a better future will want to miss this...

A Very British Conspiracy: The Shrewsbury 24 and the Campaign for Justice

"This is the moving and inspiring story of the determined search for justice for the modern day equivalent of the Tolpuddle martyrs against the full might of the establishment and the heroic role played by a very special woman"

John McDonnell, Labour MP.

"Incisive, compelling and moving. Exposes in forensic detail how the Conservative government, police and judiciary interfered in legitimate trade union activity, colluding against building workers fighting for dignity, decency and safety. And charts how a 47-year struggle for the truth overturned one of the worst miscarriages of justice in British history. A magnificent book about working-class solidarity."

Frances O'Grady, General Secretary of the TUC

"Eileen Turnbull is one of those extraordinary working-class heroes who should be honoured by their country but in our class-riven society rarely are."

John Green, Morning Star

Eileen Turnbull's book, A
Very British Conspiracy: The
Shrewsbury 24 and the Campaign
for Justice, will be on sale at
a special price at the Bolton
UNISON AGM



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RESPECT

SILKWOOD TAKEN US VERTIGO WESTWORLD XMEN YARDIE ZODIAC

<u>Chair's Annual</u> Report 2022

ve been privileged to have been Bolton UNISON chair over the past year, and I've seen ups and downs as a member and steward since UNISON was formed in 1993. Happy 30th birthday, UNISON!

My priority has been engaging with members and celebrating successes. I instigated '10 Minute Talks' in workplaces, where branch officers can meet members on the ground and hear directly about issues. If you haven't been to a session and want us to come to you, let me know...

My biggest revelation has been the hard work and commitment of activists. Most members only see their union when people turn up in workplaces with flyers. Weekin, week-out Bolton UNISON has dedicated people working hard to effect change, often giving up their own time to campaign or support members facing devastating outcomes. This hard work and no fuss, 'get it done' attitude should be applauded.

Your union is only ever as strong as its members, and more activists means a stronger voice. If you don't have an active steward or you've ever thought of stepping up in any capacity, now's the time.

Lastly, I must mention the retirement of Jayne Clarke our current Branch Secretary. Jayne has always gone above and beyond in her commitment to the Bolton UNISON cause. Her enthusiasm has always shone through. Jayne's union colleagues and friends will miss her.

Phil Chanin Bolton UNISON Chair

Communications Report

ver the past 30 years of UNISON I have always been active within the union at some level or another, much of it as steward and Branch Communications Officer, two roles I have enjoyed the most. Helping to produce the branch magazine, Battling For Bolton is an important way of keeping members informed about what is going on. Many thanks to everyone who has agreed to be interviewed, photographed, quoted etc; it's much appreciated.

Lots of work goes into the magazine behind the scenes. Massive thanks to our branch staff and other officers for their hard work and support. Ultimately it is a massive thanks to the two Steves, Stephen Kingston and Steve Speed, who manage to somehow put all our crazy ideas together into something resembling a professional magazine. I believe ours is one of the best UNISON Branch magazines in the North West. Admittedly I am biased! If anyone has ideas for future magazines or if anyone wants to get involved with writing and/or producing the magazine then please by all means get in touch.

Martin Challender
Communications Officer

Education Report

s part of the branch's commitment to training and education we have supported activists' and members' attendance on various courses throughout the year. These courses have included the Organising Stewards Courses, Training for Safety Reps, Mental Health Awareness, Understanding Pensions and Women in Leadership. Both of the last two were open to members as well as Stewards.

There have also been a series of local development days for stewards in schools, in the Council and in Bolton at Home. To allow maximum

participation courses have been held online and in person. New courses booked for next year include Mental Health Support and Show Racism the Red Card. Both taking place in Bolton

We are also looking for members interested in becoming UNISON Learning Reps, and if you are interested in this role or any other UNISON training please contact me through the Branch Office.

Janet Bryan Education Co-Ordinator



Women's Officer Report

embership of the Women's Self Organised Group, or SOG, has increased this year. Meetings have taken place in person with the option of attending online to maximise accessibility for women who otherwise wouldn't be able to get involved.

We have a core group of five women from the SOG who attend the North West Regional Women's Committee (NWRWC), with some of them standing and being elected to the National Women's Committee, to the co-Chair of NWRWC, the International Committee and Regional Learning and Organising Committee. These meetings and groups are open to all UNISON members, not just officers.

A number of Bolton Women's SOG members participated In the NWRWC Violence Against Women event which was an eye opener and we will be looking to develop and promote the domestic abuse policy within the Council, with a view to encouraging other employers to

adopt their own policy.

The branch has fully supported and continues to mentor and support women members to progress and develop. Stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Women In Leadership Programme North West has now been completed by three of our members and this has been instrumental in ensuring more participation at all levels of our union.

Members of the SOG have agreed a banner to promote the Bolton Women's Group and promote the good work our women members do. In 2023 we are aiming to increase and encourage more active members, offering opportunities to learn and develop and increase our involvement in NWRWC...'You can always tell who the strong women are. They are the ones building other women up instead of tearing them down'.

Christine Collins Joint Assistant Branch Secretary, Women's Officer



Sports & Social Report

eing in a union doesn't always mean that every member will be active. Therefore, we feel it is important to give members the chance to get together in a less formal setting and it's a great way to meet other UNISON members.

As usual, the panto took place in December giving members the chance to attend with subsidised tickets. We also had the annual trip to Blackpool, including a visit to the illuminations. The performance of 'Snatched' at the Octagon got great feedback and hopefully we can organise more events like this. The trips to 'Barriers Held High' in Wakefield, Durham Miners Gala and Wigan Diggers were also enjoyed, solook out for our diary of social events over the coming year.

Andrea Egan

Membership Report

t was great to welcome more than 460 new members to the branch in 2022. We now have over 5,500 members. There will be many changes of circumstances, people move jobs, move house, change the phone number, change their name, which makes it difficult to keep the data base correct, which we are required to do by law, therefore we rely on you to let us know any of

changes. It ensures you get the all the information you need and all the information we have is relevant and up-to-date. To make those changes, either email changemydetails@ unisonbolton.org, ring the branch on 01204 338901 or register with My UNISON on the national website if you want to do it yourself.

Jayne Clarke



abour Link is the section of UNISON's political fund where hundreds of thousands of UNISON members have joined to ensure that we have a strong voice in the Labour Party.

I was elected as UNISON Bolton Branch Labour Link Chair in July 2022, Gaynor Cox was elected as Minute Secretary and John Pye as Vice Minute Secretary. As a group we have supported and sent a motion to Bolton North East CLP in regard to delegate structure at meetings.

The next local elections will be on 4th May 2023, with every seat up for election. We have discussed where we can show our support and how we can co-ordinate our activities across the borough, as well as how we can encourage members of UNISON to get more involved locally.

Labour Link works at branch, local and national level and has a network of officers, while it also works with other unions who are affiliated to the Labour Party to deliver on our shared priorities.

If you are a Bolton UNISON member and you pay a contribution to UNISON Labour Link, we would love to see you at our Labour Link Meetings. They are held on the first Thursday of every other month, starting January 2023 at 4pm following Branch Committee.

Lauren Alergant Bolton Labour Link Officer

Treasurer's Report

Ifirstly need to thank our branch employed staff and other officers for their support, especially our auditor Shaheed Issak. Branch Committee recommends that AGM elect Shaheed again.

The overall financial position continues to be sound. Following the introduction of a new funding formula under Motion 72 adopted by Special Conference in June 2021, our retention income has been reduced so that with use of our reserves we can sustain the branch expenditure as is for approximately a further two years. Branch officers are working to restore our branch income before we reach that point.

If the budgets approved in January by Branch Committee prove accurate, at the end of 2022 the branch will be holding approx £190k in combined General, Industrial Action and Premises Funds (£20k, £60k, £110k respectively) and will need to transfer funds from the premises fund to the general fund during 2023. This transfer will need to be approved by Regional Committee as part of a structured financial plan.

Core Officers and Branch Committee have continued to prioritise retaining existing members and recruiting new ones so as to improve our ability to get the best deal for all of us in our workplaces. We may see reserves continuing to reduce towards the minimum necessary as, for instance, this aim is prioritised above that of purchasing our own premises and maintaining a dedicated fund for that purpose.

Please note that the amounts listed as funds on the balance sheet do not necessarily represent cash at the bank. Cash appears under the headings bank deposit and current account under current assets.

I would remind all branch members that our accounts are fully open and all transactions on our books are open to scrutiny by any member at any time. It would be good to have some back up in the role, particularly from a younger member who would be able to take things forward in the future and/or someone who has experience in payroll.

A list of affiliations and donations is included with the AGM papers. Expenses have all been paid in accordance with national recommendations. An honorarium payment of £500 is proposed for our auditor mentioned above.

John Pye Branch Treasurer

Branch Accounts

General Fund Income and Expenditure Account for Bolton Metro

For the year ended 31 December 2022										
All Items	2022 (£)	2022 (£)	2021 (£)	2021 (£)						
Income										
Branch Funding	172,008.50		176,144.43							
Branch Levy	0.00		0.00							
Investment Income Received	0.00		0.00							
Tax deducted or paid on Investment Income	0.00		0.00							
Retired Members Subscriptions	405.00		240.00							
Other Income	0.00		29,679.09							
Regional Pool Income	0.00		0.00							
Transfer from Industrial Action Fund	0.00		0.00							
Transfer from Dedicated Action Fund	0.00		0.00							
Locally collected subscriptions	0.00		0.00							
Income total		172,413.50		206,063.52						
Expenditure										
Fighting Fund	0.00		0.00							
Staff Salaries	109,215.48		103,998.18							
Rent	20,175.00		20,175.00							
Rates	0.00		0.00							
Utilities	0.00		0.00							
Other administration	31,783.17		25,011.78							
Honoraria	500.00		500.00							
Conferences and group meetings	10,872.15		1,154.33							
Branch Committee	803.50		0.00							
Other Meetings	10,383.31		2,038.20							
Publicity	18,459.16		36,253.42							
Education	2,841.66		2,449.80							
Donations	2,035.00		2,253.14							
Affiliations	395.30		738.20							
Local Activities	13,328.46		4,825.55							
Transfer to Industrial Action Fund	0.00		0.00							
Transfer to Dedicated Fund(s)	0.00		0.00							
Other Expenditure	20.00		1,154.29							
Other Branch Funding Deductions	0.00		0.00							
Tax	0.00		0.00							
Expenditure total		220,812.19		200,551.89						
Surplus for the year		-48,398.69		5,511.63						

Consolidated Balance Sheet for Bolton Metro

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	For the year ended 31 December 2022							
All Items	2022 (£)	2022 (£)	2021 (£)	2021 (£)				
Fixed Assets								
Freehold Properties	0.00		0.00					
Leasehold Properties	0.00		0.00					
Equipment, Fixtures & Fittings	14,893.12		18,346.77					
Investments (Quoted &	0.00		0.00					
Unquoted)			0.00					
Total Fixed Assets		14,893.12		18,346.77				
Current Assets								
Branch Funding	0.00		15.60					
Third Party Debtors	0.00		1,317.69					
Loans	0.00		0.00					
Building Society	0.00		0.00					
Bank Deposit	168,588.23		168,588.23					
Current Account	16,759.62		61,896.53					
Prepaid Card	321.77		321.77					
Cash	200.00		119.37					
Total Current Assets		185,869.62		232,259.19				
Current Liabilities								
Branch Funding	0.00		0.00					
Third Party Creditors	0.00		0.00					
HO Loans	0.00		0.00					
Locally Collected Subscriptions	-50.00		3.00					
Credit Card	95.46		1,486.99					
Total Current Liabilities		45.46		1,489.99				
Net Current Assets		185,824.16		230,769.20				
Total Assets		200,717.28		249,115.97				
Accumulated Funds								
Accumulated General Fund at year beginning	76,264.10		70,752.47					
Brought Forward Balance Adjustment	0.00		0.00					
Surplus/Deficit	-48,398.69		5,511.63					
Accumulated General Fund at year end		27,865.41		76,264.10				
Accumulated Industrial Action Fund	57,721.25		57,721.25					
Surplus/Deficit	0.00		0.00					
Accumulated Industrial Action Fund at year end		57,721.25		57,721.25				
Accumulated Dedicated Fund Surplus/Deficit	115,130.62 0.00		115,130.62 0.00					
Accumulated Dedicated Fund at year end		115,130.62		115,130.62				
Total Funds at End of the Year		200,717.28		249,115.97				



Bolton UNISON AGM 2023

Wednesday 8th March 2023 12.30pm-1.30pm (buffet from 12pm)

Bolton Town Hall Free raffle, stalls and guest speaker

Bolton UNISON AGM Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction by Chair and remembrance of deceased members
 - 2. Apologies
 - 3. Speaker Eileen Turnbull from Shrewsbury 24 Campaign
 - 4. Minutes of AGM 9th March 2022
 - 5. Financial Reports
 - 6. Motions and Branch Rule Amendments
- 7. Confirmation/Election of Branch Officers, Stewards, Branch Sub-Committees and Conference Delegates
 - 8. Annual Reports

Close of Meeting