

BATTLING FOR BOLTON



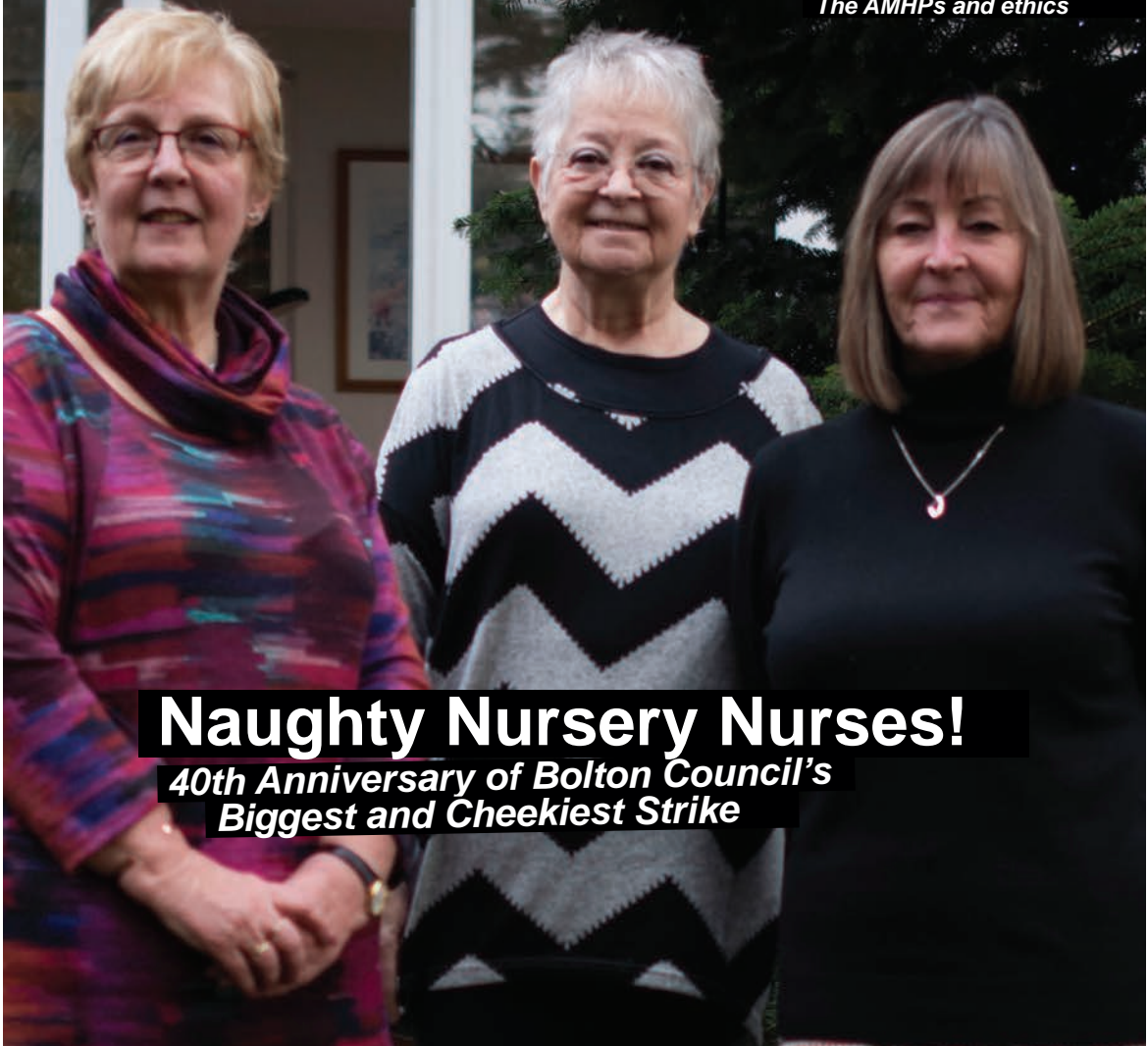
Spring 2024 Issue 27 Free

Bolton UNISON AGM
*With guest speaker, Bernie
Gallagher, stalls and buffet*

People, Pets and Pests
*Inside Endeavour, Bolton
UNISON's chosen charity*

Bolton's Got Talent
The town's Lord of Am-Dram

**At The Sharp End of
a Mental Health Crisis**
The AMHPs and ethics



Naughty Nursery Nurses!

**40th Anniversary of Bolton Council's
Biggest and Cheekiest Strike**

Plus news, views and events...



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MARY BURNS

UNISON

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UNISON

Intro...

Hello and welcome to the first edition of Battling for Bolton 2024..

When the new year starts it is always a time to reflect on last year which continued to be a challenging year for members in all our sectors. Pay was definitely still top of the agenda with the rate of inflation reaching a high, strike action spreading across the country and an

acknowledgement that society was facing its greatest ever challenges. A system that is broken.

However, as trade union members we carry on fighting. And even through these difficult challenging times our members came through. My chosen charity as the Union's national President was The Endeavour Project, based here in Bolton, and I was really proud to have raised just near to £40,000. Once back in the branch, Andrew Thomas, Deputy Convenor for Children's and Schools, felt that the legacy of our relationship between the trade union movement and Endeavour should continue. He brought a motion to the Branch Committee and, after winning



stewards over, got a unanimous vote to organise a Christmas Wish for users of the service. As usual, you smashed it, again, demonstrating that, even when facing our own issues, we reach out to others. Well done everyone.

In October we all watched, shocked as Hamas carried out its atrocities on the Israeli people. It was a devastating show of cowardliness. But then we watched in horror as Israel reacted, and how that has turned into ongoing death and destruction. The branch continues to show its solidarity for the Palestinians in calling for a ceasefire. Over the festive period, a number of branch officers and I have taken to the streets both in Manchester and in London to demonstrate for a ceasefire.

As we look into 2024, as a branch we are already making plans for our training, campaigns and organizing. We have a diary of events for the sports and social calendar; we have training booked in for our activists and a great training programme for them to access; and, as members, you have access to UNISON College - <https://learning.unison.org.uk/member-learning> - where you will find a wide range access, from improving English, Maths and digital skills, to



expanding learning for your personal development. If you haven't accessed the website please do so now! All you need is your membership number.

2024 will also be the year of the General Election. Whilst I might be no fan of Keir Starmer, I don't think public services or working class people can survive another term of the Tories. I ask every single member reading this article to please ensure you have registered for a postal vote... <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>

Andrea Egan
Branch Secretary



More Council Cuts 2024/2025

Branch Secretary, Andrea Egan, reflects on the dire state of council funding...

Latest research shows that councils across England, Scotland and Cymru/Wales are facing a collective funding gap of over £3.5bn for the next financial year. How bad are the cuts to our services going to be?

The new council cuts website shows the level of funding gap to vital services in our communities. UNISON believes that our local councils must be properly funded. It's time to stand up for them and protect the vital services they deliver.

All UNISON members, their families and friends are encouraged to play an active part in calling for more funding for council services by emailing your MP via the union action tool. <https://action.unison.org.uk/page/110060/action/1>

By emailing your MP we can let them know that we don't want or support any more council cuts, and that we want them to support and protect our vitally important local services.

Here in Bolton, we are facing £9.1 million of cuts for 2024-2025. Whilst we are still in the consultation period, it is envisaged that these will not include any staffing reductions, however there will be cuts to some service provision.

Overall the picture is bleak after fourteen years of savage cuts. Our council is running on the edge and that tipping point is imminent unless we get better Government settlements. More councils

in England are at risk of going bust after the Government set out its tax and spending plans last month, local government leaders have warned. Local authorities say a lack of funding in the Autumn Statement has left many facing effectively bankruptcy.

As the Government issues the same toothless offer, we are here to listen, but clearly, they are not listening or they would not have allowed councils to get into this predicament.

The "worrying" findings paint a picture of a "growing financial crisis", according to the Local Government Association, which states that almost one in five of its members were at risk of running out of funds either this year or next. Leaders of some of the largest councils - including 26 Conservative run councils - have written to the Government warning of "painful" cuts to front-line services.

Some local authorities have been forced to issue a Section 114 notice, which means halting spending on anything that is not required by law. So whilst Bolton Council might limp through 2024, it is clear that unless something changes soon, like a change in Government with some new radical funding settlements, it is only a matter of time before Bolton joins the growing list of Section 114 issuers.

The strength of the branch density which essentially gives us a voice is as important now as it has ever been...



BLACK MEMBERS SOG (SELF ORGANISED GROUP)

What we do!

- We bring together Black/Asian/Ethnic Minority workers who face discrimination, underrepresentation, and barriers because of their identity.
- We organise to fight discrimination and prejudice at work as we have the 'lived experience' and thus are the experts in tackling this.
- We provide a safe space for members facing issues or barriers in the workplace due to their ethnicity/religion/colour or nationality to share their experience and agree strategies to tackle issues.

Benefits of joining us!

- Getting active with the Black Members SOG is a great way to get involved in campaigning to make work better.
- Create workplace campaigns to support members – via key calendar events such as Black History Month, Islamophobia Awareness Month, Hate Crime Awareness Week, etc through the branch.
- Attend and contribute to local, regional and national meetings as delegates from the branch.
- Represent and send Black Members to Equality Conferences and community events
- Send motions on important topics to Conferences
- Attend training and development opportunities provided by the local and regional branches

ADMIN@UNISONBOLTON.ORG

01204 338901

The 'Naughty Actions' of That Brought Bolton Cou



It's forty years since Bolton's nursery nurses launched an all out strike that changed conditions for nursery nurses everywhere...

Exactly forty years ago, nursery nurses in Bolton, who previously hadn't said boo to a goosey gander, went on all-out strike to improve their dreadful pay and conditions. They ended up planting strike flags on the Town Hall roof,

barricading themselves into the Council's telephone exchange, occupying the Council's about-to-be launched canal boat, and, er, gluing the Council's toilet seats together...

Forty years on from the 1984 strike,

f Nursery Nurses ouncil To Its Knees

which was won, no-one sat in Madeline Murray's living room looking through the archive scrapbooks, photos and strike bulletins regrets the actions. Indeed, for many, it changed their lives...

"It was about literally pay and conditions" says Madeline, who was a nursery nurse at Church Road County Primary at the time, and a rep for NALGO, the former incarnation of UNISON.

"We were the lowest paid, I think, in the whole of the Town Hall because we were all under Scale 1" she recalls "Even young girls coming out of school were placed on Scale 1 as clerks and stuff but we'd done two years training and we were on a maximum of 0.9. There were lots of things. We were just used as mugs a lot of the time, and I think parents didn't know any difference

between a nursery nurse and a teacher most of the time.

Disaffection grew...

"There were a few people having a moan...we thought it was just ourselves...then we found out there were more people having a moan, so I think one of the officers, Tony Watts, decided he'd call a meeting" she adds "We got organised and put in for a



new grade but they refused it for some reason."

Nursery nurses worked in very small groups within Bolton's primary schools



in an age before mobile phones, the internet, social media and What's App groups. Despite the communication difficulties, more and more nursery nurses came to branch meetings

"We kept meeting and got stronger as a group, and more people kept coming" Madeline adds "We were just fed up of getting treated like this. Was it because we were women? Or that we're lone women and we hadn't got a voice? We didn't really feel that anyone was taking any notice of us, so we asked for a ballot. We were a bit surprised that it was for strike action. And we actually got a majority."

The strike involved over two hundred nursery nurses in Bolton, the union made the strike official and, as well as creating picket lines at schools and the Town Hall, encouraged the women to travel to other towns and cities to raise awareness of their fight, particularly to other nursery nurses. In the large area of Clwyd four hundred nursery nurses joined the strike.

They also raised awareness at the national NALGO Conference and a lobby of the Labour Party Conference., where miners who were there with fundraising buckets for their own huge strike at the time, stood aside for the women.

"People were really supportive, I can't remember being sober because everyone wanted to buy you a drink" laughs Madeline "It gives you that confidence, because we were all shy; none of us were bolshie but we ended up not being pushed round. We knew we were appreciated."

Jayne Clarke was 24 at the time, and a nursery nurse at Wolfenden Primary School who hadn't been involved with the union until the pay campaign ... "I enjoyed the picket lines. If a lorry came to your picket line they just refused to cross; there was that solidarity" she reflects "But it was also the camaraderie and the getting to know people. The support we got from parents, the other staff and the union was wonderful...our nursery teacher used to come to the picket lines with cakes and wine. There was a lot of support."

And, apart from a few police bullies on the picket line who thought they were at Orgreave, overall they were okay and the women even had a fan club at the local station. Jayne's claim to fame during the strike was that she won the competition to design a logo for a campaign sweatshirt. It was a jack-in-the-box with the slogan '*Bolton nursery nurses spring up everywhere!*' And they did.

"We were a group of women with the same qualifications, a vast age range and through meeting up together we were all of the same opinion: it's now or never, what are we going to do about it?" recalls Viv Garman, a nursery nurse working at Masefield Primary School at the time "We came upon a few things that would draw attention to our plight.

"We found out that Bolton Council was buying a canal boat for the children of the town so we went up and occupied it" she adds "When they came to launch it they weren't best pleased, and threatened Sheila that if she didn't come off it she'd go in. To which we replied, '*Touch Sheila and you'll hit the water before her!*'. They then went to the pub up the road, got a washing up bowl and a piece of wood and did a mock launch. We just thought it was quite pathetic but we got some publicity from it."

Sheila is Sheila Taylor, who was working as a nursery nurse at St Bedes Primary School at the time... "I don't know why they singled me out" she says "It was all a world away. I was very quiet, loved my job and just got on with it. I didn't find it easy because I didn't get any support from my husband who was self employed and didn't agree with people striking





but I was quite strong and carried on. I had to speak at the town hall or somewhere and I was petrified; and the telephone exchange sit-in...I remember walking up those stairs and barricading ourselves in..."

Madeline calls them 'naughty actions', and others included flying a '*Reimburse the nursery nurses*' flag from the top of the Town Hall, hoisted while everyone was at the staff Christmas do, and using bright red engineering glue to stick the toilet seats down in the loos right near the staff canteen, rendering them unusable.

After over nine months of highs, lows and major financial and emotional difficulties trying to live on strike pay, the actions and naughty actions paid off, as the women won their fight. The National Employers, who the women had lobbied, gave every nursery nurse in the country a three increment rise. On top of that, Bolton Council re-worded contracts and gave its own nursery nurses an added pay rise.

"We ended up the best paid nursery nurses in the country" says Madeline "It was still rubbish money but better than what we had. And after that, every other town put in for a pay rise too."

The victory of probably the biggest strike in Bolton Council's history was only the beginning for many of the women who took part.

"I wouldn't have changed anything" Viv concludes "I think it finished my education off in a way and made

me better... *'Don't mess with me, I'm a qualified nursery nurse!'* It was worrying at times but exciting. Shortly after that I left to run a pub in Darwen and when my own children had grown up I came back and worked in special needs and loved it."

The strike also set Madeline off on a new path... "I took up politics, then joined the Labour Party, was persuaded to stand for election and became a councillor for Great Lever. I did my best, and now I'm an Alderwoman because I've just retired.

"Apart from being away from the kids in the school I've had no regrets since the strike, and have been a cheeky beggar and stuck up for myself which I hadn't done before" she adds "I think it changed all of us. At least three of the nursery nurse strikers opened their own nurseries in the end because they had the confidence to do that, so it did make a difference. We felt like little people but we were as important as the Chief Exec quite frankly. I haven't yet met anyone who regretted it and a lot of us are still friends and meet up and go for lunch or whatever."

The sentiments are underlined by Jayne and Sheila... "I am proud that I was part of it and wouldn't change it" says Jayne, who went on to become a UNISON steward before retiring last year "When we went back into school we felt more

confident because you were treated as a mug."

And Sheila, who didn't get wet during the barge occupation, agrees: "I don't know what happened but it changed me as a person, getting involved in all the things that we did."

Forty years later, with more wage and service cuts, what would be the message to today's Bolton Council workers?

"I think people should stand up and be counted" says Madeline "You should stick up for yourself and say *'This isn't right... hang on a minute...'*..."

...Particularly if you're thinking of re-occupying the Town Hall phone exchange...



Inside The Endeavour Project



UNISON's chosen charity helps people and pets flee from domestic abuse...

Sat on the couch at the Endeavour Project HQ in Bolton, you're surrounded by furry toys, crocheted forget-me-nots, lots of cushions...everything is very soft and comforting. Here, you can feel safe. Safe, away from the dark, dark deeds that occur under the formal umbrella of domestic abuse.

The Endeavour Project is an amazing charity that deals with off-the-scale trauma and keeps people and their pets safe. A staggering two thousand victims

were helped last year in Bolton, including a 98 year old woman, a person who was constantly controlled by her abuser almost drowning her cat



ject



and a young girl who couldn't speak to her mother about sexual abuse.

"We always think we've heard everything but who would think a 98 year old woman could be the victim of domestic abuse?" asks Linda Charnock, Endeavour Operations Director "She'd been partners in a marriage for fifty years. Our Evergreen project supports older victims of domestic violence. It's not just the partners, it's also sons or grandsons or granddaughters who are the perpetrators; financial abuse from those who have got issues with drugs and alcohol."

Then there's the five year old cat, Sahara, a direct victim of domestic abuse...

"She came in incredibly injured" recalls Angela Gray, Endeavour's Partnership and Fundraising Director "The perpetrator knew that the way to get his partner to do exactly what he wanted was to hurt the cat. He would drown it in a bucket until she agreed to do whatever. Sahara is absolutely fine now but territorial. She just needs a home that's quiet."

Endeavour was originally set up in

1997 as Paws For Kids, the UK's first domestic abuse pet fostering service. In a survey of fifty female pet owners living in refuges because

of domestic violence, two thirds said their abuser had threatened to harm their pets; almost 40% said that he had actually harmed them, and a massive 94% said if there had been a pet fostering service it would have made it easier for them and their children to escape the violence. Well over half had to give up their pets when going into the refuge as there was no other option.

"One of the biggest barriers to flee if you've got a pet is that no temporary accommodation or refuge will take pets" Angela explains "We have thirty two pets in foster care currently – cats, dogs, rabbits...even a parrot. We've

How UNISON members can help Endeavour...

- **Foster a pet** – to keep animals safe from domestic abuse
- **Adopt a pet** – Sahara desperately needs a loving home
- **Sponsor A Monster** - £20 buys two monsters – one for a child and one for you. Or £10 buys a monster for a child.
- **The Great St Patrick's Day Out** – on 15th March, noon-4pm there's a fundraising afternoon of entertainment and lunch at The Bolton Stadium Hotel with tickets from £50

For more details see www.endeavourproject.org.uk/home/ or get in touch **01204 394842** info@endeavourproject.org.uk



ELLEN STRANGE 10th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL WALK

Saturday, 6th July 2024, from
Holcombe Church at 10.30am

Join Team Endeavour on our annual Ellen Strange
Memorial Walk up Holcombe Hill to remember
all those affected by Domestic Abuse

Further details on how to take part and book your
place, email: fundraising@endeavourproject.org.uk

Please note, this route is not suitable for wheel chairs,
push chairs or those with mobility issues.



Endeavour is the working title for Paws for Kids - Company Limited by Guarantee No. 4070391 Registered Charity No.

The 10th Anniversary Ellen Strange Memorial Walk

Ellen Strange was murdered over two hundred and fifty years ago on top of Holcombe Hill, her body discovered under leaves and rocks. It was traditional when passing to put a stone on the site, and after many years it has grown to be the only man made monument to domestic abuse.

On 6th July there is a memorial walk up Holcombe Hill to the site, which begins from Holcombe Church. It is part of sixteen days of action which includes a video featuring the faces of the 98 women murdered in the last twelve months, a candlelit vigil and events on the day in the Church as the route to the memorial is not suitable for those with mobility issues or small children.

Ellen Strange Memorial Walk
Saturday 6th July 10:30am
Emmanuel Church, Holcombe Village (next to the Shoulder of Mutton pub)

had goldfish, gerbils, twenty nine reptiles including a tree frog, a nine foot python and his 'friend', a ferret. All this stuff comes with huge vets bills that we have to cover but we treat every pet as if it was our own."

From pet fostering in the late 1990s, the charity has grown to help an array of distressed people. As well as the Evergreen service for over 55s, there's the Safe Haven Project helping people to stay and be safe in their own homes, the Haven Project for those who have fled and been placed in temporary accommodation, the Panah Project specifically for those in the BAME community, the Young Person's Domestic Violence Advice Service and the Young Person's Development Worker Service, all aiming to sort the circumstances of those subject to domestic abuse.

Half of the Endeavour staff of seventeen have lived experience of the issue and, as well as help with going through the court process and security, there's one-to-one support and referrals to other services. But the environment and the staff work to make the process as smooth as is possible. And it has an unlikely ally in the Worry Monster – a furry creature with a zip in its huge mouth. The idea is that you write down your worries and feed them to the Monster which 'gobbles' them up. The child thinks the worry has gone.

“We had a young girl who couldn’t talk to her mum about sexual assault” Linda adds “She had a Worry Monster, wrote things down and put it in its mouth, the mum could then read it and talk to her about it.”

When Andrea Egan was President of UNISON nationally, Endeavour was her chosen charity, and at the last national conference in Liverpool, Worry Monsters were on sale on the Endeavour stall as *Sponsor A Monster*. For every one bought, another was given to a child in need. They optimistically took fifty Worry Monsters with but found sky high demand, and after two trips home to stock up, sold three hundred of them.

It’s part of an ongoing fundraising campaign that saw £40,000 donated by UNISON members nationally, while locally the branch bought fifty presents as part of the Endeavour Christmas Wish Appeal in which families were asked to write down what they would like for under £10.

Endeavour is a top charity in which the staff understand the needs of those stuck in a web of domestic abuse. Rather than running a foodbank, Endeavour gives out vouchers for mainstream supermarkets...

“It’s to give our clients choice” Angela explains “When people are victims of domestic abuse they’ve had choice



taken away from them for a long time. We also do Home Emergency Packs, as anyone who has fled into temporary accommodation will have nothing, and everything we provide is new; it’s about value and worth. A lot of victims have been told that they’re worth nothing

and if we give them damaged items it's reinforcing that.

"A lot of what we see is very, very dark" she reflects "I go home, read nice things and watch and listen to nice things. Linda watches awful things. We all have our own coping

strategies. And have a very dark sense of humour. You have to laugh. There's nothing I can watch on tv that is worse than what I answer the phone to. And sometimes it does get to you..."

Nobody goes into this sort of field for the financial rewards..

"We're very passionate and want to make a difference" says Linda.



"And we see that it does make a difference" Angela concludes "We see people who come, and by the time they've moved on they are different people. I genuinely believe that we change lives here..."



Railway Ticket Office Victory

Bolton train station ticket offices saved

Plans to close over one thousand railway ticket offices, including at Farnworth, Lostock Parkway and Bromley Cross stations, with reduced hours at Bolton Station, have been axed after a huge campaign nationwide and in Bolton itself, where the Bolton Pensioners Association held constant protests.

"It is fantastic news for consumers and just goes to show the power of people coming together" says Bernie Gallagher former Bolton UNISON Branch Secretary and Secretary of the Pensioners Association "This has been one of the biggest protests with signatures that they had, so it shows the strength of feeling. People want people to serve them and not robots. If you are going to change it, you change it for the better and not to the detriment of the commuters."

Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham adds that "The people have made their voices clear on why they do not want to close the ticket offices. The ticket offices are an important part of the community as people go in there for help and information and reassurance when using railways. The proposal was highly discriminatory against people with disabilities and closing them would have been a massive loss."



RMT General Secretary, Mick Lynch, hailed the resounding victory for the union's campaign and a win for passengers, community groups and rail workers alike.

"We are now calling for an urgent summit with the Government, train operating companies, disabled and community organisations and passenger groups to agree a different route for the rail network that guarantees the future of our ticket offices and stations staff jobs to delivers a safe, secure and accessible service that puts passengers before profit..."

Bolton's Got Talent

Am-Dram Royalty In The '90s



With over 150 pantos, plays and performances under his belt and co-founder of his own theatre, Paul Cohen is the lord of am-dram, when not improving the environment on estates for Bolton at Home...

For Paul Cohen, it's all about pleasing an audience, whether that be putting on pantos, plays and performances, or improving the environment on estates as Bolton at Home's Head of Neighbourhood Services.

The curtain opened on Paul's lifelong passion back at school in 1980, when he and his twin brother were, in his words, "dragged" into the school production of *Oklahoma* as they were short of boys... "We had to sing a hymn and if you had a decent-ish

voice you were in the chorus" he recalls. It got them out of Geography lessons but catapulted them into a whole new world of showbiz that, over forty years later, is still buzzing.

Since the school musical, Paul has acted in, or directed, over 150 am-dram productions, set up the CATS youth theatre, and over the last ten years, has co-created the Peace Community Theatre with his wife in a former disused church in Great Lever with a full stage, dressing rooms and tiered seating for almost 150 people.

'Hood



It's the culmination of years working in the community, inspiring youngsters to perform and take opportunities that weren't there when he was growing up on a working class estate... "If I said I was going to drama school in 1983 I would have been told 'What?'. It was a case of leave school and get a job."

That job was at Bolton Council from 1985, in residential homes, in housing management and later in neighbourhood management with Bolton at Home; the job and calling overlapping when Paul put on productions with staff for residents in care homes, or played the piano to start a sing-song.

Paul's work colleagues have been supportive throughout, and although, with his lifelong UNISON membership, his skills would be welcome as a steward, he hasn't got time... "I'm too busy directing pantos" he laughs.

Outside of work, it's been a never ending journey from small parts to lead characters, to directing and even reviewing other shows. Bolton is at the very centre of amateur dramatics in Greater Manchester, with more than one thousand people involved in around thirty two societies. And at the epicentre of that centre is Paul – Chair of BATS, Bolton Amateur Theatre Societies, for twenty years,



and Chair of the Greater Manchester Drama Federation.

“Bolton has a massive concentration of amateur theatre and performance which the Council unfortunately doesn’t embrace” he reflects “But there’s a lot going on.”

CATS, or the Children’s Amateur Theatre Society, which was founded by Paul and his wife thirty years

ago, now has around 150 young people between the ages of five and twenty one attending every week in four groups, from Kittens to Seniors. They have recently finished a run of Rudyard Kipling’s *Just So*, while 28 children from CATS aged seven to fourteen and twelve adults, starred in *Mother Goose*, which Paul directed for his own panto company at Christmas...

Paul with Paddy Bever at the Greater Manchester Drama Federation.



“Panto is what I do” he says “It’s very traditional and very funny, and affordable at £12 per ticket. It costs a fortune to put on a production, with costumes, sets, lighting and more, and you get very few grants for am dram.”

So why does Paul do it? “It’s something we just fell into really; it’s not in the family, although my dad always played the piano” he explains “It’s just something I enjoy, even though it can be hard work.”

And while most am-dram performers secretly want to be professional stars, or at least be seen as an extra supping a pint in the Rovers

Return, Paul has never had such ambitions... “It’s never appealed to me” he says “In 1986 me and my brother went to London to do an advert for

Nescafe. I’ve never seen it, and don’t know if it ever got aired.”

He could have been the Gold Blend boy but is way happier laying a path for others, including his daughter who studied performing at Pendleton College in Salford and is now choreographing productions in her own right. It’s a family affair...

“I met my wife through theatre and it’s what we’ve always done” Paul reflects “People ask if it’s hard work – yes but I’ll never pack it in, it’s what keeps you going.”



Paul In Abigail's Party

At The Sharp End of a Mental Health Crisis



Holding onto rights and ethics in a crazy, crazy climate...

As society's safety nets get tangled and worn, Bolton's AMHPs, or approved mental health professionals, are there on the ground facing the fall out with the town's most distressed people.

"People get referred to our services

when everything else has failed in the community to try and engage that person" explains Emma Nercesian, Deputy Team Leader at Bolton AMHP Hub "For instance, we deal with people who have turned up in A&E and have tried to commit suicide or harm themselves. Also we see people

in custody who the police might have identified as having mental health issues.”

The team of four that Emma leads dealt with over one thousand cases last year, have over two hundred years of experience in the field between them, and hold one of the most responsible jobs in Bolton, juggling with the intricacies of the Mental Health Act.

“Our job is to work out whether someone meets the criteria to come into hospital, whether formally or to use the provisions of the Mental Health Act which is to be detained, or to look at whether there are any alternatives, like community options” says Karen Dalley, an AMHP and mental health social worker at the Hub.

“It’s not just about seeing mental illness as a chemical imbalance, it’s about understanding how people live but it’s also about us still having a duty, while making sure that people aren’t coerced into hospital, that their human rights are upheld” she adds “We’re independent in the sense that we might not agree with the doctors or might provide a counter medical perspective, bringing a more political, social and psychological perspective to the understanding about mental health... looking at all the social circumstances to help determine a decision that we all agree on.” :

One thing the team agree on is that in society everything is entwined and inter-related...that what is driving the crisis in mental health is the all round impact of over a decade of what Karen

calls, the Government’s ‘war on the poor’...

“I first became acutely aware of the importance of austerity on people’s experience of mental illness and how it creates mental illness, and how it impacts on staff and society when I worked at the Mental Health Liaison team” she reflects “You would see a lot of people in crisis, suicidal or with attempted suicide, and what I noticed was that there were only a small percentage with a known mental disorder. So many people – and it was the time of Covid as well - came in with miserable lives, with really difficult lives, with poverty and the impact that has on substance abuse and domestic violence, and the crisis within housing.

“There’s no social housing since Thatcher destroyed it all, and everything is going to pieces...I mean, people can’t afford to put the electric on” she adds “It’s almost impossible to have decent mental health if you can’t have your basic needs met. It’s understanding that; and understanding that as a team we hold onto our values and ethics, so we don’t demonise the poor. We have a political perspective on people’s misery and distress and that can be quite challenging in itself.”

And while people are trying to cope with downtrodden Brit life in the early decades of the 21st Century, the organisations that are trying to help those people are doing so with less and less resources. It’s an uber-vicious circle. Government policies driving major problems in the community, pushing people over the edge, unable

to cope, super-charging mental illness. And side-by-side, Government policies slashing services which try to relieve that increase in mental illness. Prevention and cure cut to the bone. Like, if someone needs a bed, there's the NHS bed shortages which has a huge impact...

"Sometimes we're waiting fourteen days, we're repeating assessments and we are having to identify how that impacts on that person's mental health during the time that they're waiting" Emma explains "You are relying on family to manage risk a lot of the time and people are just waiting and waiting.

"The bed situation isn't good" she adds "We're sending people hundreds of miles away from home but evidence suggests that if you're nearer your family you have that input and support."

And once patients are ready to be discharged there are social factors, like homelessness...but there's nowhere to house them so they remain in hospital.

Meanwhile, new developments see new challenges, including the Right Care Right Person policy which begins in April and means the police won't have to respond to cases that involve mental health issues... "I think we're going to be very busy" says Emma, while acknowledging the affect on staff...

"I think we've seen the impact of austerity in terms of our income" she explains "When I started to work for

community mental health team but now we've got lots of vacant posts everywhere. People are working under a lot of pressure and are leaving because caseloads are high, levels of stress are really, really high. It's about managing your own wellbeing, a sometimes impossible task.

"As a team we are good because we do support each other and reflect a lot" she adds "It's a nice team to work in. Even with all the negativity that we're dealing with and all the difficulties, I enjoy coming to work, I enjoy the job and I enjoy my team. What frustrates me is the cuts and the impact it has on people's lives and their mental health. The positive with our job is that no two days are the same, and I think we do go the extra mile to make sure people's human rights are upheld."

So how do they keep going, given the frustrations faced every day? "By good inter agency working, by keeping our stress levels down ourselves, by making sure we still hold onto our ethics" Karen replies.

"A big part of our job is empowerment but we need to be empowered collectively, and I believe that austerity should be challenged; it's not a necessity it's a political choice" she concludes "We are aware of the importance of UNISON in a time like this. We need to be campaigning and to be proactive in re-addressing the structure of inequalities that the poor are subjected to – otherwise it's just more demand, more demand, more demand..."

UNISON Calls for Ceasefire in Gaza

Bolton's Andrea Egan and Christine Collins, as members of UNISON's National Executive, helped to ensure that UNISON was the first trade union in the UK to call for an Israeli ceasefire in Gaza.

The branch has organised delegations for local, regional and national events. Each rally either displaying our Branch flags or banner.

Andrea, Branch Secretary, spoke at the first rally organised in the town which recorded over 2,000 attendees. She expressed the hurt and anger felt by people at the atrocities they were witnessing and told the crowd that the trade union movement including the branch had a long history of solidarity with Palestine. Whilst condemning the attacks from Hamas, resulting in death and hostages being taken from Israel, she said there was no excuse for the ongoing death and destruction that was now taking place, with the loss of not only innocent lives but many women and children. The retired members section in between attending the lobbies in the region and nationally also organised an event in Bolton, where locals were encouraged to bring teddies and candles to remember the loss of lives of the children, naming it Grandparents for Gaza.

The branch was also represented in the lobby of full Council Meeting, to demand the council sign a motion calling for an immediate ceasefire. Some members asked what the relevance of a local council was taking such an action, the branch response is to build the voice of opposition to the actions of the Israeli state. Andrea said she was touched by several speeches and a few that stood out were.

'A message to Israel, we bear witness that

you will never be able to build a holy land on the mass graves of innocent women, babies and children'.

'A message to Palestinians in Gaza, whilst some have tried to erase you from the world maps, you have permanently carved a place in our soul – YOU Palestine are forever in our souls. You have liberated us from our unconscious bias, and you have united us as human beings of the world. You have given us a common purpose to fight for.

'A message to the world leaders, to stand by and do nothing makes you implicit you need to check your moral compass'.

And on the reason why delegates continue to attend the rallies and demonstrations it is a message of solidarity

'While the capital world has taken too long to take action for you Palestine, those attending the rallies and demonstrations will not give up, we will continue to take to the street and public places to be YOUR VOICE – we are one – it will not be in vain, we will continue to fight for your liberation and your freedom, because you – just like any other human, have a right to be free'



Unions Back Labour's New Deal – With Reservations

It's should boost workers' rights...but will it be watered down?

Unions have welcomed Labour's New Deal for Working People which was launched by Labour's Deputy Leader, Angela Rayner, at Labour's annual conference in Liverpool. The New Deal was put forward as Labour's comprehensive plan to improve the lives of working people by strengthening individual and collective rights, drawn up in partnership with affiliated trade unions.

Trade unions have welcomed Labour's New Deal but have also expressed concern following rumours that the deal could be watered down once Labour is in government. The commitment from Keir Starmer and Labour's

leadership is that an incoming Labour Government will write the New Deal plan into law within one hundred days of taking office.

Labour's New Deal for Working People proclaims that, under Labour, work will be more secure and better-paid, and unions and individuals will have stronger rights to redress the power imbalance in the workplace. Working people need better rights, stronger unions and a Labour Government to win the new deal at work they deserve.

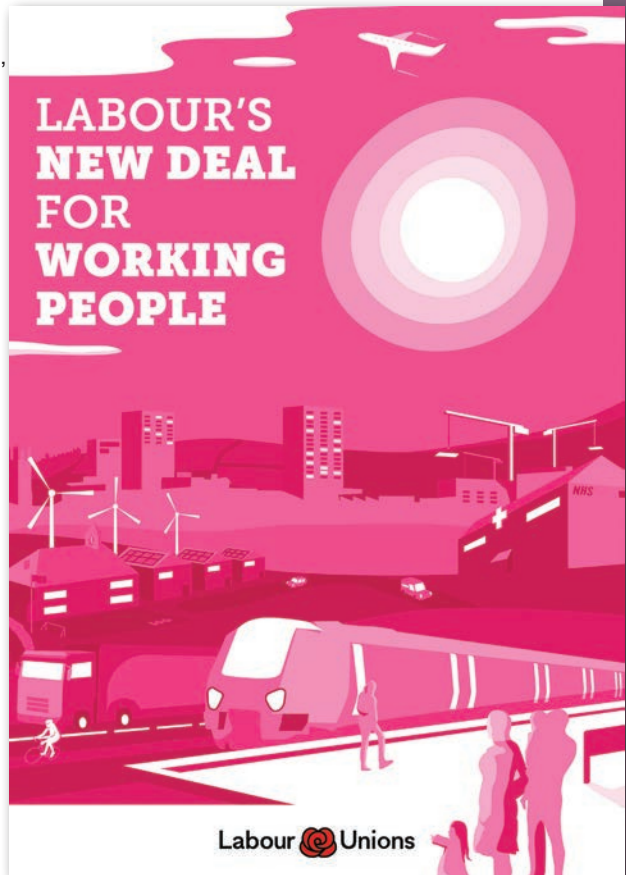
It adds that Labour will strengthen rights at work for all workers, from day one on the job, that Labour will end fire and rehire, make work more family-friendly, and make it easier to balance work with home, community and family life. Labour will also ban zero-hours contracts and ensure everyone has the right to regular hours they can rely on. Trade union rights will be strengthened, raising pay and conditions, while Labour will reverse the decades-long



decline in collective bargaining, Fair Pay Agreements to drive up pay and conditions.

Mick Lynch, leader of the RMT union gave his backing to Labour and the New Deal but with some reservations..."I hope Labour are the next government because it's either them or another chapter of Tory incompetence" he says "We've got some reservations. We hope that they're strong. We hope they're interested in socialism and changing the direction of the country for the betterment of the people. So we're optimistic about that, but we're realistic that they've got a lot of challenges and we've got to support them when they do the stuff we like and criticise them when they don't go far enough or do the stuff we don't like. We want this new deal for workers in full."

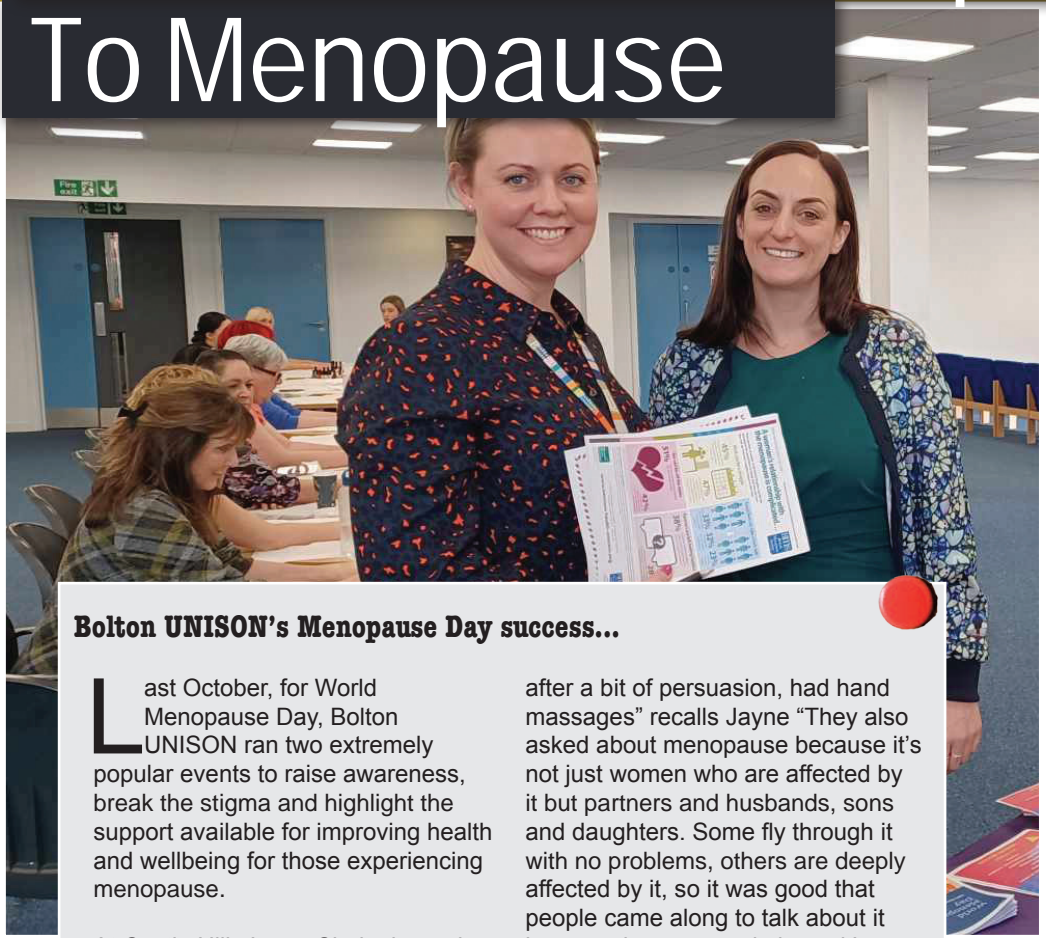
Phil Chanin, Chairperson of Bolton UNISON also welcomed Labour's New Deal with similar words of caution..."After thirteen years of the Conservatives and the disaster of austerity, people have had enough. If the opinion polls are right, people are looking to Labour to form the next government. We want that Labour Government to represent the interests of working people and their families. We want to see a Labour Government that will work constructively with trade



simply criticise unions and undermine them. I was pleased to see Labour's New Deal to boost workers' rights. As trade unions we will be watching closely with the expectation that Labour delivers on the New Deal without delay and without being watered down".

For further details see <https://labourunions.org.uk/newdeal>

The World Wakes Up To Menopause



Bolton UNISON's Menopause Day success...

Last October, for World Menopause Day, Bolton UNISON ran two extremely popular events to raise awareness, break the stigma and highlight the support available for improving health and wellbeing for those experiencing menopause.

At Castle Hill, Jayne Clarke hosted a two hour menopause drop-in session attended by around fifty people who picked up UNISON freebies at the stall and queued to have hand massages and manicures courtesy of girls from Bolton College health and beauty course.

"It was really good as we got men coming too and some of them,

after a bit of persuasion, had hand massages" recalls Jayne "They also asked about menopause because it's not just women who are affected by it but partners and husbands, sons and daughters. Some fly through it with no problems, others are deeply affected by it, so it was good that people came along to talk about it because in some workplaces it's a taboo subject."

Meanwhile, over at the Town Hall, Women's Officer, Christine Collins, hosted another event which drew up to eighty people...

"You couldn't move in the room" she says "Everyone really welcomed it and said they needed more of it.



While they were queuing to have their hands massaged they were talking to myself and public health were doing blood pressures.

the year.

“People wanted more events and we discussed setting up a menopause cafe within the Town Hall and possibly online as well, because a lot of women said they couldn’t believe that there were so many going through the same thing” Christine adds “We can have one that’s formal and discuss how we can support people in the workplace, and one that’s more chatty where they can talk amongst themselves. There’s also men’s health that needs to be addressed but the majority of people who work in the council are women.”



A few years ago, Jayne was instrumental in getting Bolton Council to adopt guidelines for colleagues and those going through the menopause, and now Bolton UNISON is looking to take it one step further, with an overarching Women’s Policy covering everything from the menopause to menstrual cycles.



“All this has been possible because the union did it, pushed the employer and said ‘*You need this*’” Christine reflects “It’s about members understanding that we’re not just there to represent people, we’re not just there to stand on picket lines... We are going to build on this and have more wellbeing events during





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

Bolton UNISON

2024 AGM

Former Branch Secretary Bernie Gallagher to be guest speaker...

This year's AGM will take place on Wednesday 13th March between noon and 1.30pm in the Lancaster Suite at Bolton Town Hall with a free buffet.

The Branch Annual General Meeting is the most important meeting every year and we encourage all members to come along and find out what the Branch has been up to for the last year and be a part of the plans for the next year.

This year's guest speaker is former Branch Secretary, Bernie Gallagher, an inspiration to many, while there will be usual array of stalls, plus information about accessing membership add-ons, including lifelong learning, legal services and welfare. All attendees have a free chance to win one of ten afternoon teas-for-two, to eat in or have delivered to your house.

The AGM also sees the election of all Branch Officers for another year – all non-retired members are eligible to be nominated for any officer role.* If you are interested in becoming more involved in your Branch, in any way at all, please get in touch – from being a workplace contact distributing UNISON information in your section, or becoming involved in our Women's, Black, LGBT+ , Disabled or Retired Members groups, or representing your colleague members collectively and individually...we will provide full support and training at every step.

The AGM starts at 12.30pm with a buffet from 12pm.

***You can see details of all officer roles at <https://boltonlocalgovernment.unison.site/branch-roles/>**



Cinderella In Bolton

Bolton UNISON's annual subsidised panto day drew another sold out crowd for Cinderella at the Albert Halls. With ugly sisters booed at every appearance, Corrie's Vicky Entwistle as the fairy godmother, a cheeky monkey, some smart jokes amidst the singing and dancing, and a magic flying stagecoach, a top time was had by all...especially Prince Charming who got his gal...Oh yes he did!



"It's absolutely fantastic, we get a full house from it which is amazing and my colleagues get to bring their family to the panto which a lot won't be able to as we're going through a cost of living crisis."

Ann Marie Talbot, Duty Manager at the Albert Halls, with partner Wayne and granddaughter Freya.

Photos by Louise Garman



"I think it's brilliant that we can all come, my son and grandchildren. We come every year and enjoy it. It's great. Oliver calls it the party line!"

Rita Gough, with son Joe, and Oliver and Lilly.



"It's our first time here and we're looking forward to it. UNISON makes it affordable for a family outing doesn't it? That's why it's sold out."

Wendy Baker, with Steve Baker and Lilly



"I've been coming for about twelve years. I think it's absolutely fantastic. This gives lots of families who couldn't afford the full price a chance to come and see a fantastic pantomime with fantastic people, and have a really nice day out."

Joan Pritchard Jones with Isobelle and Sophie



"I've been in UNISON for nineteen years and it's my first time here. My sister has started working at Bolton at Home and she's got the tickets this year. The discounted tickets helps bring families together when money's quite tight."

Natalie Power



"I've not been to a panto for a long time. The children have been talking about it constantly. Every little helps!"

Sue Wood, with daughters Erin and Chelsea and grandchildren Emmiline and Bodie



“I’m a retired member of UNISON and this is our first time here – I think it’s a marvellous thing because it’s expensive if there’s a big family.”
Susan Lomax, with granddaughter Isla and family.



“I was looking forward to the panto as I really wanted to see Cinderella and I love the jokes. I like dressing up to look like Cinderella or any of the characters.”
Maya Garman



“It’s our first time and we’re definitely looking forward to it. The discounted tickets are very good when you’ve got a big family.”
Muribi Bora, with Manaxir, Pria, Jusu, Vinod, Nathan and granddaughters Eliana and Elena.

Photos by Louise Garman



UNISON Mural Makeover

Four years after it was first created by Bolton's neo:artists, Louise Garman and Andy Smith, they were back in the UNISON room at the Hub, renovating and enhancing the original mural artwork...

"Some damage had been done by members banging their chairs against it and we were asked to repair and upgrade it" says Louise "It was like restoring an old painting, so we had to mix the right colours and make it blend in, and then we



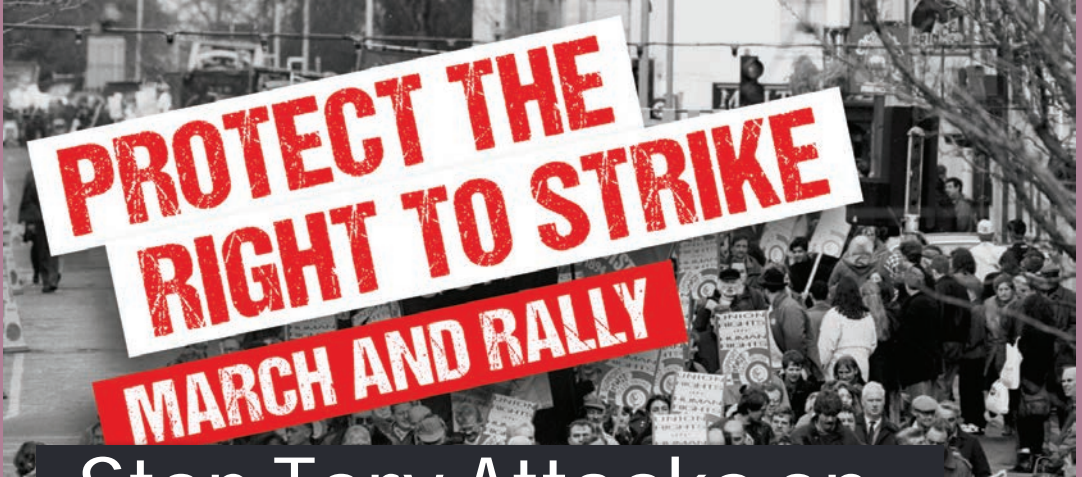
glazed it to protect the mural for a good few more years..."



Thousands Defy Tories in Manchester

Last October, thousands of people demonstrated against the Conservative Government, as the Tories held their annual conference in Manchester. Organised by the People's Assembly Against Austerity, the protest brought together huge numbers of trade unionists, climate activists and campaign groups from across the political spectrum as the message was loud and clear... 'Tories not welcome here!'





Stop Tory Attacks on Workers' Rights!

Forty years on and the Conservative Government is still assaulting trade union rights

Just over forty years ago, on 25th January 1984, Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Government attacked trade union rights at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in Cheltenham.

Trade union members were told to resign their membership or be sacked, as Thatcher claimed that trade union membership was a "threat to national security". After a long and determined campaign by GCHQ workers and their families, with solidarity from across the trade union movement, they were reinstated when an incoming Labour Government repealed the ban.

Today, Rishi Sunak's Conservative Government is restricting the right to strike for over five million workers. Our rights to organise and take strike action are fundamental to British liberty. It's vital that we defend these rights at all costs. We have won before and will win again. In 2024 the fight to defend our trade union rights continues, and started with a march and rally at Cheltenham on 27th January to remember our history, protest against the Government and stand up for our rights...



Developing Campaign



UNISON members get down with the 'organising academy'...

"Give light and the people will find a way" - Ella Baker

In September last year, Leanne Greenwood and Phil Chanin from Bolton UNISON attended a weekend 'organising academy' at Liverpool's Hope University. The event was run by the Ella Baker school of organising, named after one of the pioneers in the US civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s.

The Ella Baker school of organising works internationally with trade union and community activists to develop campaigning skills and ideas. As its website declares:

"We are re-establishing and re-politicising the culture of activist education and training to encourage transformative union and community organising for a more democratic, more equal and more sustainable world."

Leanne and Phil who both work for Bolton Council, sum up their experiences at the event..

"After a tiring and busy week of work, I wasn't enthusiastic about a weekend event in Liverpool, but I'm so glad that I went" says Leanne "It was really inspiring and I came away buzzing. It was fantastic networking with lots of different people. I met a tenants

Skills



organiser from Madrid and a trade unionist over from Ukraine. I talked with Kim Johnson a former UNISON steward who is now the Labour MP for Liverpool, Riverside.

"One big campaign idea we discussed was ASOS, or action short of striking" she explains "This fascinated me and gave food for thought about organising in workplaces. We can't always get a yes vote in a strike ballot if members don't have the confidence to fight. ASOS is a means to organise, win key battles and give people self-belief."

Phil also enjoyed the event, adding "I learned such a lot in a short space of time. We met trade union activists from all over the place including several people in dispute which was great. There were people from Knowsley UNISON and some of the London UNISON branches. There were GMB reps from branches in Scotland and Yorkshire as well as people from the lecturers unions.

"When you've been a union rep for a long time it is easy to get stuck in certain ways of doing things but as trade unions we have to adapt and change" he reflects "The organising principle is very much focussed on involving people on the ground. It's moving away from the idea of everything being left to a few individuals to come along and sort everything out. I came away feeling really energised by the whole thing. I would certainly encourage other UNISON members to attend similar organising events in future."



Unison Bolton LG Branch

UNISON

AGM



YOUR union YOUR say

Wednesday 13th MARCH

12:30 - 13:30PM

LANCASTER SUITE BOLTON

TOWN HALL

FREE BUFFET FROM 12PM

Guest Speaker

Bernie Gallagher

Active Retired Member
and Former Bolton Branch
Secretary

Stalls

Justicia
Lifelong Learning
Equalities
Member Benefits

Prize Raffle

10 x afternoon teas

This meeting is open to ALL members of
Bolton Unison Local Government Branch

Keep The Holocaust Memory Alive!

Bolton hears from second generation Holocaust survivor who won't let the terrible memories die...

In January, to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, with this year's theme *'the fragility of freedom'*, Leah Burman from the Northern Holocaust Education Group spoke at Bolton Central Library about her father and the wider significance of recalling atrocities.

Leah, a second generation Holocaust survivor whose father, Ziggy Landschaft, survived near mortal persecution by the Nazis, uses her family experience to recognise the importance of action to make the world a better place. She has had a lifelong involvement with anti-racist training in education and with dialogue for peace organisations.

"It was a fantastic opportunity to talk about the miraculous survival of my father, Ziggy, who lived a free life to the age of 14, but then was incarcerated in a ghetto, three concentration camps and sent on a death march" Leah explains "He was amazingly saved by Czech, non-Jewish prisoners of war. Through sharing personal experiences of

the Holocaust like those of my father, and others, the Northern Holocaust Education Group, hopes to inspire people to stand up against hatred, discrimination and persecution of any kind."

The talk took place alongside a wider exhibition of photos by Cat Woodall-Crook taken on the UNISON Holocaust Education tour that she went on in 2023.

The Northern Holocaust Education Group (NHEG) was founded because the First Generation of Holocaust Survivors will not be able to tell their stories in person forever. NHEG is managing the transition from First Generation to Second and Subsequent Generations, with the aim that future generations will continue to experience the life stories of victims of Nazi persecution and the Holocaust in a way that is meaningful and relevant to the issues of today.





Famous Writers Wordsearch

Can you find these famous writers who wrote with a social conscience?

- Shelly
- LeGuin
- Chomsky
- Greer
- Orwell
- Zola
- Dickens
- Atwood
- Tressell
- Angelou
- Steinbeck
- Marquez
- Nin
- DeBeauvoir

Wordsearch grid containing the following words:

- Shelly
- LeGuin
- Chomsky
- Greer
- Orwell
- Zola
- Dickens
- Atwood
- Tressell
- Angelou
- Steinbeck
- Marquez
- Nin
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- Chomsky
- Orwell
- Zola
- Dickens
- Atwood
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- Steinbeck
- Marquez
- Nin
- DeBeauvoir
- Chomsky
- Orwell
- Zola
- Dickens
- Atwood
- Tressell
- Angelou
- Steinbeck
- Marquez
- Nin
- DeBeauvoir
- Chomsky
- Orwell
- Zola
- Dickens
- Atwood
- Tressell
- Angelou
- Steinbeck
- Marquez
- Nin
- DeBeauvoir

LGBT+ Quiz Answers: 1. Greenwich Village, New York 2. 1967 3. Iceland - Johanna Sigurðardóttir 4. 1990 5. Denmark 6. 2000 7. South Africa 8. 1977 9. Mexico 10. Pide

SPORTS & SOCIAL 


UNISON
BOLTON BRANCH

CALL MR ROBEYSON

SATURDAY 9TH
MARCH
7.30PM

OCTAGON
THEATRE
BOLTON

THE STORY OF PAUL, AS A GREAT AND FAMOUS ACTOR, SINGER AND CIVIL RIGHTS CAMPAIGNER. WHEN OVER THE YEARS HE GETS PROGRESSIVELY TOO RADICAL AND OUTSPOKEN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT'S LIKING HE IS BRANDED A TRAITOR TO HIS COUNTRY AND HARASSED AND DENIED OPPORTUNITIES TO PERFORM OR TRAVEL. THIS ROLLER-COASTER JOURNEY THROUGH ROBESONS REMARKABLE AND EVENTFUL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS HOW HIS PIONEERING AND HEROIC BUT LARGELY FORGOTTEN POLITICAL ACTIVISM LED MANY TO DESCRIBE HIM AS A FORERUNNER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

TAYO ALUKO & FRIENDS, DELIVERS A BRILLIANTLY PUT TOGETHER HISTORY LESSON DELIVERED THROUGH ART. IT'S A HISTORY LESSON ABOUT ACTIVISM, BLACK HISTORY AND THE UNDERCLASS ALL ROLLED INTO ONE.

SMALL £2 CHARGE FOR UNISON
MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
EVENTBRITE

[HTTP://TINYURL.COM/MR376H3U](http://tinyurl.com/mr376h3u)





LGBT+ Quiz

2024 is UNISON's Year of LGBT+ workers, but how much do you know about LGBT+ history and the fight for equality?

1. Where was the famous Stonewall Rebellion of June 1969?
2. In what year did homosexuality become legal for those over 21 in the UK?
3. Which country elected a former flight attendant and union organiser as the world's first openly Lesbian Prime Minister in 2009?
4. Justin Fashanu was Britain's first openly gay footballer, in what year did he publicly declare his sexuality to a UK newspaper?
5. Which European country became the first in the world to legally recognise same sex unions, allowing civil partnerships in 1989?
6. In what year did it become legal to be gay in the UK Military?
7. Which country's constitution, was the first in the world to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation?
8. In what year did the UK see the first Gay and Lesbian Trade Union Congress (TUC) take place to discuss workplace rights?
9. The artist Frida Kahlo is considered to be a feminist and LGBT+ icon, which country was she from?
10. Which 2014 film, celebrated the solidarity between members of LGSM (Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners) and striking miners during the 1984/5 dispute?

Answers on page 44



HAVE A PROBLEM AT WORK?

In the first instance, please raise all issues with your line manager, making sure you keep a record of what was discussed. This is essential so we have all the information required to best advise you should you need a UNISON rep.

IF UNABLE TO RESOLVE - DO YOU HAVE A WORKPLACE REP?



YES

Your Workplace Rep is best placed to understand whatever issue you may have and is able to advise and assist you in confidence. All reps have support from the Branch Office and Regional Office if needed.

For your workplace, your rep is:

NO

Use the contact details below to get in touch, and a member of our team will be in contact to discuss your issue.

Have a chat with your colleagues - who do you think would make a good Rep in your workplace? Our union is stronger with active Reps in our workplaces.

 01204 338901

 admin@unisonbolton.org

 www.unisonbolton.org

UNISON
BOLTON BRANCH

HOW TO RAISE A WORKPLACE ISSUE

STEP ONE - SPEAK TO YOUR MANAGER

Many issues can be resolved informally by speaking directly with your line manager. This will provide your union with the information we need to support you.

STEP TWO - SPEAK TO COLLEAGUES

You may find your issue is a collective issue. If so nominate a leader who will speak to your UNISON Rep or Branch on your behalf.

STEP THREE - CONTACT YOUR WORKPLACE UNISON REPRESENTATIVE

All of our stewards are fully trained to confidentially support you with your workplace issues. Don't have a UNISON representative in your workplace? In the absence of a rep it is best to put full details of your query in writing to:

admin@unisonbolton.org

If you cannot email you can call the branch office on 01204 338901.

If you know someone who would make a good Rep in your workplace get in touch. Our union is stronger with active Reps in our workplaces.

STEP FOUR - FORMAL PROCEDURE WITH BRANCH SUPPORT

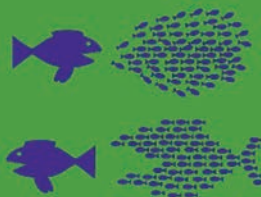
If your matter remains unresolved guidance will be provided on invoking formal procedures such as the grievance procedure. Support will be available throughout this process from experienced branch officers or staff. UNISON may also ask you to complete a case form for legal advice.

STEP FIVE - STRENGTHEN YOUR WORKPLACE

UNISON is built on the collective strength of our members in workplaces across Bolton. The more members, Reps and activists we have - the more power we have to prevent issues in the workplace.

Could you be our next activist?

Let us know using the contact info below.

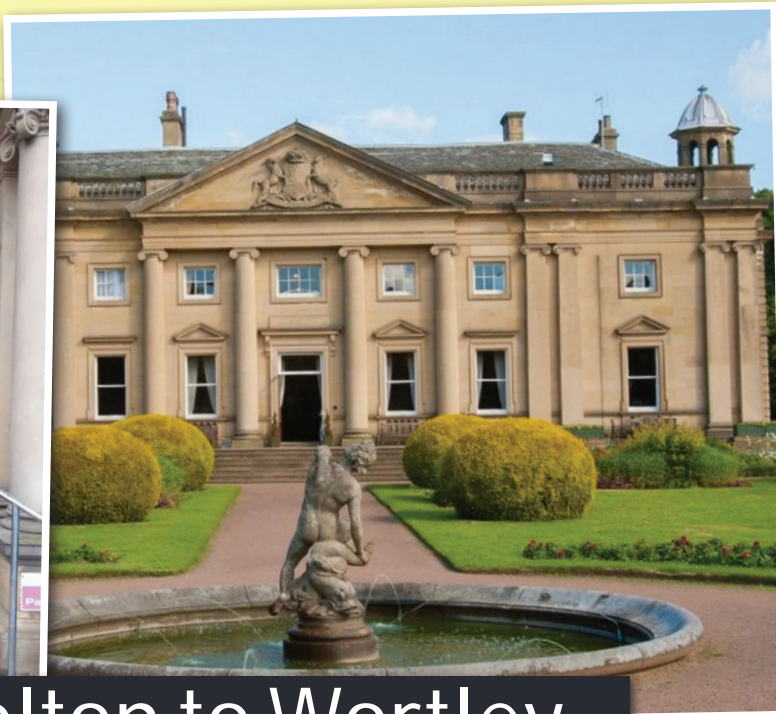


 01204 338901

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 www.unisonbolton.org

UNISON
BOLTON BRANCH



From Bolton to Wortley *The workers' stately home...*

In September last year, Christine Collins and Leanne Greenwood attended a women's political education event organised by UNISON North West. The event was held at Wortley Hall, a former stately home in South Yorkshire.

For more than six decades the hall has been owned by individual members and organisations associated with the trade union and wider labour movement. It is currently used by several unions and other organisations as a venue for residential training courses and other

meetings, as well as for purely social gatherings, and is run as a non-profit co-operative which is also open to the public.

Wortley Hall, sometimes known as 'the workers' stately home', is a popular licensed venue for wedding and civil partnership ceremonies. It's also open for day visitors to explore the hall's gardens and extensive grounds.

For more info see <https://wortleyhall.org.uk/>

BOLTON UNISON

Social Diary

Plays, walks, galas and festivals with a UNISON flavour this year...

Saturday 17th February 7:30pm

Animal Farm

Octagon Theatre

(ticket details via UNISON office)



Saturday 9th March 7:30pm

Call Mr Robeson

Octagon Theatre

Free tickets for UNISON members - £2 to cover admin

Book via EventBrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/call-mr-robeson-tickets-796699889817?aff=oddtcreator>

Sunday 28th April from 11.30am

Workers Memorial Day

Bolton Town Hall Square

(for more details check social media and website)

Saturday 6th July 10:30am

Ellen Strange Memorial Walk

From Emmanuel Holcombe Church
(see article)



Saturday 13th July

Durham Miners Gala

Coach leaves Bolton at 6:30am

(book via the UNISON office from 4th June)



Saturday 7th September all day

Wigan Diggers Festival

Wigan town centre

Coach to the event and train back
(details from UNISON office)

Sunday 27th October

Blackpool Illuminations Tour

Coach leaves Bolton 1pm

(ticket details from UNISON office)

Sunday 8th December 1:30pm

Rapunzel Panto

Bolton Albert halls

(tickets on sale from 5th October)

BOLTON UNISON

BRANCH CONTACTS

Branch Officers

Branch Chairperson:	Phil Chanin (01204 338901)	phil.chanin@unisonbolton.org
Branch Secretary:	Andrea Egan (01204 338901)	andrea.egan@unisonbolton.org
Branch Treasurer:	John Pye (01204 338901)	john.pye@bolton.gov.uk
Vice Chair:	Jane Howarth (01204 338901)	Jane.howarth@bolton.gov.uk
Assistant Branch Secretary:	Christine Collins (01204 338906)	christine.collins@unisonbolton.org
Equalities Co-ordinators:	Hanna English (01204 338901)	hanna.english@boltonathome.org.uk
	Christine Collins (01204 338906)	christine.collins@unisonbolton.org
Women's Officer:	Christine Collins (01204 338906)	christine.collins@unisonbolton.org
Education Officer:	Janet Bryan (01204 338901)	janet.bryan@unisonbolton.org
Lifelong Learning Officer:	Gaynor Cox (01204338901)	gaynor.cox@boltonathome.org.uk
Welfare Officer:	Julie Tudor (01204 338901)	admin@unisonbolton.org
Membership Officer:	Phil Chanin (01204 338901)	phil.chanin@unisonbolton.org or membership@unisonbolton.org
Young Members Officer:		Vacancy
Environmental Officer:	Rhiannon Whitehead (01204 338901)	admin@unisonbolton.org
Joint Communications Officers:	Martin Challender (01204 338901)	martin.challender@bolton.gov.uk
	Cat Woodall-Crook	catherine.woodall-crook@boltonathome.org.uk
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Sports & Social Officer:	Andrea Egan (01204 338901)	andrea.egan@unisonbolton.org
Retired Members Secretary:	Jackie Winstanley (01204 338901)	admin@unisonbolton.org

Convenors

Adult Services Convenor:	Leanne Greenwood	admin@unison.bolton.org
Place & Chief Executives Stewards committee:	John Pye (01204 338901)	john.pye@bolton.gov.uk
Bolton at Home:	Janet Bryan (01204 329850)	janet.bryan@boltonathome.org.uk
Bolton Cares:	Julie Tudor (01204 338901)	boltoncares.convenor@unisonbolton.org
Children Services & Schools:	Lauren Alergant (01204 338907)	childrens@unisonbolton.org
Community & Voluntary Sector Caseworker (p/t):	Ryan Quick (01204 338901)	cvsunison@unisonbolton.org
Bolton Community Colleague:	Rebecca Davidson	admin@unisonbolton.org



Bolton UNISON

AGM

Wednesday 13th March

12:30-1:30pm

Lancaster Suite, Bolton Town Hall

Guest speaker:
Bernie Gallagher

Free buffet, prize raffle, stalls and more...