

BATTLING FOR BOLTON



Unmasking Reform UK
Why Farage isn't the answer...

**Overseas Workers Bullied
and Exploited**
*Support the Fair Visa
Campaign*

**Onwards and Upwards
for Black Members**
*Tackling bias in the
workplace*

Spring 2026 Issue 31 Free

**Bolton UNISON AGM
2026 - Don't miss!**

**More Shock and
Horror at Bolton's
University**

**Support The
Disability
Employment
Charter!**



Our Andrea Elected General Secretary of UNISON!

Bolton Branch Secretary to lead Britain's biggest trade union

Plus news, views, comps and wordsearch



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mind if you tell us again!



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UNISON

Intro...



Welcome to the Spring edition of your Battling for Bolton.

I am really sad, that this will be my last branch Intro for Battling for Bolton as your Branch Secretary. I have become the person I am today by the experience and knowledge I have gained through my time in the branch.

Starting life as a workplace steward, then moving through the officer positions to become the Branch Secretary, while being supported and mentored by those who came before me to have the confidence to put myself forward to stand for our UNISON National Executive Council. This gave me the root to become UNISON's President for the year's term and now... being elected as the first ever member to become UNISON's General Secretary.

Who would have thought our Bolton branch would have produced a General Secretary of the UK's biggest trade union! Whilst the task of Branch Secretary is a demanding role - and often a thankless task as much work is also done behind the scenes - I can honestly say it has been an honour and privilege to serve the branch over the years, in all those different capacities!

I have lots of memories of both the good times and the challenges; they don't call the movement a struggle for nothing! But it

has been such a rewarding role, standing by the sides of many members over the years, individually and collectively. I have seen the some of the best outcomes when members have stood together, and we have a number of them in Bolton. Thank you for the time you've given me.

As we say goodbye to 2025, I want to celebrate that our branch membership remains steady. We have recruited 16 new stewards but still need a couple to cover our waste department. We had 22 members step forward to become either School Champions or workplace contacts, and your stewards and branch officers have undertaken 10-minute workplace meetings in 77 workplaces. Missed out? Then contact the branch and invite us to your workplace...

The best way to build our branch strength is members stepping forward to become active in what's happening in your own workplaces. The branch is built on solidarity, building our member power and being part of the solution. Members often state that they don't have the time to become a steward, but, in most of our workplaces, the Council grants facility time, giving you paid time off to undertake your duties. It's a role I did when I worked in Children's residential and then as a

social worker in Children's.

We can all wait for someone else to do it for us, but that only puts more pressure and burden on the stewards who exist, and it doesn't bring solutions to the root problems many teams are facing. It is a rewarding role, supporting others to come together to raise issues and seek solutions. And winning!

The most frustrating part of my role as Branch Secretary is when I'm informed of 'ongoing issues' in our service teams. Why haven't these issues been raised before? Usually, it's because there isn't a steward in the team and members simply carry on, being able to see things aren't right or things are going wrong, but no-one wants to raise the issue.

Please be part of the change. Our struggles and challenges are not going away anytime soon, either because management go unchallenged, or the service you work in continues to face increased demands, and there is no fresh money to help build the team numbers. Well, nothing changes unless as workers we demand that change. So please consider in your teams a steward for your section. Sometimes it's not about the individual stepping forward, it's best when others in the team identify the person that they think would make a good advocate for them as workers. Maybe if you contact the branch and we come and do a 10-minute talk in your section, we could start the steward discussions.

As we enter 2026, we must set out our aims and objectives goals. We have now developed the branch action plan for 2026 which we hope you will sign off at the Annual General Members meeting on the 18th of March - details listed within the magazine but please put the date in your diary,

There are some thought provoking issues

in this edition of Battling for Bolton. I hope you can read and embrace them. We shouldn't leave issues that don't impact you to those it does. This is how we built a more inclusive society. There are articles about our Black members self-organised group and how our Black members in UNISON can become more involved, and a follow up article on Reform.

A great act of solidarity came when the branch put out a call to help support The Bolton Endeavour Project's Christmas Wish List collection, and the response was overwhelming. It was with great pride that branch representatives dropped off your overflowing boxes to the project.

Then there is an emotional article about the plight of our migrant workers, and the lives and unfair challenges they are facing. With the unity of UNISON, they are fighting back. Meanwhile, the saga at Greater Manchester University continues...and our work for greater disability rights goes from strength to strength, so please get involved.

Our school work is pioneering within the region and we are looking to get involved in the region's branch funding bid, to get ourselves a branch organiser, whilst we currently celebrate the fabulous work of our school workers. There's plenty more articles to get engrossed in and see the work we've undertaken to celebrate and challenge.

I hope you will become more active within UNISON in the coming year. We have social events (trips to the Octagon, Blackpool Lights, Pantomime, film events) all advertised on our Facebook page. Are we friends? Look us up and join us: *Unison Bolton LG*

Good luck for 2026...

Andrea Egan



Bolton's Andrea Elected as UNISON General Secretary

Bolton Branch Secretary, Andrea Egan, has been elected to the national union's top post

Bolton UNISON Branch Secretary, Andrea Egan, has been elected as General Secretary to UNISON nationally, in a landslide victory which marks a turning point for the union.

Andrea secured almost 60% of the vote to rival incumbent Christina McAnea's 40%.

Branded a 'left wing firebrand' by Labour

List, a forum for analysis and debate about the Labour Party, the online organisation argued that Andrea's election would be a 'seismic shift' for the union.

Andrea, the first lay member to be elected to the top job, declared that she was "delighted" with the result...

The Result

Andrea Egan 58,579 (59.82%)
Christina McAnea 39,353 (40.18%)

Number of eligible votes: 1,404,684

Number of votes cast: 98,251

Turnout 7%

Votes found to be invalid: 319

Total number of votes counted: 97,932

The Reaction...

"Congratulations to @Andrea4GS on her election as general secretary of UNISON. I look forward to working with her."

Prime Minister Keir Starmer

"Andrea's victory on an anti-austerity ticket shows that working-class people won't take more cuts and more decline. UNISON members have said no to Starmer's crumbs off the table, no to chronic low pay, no to underfunding and no to privatisation. It really is time for real change."

Your Party

"Wow! Congratulations to Andrea Egan, the new General Secretary of UNISON. As a UNISON member, it was my pleasure to support Andrea. She will be a voice for all members, and will fight for the fairer society they deserve. See you on the picket line."

Jeremy Corbyn

"Congratulations to @Andrea4GS on her election as General Secretary of UNISON. She will be a tireless advocate for more than a million public service workers."

Angela Rayner MP

"The biggest step forward for the left in the labour movement for years"

Momentum

"This win, above all, is for ordinary UNISON members" she said "We public sector workers are on the frontlines of chronic underfunding, low pay, and outsourcing. We bear the brunt of it all. UNISON's central task is to change that reality - our reality."

"I will work tirelessly to transform this union, but I cannot do it alone" she added "Because this isn't about me as an individual. It's about ordinary



Bolton and District Pensioners Association celebrating Andrea's election victory.

UNISON members taking charge collectively.

"We are going to need everyone – members, branch reps, grassroots activists, and our staff – pulling together. Then we can transform our union, and with it the lives of public sector

"I think this is a brilliant result for UNISON members—one of us has been elected. She's someone who understands what it's like not to be paid enough, to be overworked, to deal with bullying managers—all while trying to deliver services. Andrea campaigned around better workers' rights, better pay and for a better society. She spoke up on Palestine, and got involved in fighting racism and above all wants to fight for our members."

Liz Wheatley, Camden UNISON Local Government Branch Secretary

"The result shows clearly that vast swathes of Labour's historic coalition feel the Government has fallen out of step with its mainstream. By working hand in hand with our partners in the trade union movement, the Labour Party has ushered in huge advances for working people before and it can do so again – but only if the party rediscovers its progressive instincts."

Mainstream, new Labour lobby group linked to Andy Burnham

"We offer our sincere congratulations to Andrea Egan who worked tirelessly to promote the work of Endeavour and support victims of domestic abuse."

Endeavour Project (Bolton based domestic abuse charity)

Reaction from Bolton UNISON Members...

“Congratulations Andrea Egan for your success in UNISON’s General Secretary election. The first lay member to win this election. You thoroughly deserve it, you’ve worked tirelessly all your life against discrimination, fought for workers’ rights and to support the vulnerable. I’m so proud to have worked beside you, and even prouder to call you my friend.”
Jayne Clarke

“I have known Andrea for over 25 years, and she has always acted in the best interests of her members. I am confident that her election to the top job in UNISON will not change that commitment. A working-class woman, born and bred in Bolton, Andrea served her community as a child protection social worker, and I can’t think of a better qualified person to fill this important position. By forgoing the £180k salary attached to the role of General Secretary and instead taking a social worker’s wage, she has shattered the myth that union leaders are motivated by money rather than principle.”
Bernie Gallagher Retired Member and Former Branch Secretary

“I am so proud that Andrea is my Branch Secretary. This is a new era for UNISON...”
Anne Webster

“Congratulations to Andrea – this is the first time a lay member has been elected to the senior post in the union.”
Christine Collins (Assistant Branch Secretary)

“Best Christmas present ever! Andrea Egan has been an amazing Branch Secretary and will be the best General Secretary UNISON has ever had.”
Lauren Alergant

“A reassertion of independent, working class power inside the biggest union in the country!!!”
Karen Dalley



workers across this country.

“This result means ordinary UNISON members are at long last taking charge of our union” she added “We will put faith in members’ decisions and stand up to any employer, politician or cabinet minister who acts against our interests. Together, we will turn UNISON into the

remarkable force for change it should be. That journey has begun today.”

Andrea, who has said that she won’t take the £181,000 General Secretary salary and will continue to take her current wage as a social worker, will begin her five-year term as General Secretary on January 22nd this year.

“As a UNISON Convenor and Branch Officer over many years, I’ve worked with Andrea through thick and thin. She will be a formidable and effective union leader. Andrea believes in the principles of solidarity and is not afraid to stand up for public service workers everywhere. Andrea is the first lay member to be elected as General Secretary. That grass roots experience as a UNISON member and representative must bring a new first hand understanding of the realities we face in the workplace and community. I’m proud to say ‘We are now truly a member-led union’...”
Janet Bryan, Bolton at Home

“Well done Andrea Egan on winning with a clear majority showing the establishment it is time for a change! I have stood with Andrea on many picket lines and too many lobbies. Andrea is at her best when dealing with members, honest, reliable, and dedicated. Definitely the best person for the position of General Secretary.”
Joan Pritchard-Jones

“I’m absolutely delighted that Andrea was elected with almost 60% of the vote. Bolton’s Andrea stood as a lay candidate on a worker’s wage rather than the big salary that General Secretaries usually get paid. This will help close the gap between union leadership and ordinary members. This might be one small step, but I feel it’s one of many that we can hope to see over the next five years.”
Phil Chanin, Branch Chairperson

“I have known Andrea Egan for over 30 years. She was a steward in UNISON and worked her way up to Branch Secretary in Bolton. Andrea didn’t forget where she started and this was how she understood members and their needs. She is not frightened of tackling issues presented to her. She will be greatly missed in Bolton UNISON and a hard act to follow. Andrea will be absolutely brilliant in her new role as General Secretary of the biggest union and won’t forget her grass roots.”
Florence Hill



Onwards and Upwards for Black Members

Cultural nuances and bias are being tackled in the workplace...

So, is it racism? Unconscious bias? Pauline Taylor, tries to reason it all in her mind... "A bit of both" she decides.

Pauline, a supervising social worker at Bolton Council, recalls a colleague telling her that she wouldn't advance further because '*my face doesn't fit*'. Shocking? It seems to be happening up and down the country as she found out at the UNISON Black Members Conference listening to attendees' experiences.

"The biggest issue we have is the

progression of black and ethnic minority people within this council and other local councils" Pauline explains "We're just not moving. Black members are coming forward and being interviewed but are not successful. Sometimes it could be by a few points short or something but we are not progressing as much as our white counterparts. I've been working since I was 15 and we're no further on."

While Pauline had been in UNISON for a number of years, she joined the self-organised Black Members Group, which includes all ethnic minorities, two years

ago and is trying to recruit as many members from the union as possible to give it an even louder voice.

Bolton Council seem to be taking the concerns of the Black Members Group seriously, having seen research concluding that there is a case to answer, while the branch is also looking into the issue and discussing solutions with the senior management.

The Group, however, doesn't just highlight workplace career problems, it also tries to educate about different cultures and their practices. Kirti Mistry co-ordinates volunteers at a Bolton charity and underlines Pauline's points, recalling that in the organisation she left there wasn't a single ethnic minority person in senior management or director roles.

While she says that there is no racism at

all within her current workplace, "I came to an organisation where there were not very many ethnic people; I manage 240 volunteers and before I started, we didn't have a very diverse workforce. I've brought in volunteers who speak different languages from various backgrounds, and helped raise awareness of different cultures to the organisation."

Indeed, there are all sorts of cultural nuances that need to be considered in the workplace, like meetings being held during prayer time for Muslims, or volunteers taking leave during religious events like Eid or Diwali.

The Black Members Group believe it's not just about campaigning and lobbying for equal opportunities, it's also about educating people about other cultures, even if that's just bringing in Indian food during Diwali, and there's social happenings too amongst members.



"I've made friends and if there's an issue at work I know I've got someone to talk to" says Kirti "We just get together and have a laugh as well. New members are really welcomed and we have a What's App group so we are in touch all the time."

Andrew Bailey feels that the Group should have more input into branch meetings and for it to get practical support to promote itself to the wider membership and Council staff...

"The geopolitical landscape is continuing to provide narratives and behaviour that is divisive" he states "By showing solidarity and support to all our members we can do our bit to challenge these behaviours that are trying to divide us

"We can also show support in the celebration of cultural, historical and faith-based events like Black History Month, Ramadan and Diwali as well as the contribution of global majority

individuals in the development of the union. These are some of the obvious things we can start planning for with the support of the branch and the wider membership – we also have a part to play in Bolton Council achieving its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion aims, objectives and aspirations."

The ambition for the future, Pauline says, is to get more members, to be more known within Bolton Council and to have a bigger input.

"We want to see some change" she concludes "We can all sit around a table and talk about it 'til next Christmas but we need to see some awareness of other cultures. There's loads that we can do as a Black Members Group..."

Anyone wanting to join the Black Members Group, or to find out more information can contact the branch or Admin at The Hub.

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Unmasking Refom UK

While unmistakably picking up votes and popularity, do people really know what the Reform party and its leaders stand for?

Whipping Up Racism

Reform UK whips up racism and Islamophobia, and seems to threaten everyone except the very rich elite. Less than a month after they won five MPs at the General Election far right riots and attacks on mosques and hotels where refugees were housed took place. The demonisation of migrants, Muslims and refugees by Farage and Reform UK MPs has given confidence to racists and fascists on the streets.

Reform UK's Chair, Zia Yusuf, has pointed to far right groups like Germany's Alternative for Germany (AfD) and to Marine Le Pen's National Rally in France as inspiration for the future.

Claims from 28 ex-school contemporaries of Nigel Farage, accuse him of targeting minority ethnic children for abuse during his time at Dulwich College, singing a 'Gas 'em all' song that referred to the killing of Jewish,

black and south-east Asian people, and burning a school roll in a year when there were said to be more Patels than Smiths.

When faced with claims from Channel 4 in 2013 about his conduct at school, Farage admitted saying "some ridiculous things...not necessarily racist things... it depends on how you define it". He has since added that he "never directly racially abused anybody". But Bafta and Emmy winning director Peter Ettedgui, has claimed that, at the school, Farage would sidle up to him and growl "Hitler was right" or "Gas them". And Jean-Pierre Lihou, a former friend of Farage's at school, also recalled the abuse of Ettedgui... "He used to say things like, you know, 'Jude', to Peter, which is the German for Jew, in the way it was said in the 1930s, a long 'u' in a menacing way, you know?"

Meanwhile, speaking in a recent campaign video, the Reform UK leader highlighted how nearly one in three pupils in Glasgow speak English as a second language, which he described as the "cultural smashing of Glasgow". Reactions to the outburst included from Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who responded that Farage was a "toxic, divisive, disgrace", and Scotland First Minister John Swinney, who added that the comments "are quite simply racist. There's no other way to describe them..."

Georgina Laming, the director of campaigns at Hope Not Hate, said: "These revelations are sadly no surprise. Nigel Farage has consistently expressed anti-immigrant and intolerant views and shown voters who he really is."



Friend To The Rich

Reform UK's multi-millionaire leadership and pro-corporate policies show they are very much not an anti-establishment party. Nigel Farage models himself as a 'man of the people' and yet he is a stockbroker, like his father, and went to Dulwich College, one of the most expensive private schools in Britain. He has since made his money working for European banks and currently has £1.3 million in assets, as well as being the majority shareholder of Reform UK. He has also previously been exposed for tax evasion by opening a trust fund in an offshore tax haven, in a bid to save thousands of pounds in tax. Meanwhile, Reform UK's deputy leader, Richard Tice, is a multi-millionaire CEO and ex-Tory donor. The party has also received a record £9m donation from cryptocurrency investor and aviation billionaire Christopher Harborne, new figures from the Electoral Commission show.

"Reform hoovering up vast sums of private donations isn't a sign of political strength, but a sign of a weakness in the foundations of our democracy" says Green Party leader Zack Polanski "When a single party can be bankrolled by a handful of wealthy individuals, it drowns

out the voices of ordinary people and tilts the entire system towards the interests of those elites. This is exactly why we need a cap on political donations. Democracy should never be for sale. Every party should compete on ideas, not on the size of their donor spreadsheet.”

Savaging Public Services

On the NHS, Nigel Farage said, “I think we are going to have to move to an insurance based system of healthcare”. Reform UK wants to give tax breaks for private health insurance and pledges to increase the use of private healthcare in Britain. This is a policy only for the rich who can afford it. Under Reform UK, you can probably expect savage cuts to public services to pay for tax cuts for private schools and private healthcare. Their election manifesto laid out £50billion of cuts to the NHS, the education system and social care.

Reform UK pushes a politics that exploits ordinary people’s anger and blames the cost of living crisis on refugees, Muslims and migrants. It is about trying to point the finger away from the bosses and the rich.

Migrants Are Not To Blame

Far right and racist arguments are receiving a hearing because we are all struggling in our daily lives – soaring food prices, stagnant wages, long hours, paying the rent, impossible childcare costs, NHS waiting lists and so on. We need to turn our anger and frustration over the quality of our lives not against asylum seekers and migrants who are key workers in our hospitals, schools, care homes, transport and many other areas. We need to point the finger at the real culprits – the rich, the tax avoiders, the wealthy landlords, the millionaires and the employers who stand against higher wages and workers and women’s rights.

For more details see Stand Up To Racism website <https://standuptoracism.org.uk/>

Farage Watch

(according to Private Eye)

13th October 2025 Farage receives £30,000 to speak at American crypto site Blockworks summit in London

3rd November 2025 Farage tells London bankers that Britain has turned its back on crypto and calls for deregulation of the industry.

2: Number of times Farage spoke in the House of Commons in October

2: Number of paid speeches worth £50,000 he made outside the House of Commons in October.

October 2024 – Farage and a colleague given free helicopter flight by JCB company worth £8,413

March 2025 – Farage enters Reform launch event on a JCB calling it ‘one of the most incredible companies in the world’.

April 2025 – Farage visits JCB HQ saying he hasn’t seen anything better in terms of solving the pothole problem than JCB’s Pothole Pro machine

September 2025 – JCB has a stall at Reform conference

September 2025 – Reform-run Lincolnshire Council starts a 12 month trial of JCB Pothole Pro, despite having trialled it in 2021, finding it was not good value for money.

November 2025 – JCB announces it has donated £200,000 to Reform.



Gifts and Remembrance for Endeavour

Bolton UNISON members support top domestic violence charity

Yet again, UNISON members rallied around to donate trolley loads of gifts to the Endeavour Project Christmas Wish List Appeal, which passes them on to the children of domestic abuse victims.

“Thank you to everyone who has donated or been involved; so many mums will be relieved and to be able to sleep better knowing their children will have gift to open Christmas Morning” says Linda Charnock from Endeavour

“Thanks to UNISON Bolton and all the secret Santa’s who made this happen...”

Meanwhile, December also saw the Endeavour Candlelight Vigil, held at Bolton Parish Church, to remember victims of domestic abuse. Bolton UNISON Branch Secretary, Andrea Egan, and Martin McMulkin from Bolton Unite made contributions on behalf of the trade union movement.



Scammed, Bullied and Exploited!

Look at the people who look after you... They're working in almost feudal conditions

If you've got an elderly relative in a care home or home alone...If you use the health service...If you know someone who is severely disabled...chances are that at some point they will be looked after by someone from another country.

Migrant workers have been encouraged to come to the UK and fill gaps in the NHS and social care sector. But not only are they caught up in the political 'small boat' and asylum seeker bear pit, they also have to suffer conditions that few

British workers would put up with.

"We've come to realise that many of them are being exploited, a lot of them are being scammed and bullied in the workplace" says Oluwaseyi Bamisaye (Shay), a migrant worker and UNISON member, now trying to get fellow workers to join and be active in the union.

Oluwaseyi explains how the visa system that allows social care work entry to the country is hopelessly skewed towards

employers in a kind of Dickensian or feudal way.

"The Government issues to the employer a Certificate of Sponsorship, or COS, and with that you are tied to that employer" he says "You only have twenty supplementary hours to work with another employer. The only way you can switch to another employer is if it issues you with another COS.

'Can you imagine working for an abusive employer for fifteen years?'

"The visa also only mentions social care, and to be a manager or progress you need a separate kind of visa, so people are literally tied" he adds "And if an employer loses its licence, the workers are displaced and just left to find a new sponsor or they can't work any more. Also, some agencies do not have enough shifts to give staff, which means you can get a COS with no work to do, and, as employers know that people are desperate, you have to do whatever they want you to do, or else they can report you to the Home Office which can withdraw the COS. This is what has been going on.

"Because of this visa structure a lot of

Hundreds of Overseas

Social Care and NHS Staff Lobby Parliament

In December, the first lobby of its kind took place when overseas staff working in social care and the NHS travelled to Westminster to lobby MPs over plans to restrict visa rules for care workers.

At the lobby, organised by UNISON and attended by Bolton branch members, workers shared their experiences of exploitation and abuse at the hands of bad employers. It was the start of a Fair Visa Campaign (for details see article)

is currently proposing to increase the length of time migrants need to live in the UK before applying for Indefinite Leave to Remain (LTR) from five to up to fifteen years.

"It's enough that you have an abusive employer...can you imagine working for an abusive employer for fifteen years, as it's very difficult to switch sponsor?" Oluwaseyi asks "I personally thought that after five years I could do what I wanted to do, as, if I've got my LTR, I can work in any sector that I wish. Now, if they are saying you have to stay for fifteen years, you can't chase your dreams after that."

Pandering to the political right, the Government is also proposing to increase the threshold of earnings to

migrant workers are being exploited and bullied and if they are asked to jump they are expected to ask 'How high?' he reflects "It all stems from a visa system that ties migrant workers to one employer, potentially for years."

And things could get even worse. The Government

gain visa entry, stating that health and care workers must earn a minimum of £25,000 to be eligible for sponsorship. The NHS doesn't pay that rate, while only around five per cent of related companies do.

'During COVID everyone was clapping for social care workers...what changed?'

The response is the Fair Visa Campaign, of which UNISON North West Migrant Workers Project is a major backer. Aiming to bring more respect and dignity for migrant workers, it has three aims...

Firstly, it wants the Government to take over sponsorship of migrant care staff from employers. This will make it simpler and easier to move to a new care employer... "Once you have a COS it should be valid for all employers in social care, which means that they will have to give you proper treatment" says Oluwaseyi.

Secondly, that the LTR should be valid for five years instead of the fifteen being proposed, so that people are not tied to one employer for years... "Migrant workers are not after benefits, we want to work" says Oluwaseyi "But having to be with an abusive employer for fifteen years is not fair. People have got other skills that they might want to explore."

And thirdly, the Campaign demands a fair pay agreement for all care workers... "At the moment, the sector is not attractive enough compared to Aldi or ASDA where they pay up to £14 per hour" says Oluwaseyi "We propose £15 per hour as a minimum for all care workers."

Against the backdrop of the far right propaganda, it is easy to lump social and health care workers into the debate...

"During COVID everyone was clapping for social care workers" Oluwaseyi recalls "They were never called 'unskilled'. They were never told they didn't contribute enough to the economy...What changed between COVID 2020 and now?"

"They talk about benefits, but if you are on this type of visa you don't have access to benefits" he adds "You pay your tax, you pay into the NHS and everything. I have two jobs, so how can you say I'm not contributing to the economy?"

"You can go on social media or X, now... people are not scared to make racist comments – it's the constant demonising of people of colour" he explains "They don't even care if you're born in this country, or an ex immigrant or an asylum seeker; they don't care...You don't want to know how many people I know who are being attacked daily. They are not safe in their communities any more."

And yet, the health and social care sector would more than likely collapse without migrant workers...

"If you take social care and the NHS in the country at large, and you check the staff looking after people and keeping the sector alive they are migrant workers" Oluwaseyi points out "Go and check the people covering shifts, doing sixty, eighty hour weeks and they are migrant workers."

"This country has an ageing population" he concludes "If you ask everyone to leave the country, who is going to look after your vulnerables and the elderly?"



STEP 1 of 3

EMAIL YOUR MP - FIX THE CARE MIGRANT VISA

Migrant care workers are being exploited by rogue employers, in a system based on restrictive visa sponsorship rules.

A new survey conducted by UNISON has revealed that:

- More than a third (36%) said they or migrant worker colleagues had been threatened with dismissal - with the risk of deportation - about treatment at work
- More than 100 respondents had paid between £5,000 and £20,000 in fees
- More than four in ten (46%) have experienced racism.

Email your MP today and ask the government to take over sponsorship of migrant care staff from employers.

‘Everything is Awesome’ at the University of Greater Manchester!

...Or so some would have us believe.

Bolton's university is now in a state of constant crisis with multiple systemic problems. There's an ongoing culture of bullying with reports that it has gone from bad to worse, plus declining student numbers and new claims of dodgy financial practices being reported in the local press.

Meanwhile, the University's much trumpeted Greater Manchester Way and its five week long 'block' approach to delivering modules, instead of the old semester long approach, is in disarray with rumours it may even be dropped...

There are also videos circulating of a former member of staff claiming that some senior members of staff only got their jobs because they had mates in positions of power at the university, and the higher education regulator, Office for Students, or OfS, is starting an investigation which could lead to deregistration for the University of Greater Manchester.

As far as workers are concerned, it has become an increasingly difficult environment to work in, the union overwhelmed with case work relating to bullying. Senior leaders are aware of this but nothing changes. They just smile, say 'Thanks for letting us know', and set up another online 'workshop' for everyone – mainly the staff who are being bullied! If these workshops are the new acting Vice Chancellor's idea of education, it is no wonder the place has gone from bad to worse.

There have been new reports in The Manchester Mill about millions of pounds being paid to a company controlled by a senior staff member and the wife of the Chair of the Board of Governors. According to The Mill's reporting, the Centre for Islamic Finance (CIF) at the Uni, headed by 'The Baroness Morris of Bolton OBE DL', has, in recent months, become a cause for



concern. One senior staff member is reported as describing the centre as "a flagrant breach" of the University's governance rules, and a local MP told The Mill that he finds the CIF's arrangements "extremely worrying".

This isn't the first case of financial irregularities and questionable governance at the Uni, with Greater Manchester Police already investigating previous claims. But despite this, these ugly problems keep coming out of the woodwork. Now the University has been put under investigation by the OfS, which has stated that it will be examining whether the University's governing documents upheld public interest governance principles, or if it had "adequate and effective management" to comply with the OfS' conditions of registration. This could lead to the institution losing its status which is a big concern for its future as a University...

Whilst these financial cases understandably get the headlines, the real story is the horrendous impact this is having on staff and students. And despite all this, acting Vice Chancellor, Greg Walker, is still sending his chirpy emails telling staff how great everything is. His impact on the place has been so ineffective that staff have begun to question his credentials, and there are stories of senior staff saying in closed meetings that it was a mistake to appoint someone so inexperienced as the acting Vice Chancellor. Why the Uni can't get someone who is half competent when the salary is so enormous is baffling. It has gone from one VC who is now under police investigation for corruption charges to a bloke who has barely done a day's teaching in his entire career and appears completely out of his depth.

If the OfS genuinely cares about the staff and students and the significant civic contribution the place makes, they would intervene in the situation and should insist on someone appropriately qualified taking over before the place becomes broken beyond repair. And why are they moving so slowly? It is nearly a year since the reports of fraud, bullying and mismanagement went public, and yet they only announced they were starting their own

investigations at the start of December.

Phil Brickell, the MP for Bolton West, has attacked the OfS for being "asleep at the wheel" over its delay. Brickell is reported to have told the Guardian newspaper that the OfS's inaction had made him question their competence. In the article Brickell questions why the OfS announced its investigation six months after the police, and has raised his concerns with both the regulator and the secretary for education, Bridget Phillipson... "I'm gravely concerned that the glacial speed at which the OfS is moving has caused significant harm – not just for the staff and students but [also] for the wider town" Brickell said "The OfS needs to be proactive in reassuring the university community it is doing all it can."

Like staff and students at the Uni, Brickell has been left in the dark, but he has at least demanded the OfS acts to "address concerns and ensure detriment to student outcomes is minimised." Don't hold your breath though. At the moment, the place is an utter shambles, with no sign yet of the University changing track as it hurtles towards the cliff edge.

Maybe the only option is to put on a smile with VC Greg and sing along - three, two, one...

*Everything is awesome
Everything is cool when you're part of a team
Everything is awesome
When you're living out a dream*

*Have you heard the news? Everyone's talking
Life is good 'cause everything's awesome
Lost my job, there's a new opportunity
More free time for my awesome community*

*I feel more awesome than an awesome possum
Dip my body in chocolate frosting
Three years later, wash of the frosting
Smelling like a blossom, everything is awesome
Stepped in mud, got new brown shoes
It's awesome to win and it's awesome to lose...
awesome to lose!*

*Everything is awesome
Everything is cool when you're part of a team
Everything is awesome
When you're living out a dream*

Disability Employment Charter

Aiming to improve the working lives of disabled people

Disabled workers often have to deal with issues that can affect their professional life such as workplace adjustments and lack of disability leave. This can have a serious impact resulting in staff leaving or being pushed out of the workplace.

In many situations, disabled workers don't experience the same employment opportunities as other workers, which is why UNISON and a group of other organisations created the Disability Employment Charter.

The Charter sets out nine actions which include implementing a two-week deadline for employers to respond to requests for workplace adjustments, and reforming the Access to Work scheme in order to address the employment disadvantage that disabled workers have to go through.

As many people as possible need to support the Disability Employment Charter and Bolton UNISON is encouraging the Council to sign up to the Charter. The Branch is also in the initial stages of working towards a Disability Leave policy.

If you are a member with a disability and you are interested in getting more involved with disability activism in UNISON, or need support with any workplace issues or equality campaigning, please get in touch with our **Branch Disabled Members Officer, Leanne Greenwood**, by contacting the Branch office on **01204 247947** or email **admin@unisonbolton.org**.

Read the Charter here... www.disabilityemploymentcharter.org/

UK DISABILITY HISTORY MONTH 2025



UK Disability History Month
Awareness raising about disabled people's fight for equality and human rights.

December saw the fifteenth year of UK Disability History Month, which is an opportunity to reflect on the progress made for disability rights and to act on what people can do to support disability equality in the present.

As well as the Disability Employment Charter, there are lots of resources and podcasts with information and themes...
Here are some links...
UK Disability History Month
<https://ukdhm.org/>

Launch video for UK Disability History Month on

YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsSw99kRTR0

Disability Arts Podcast
<https://disabilityarts.online/magazine/podcasts/>

MENCAP Easy Read History of UK Disability
www.mencap.org.uk/easyread/disability-history-month-easy-read

IAbled Podcast
<https://labeledpodcast.co.uk/>


The
**Disability
Employment
Charter**

Stars In Our Schools 2025

Bolton UNISON asked everyone to nominate the support staff stars in their schools to win prizes in three categories – TAs and Classroom Based Staff, Admin and Technical Staff, and Maintenance and Catering Staff.

Over fifty nominations were received for

people working in 35 schools, and they were submitted by colleagues, friends and family, and parents of pupils. It was almost impossible to choose winners but the judges felt these four people were so passionately nominated and really do go above and beyond in their jobs...



Sandra Makinson
SEND Co-ordinator at Smithills School
nominated by Teresa O'Neil

"I'm honestly still in shock. I've always seen what I do as simply my job. Supporting students is something I care deeply about and never expected recognition for. But receiving this nomination, especially from the very student I've had the privilege to support, means the world to me.

"This award isn't just for me it's for all support staff. We consistently go above and beyond, dedicating so much of our time, energy and hearts to helping students achieve their very best. Watching them grow, thrive and transform on their journeys is the most fulfilling reward of all. I'm truly humbled, grateful and incredibly proud to stand alongside such passionate and dedicated colleagues."

Karen Kettle
Teaching Assistant at Holy Infants and St Anthony RC Primary School
nominated by Laura Spooner.

"I'm overwhelmed. This was the last thing I expected. I am so touched to have been nominated. It doesn't feel like a job to me, I just love being here for the children and their families. I have worked here for 18 years and we have a great team. Sometimes a child may not speak up about something they may be worried about for days but then they will come to me for support. I really get a lot out of my role in school.

"I feel that everyone should be in a union. I joined UNISON as you never know when you may need their support and I know UNISON is there to protect you."



Paula Coleman
Designated Safeguarding Lead and Attendance Officer at St Simon and Jude School
nominated by Molli Crompton.

Paula says she was surprised to find out she had been nominated and won the award as she is not the kind of person who likes a fuss. She has worked at the school for 21 years and loves her job.

"I do Breakfast Club, maintain the registers and deal with all safeguarding concerns and attend professional meetings. I love the children and families I work with and always want to make a difference for them and to support them however I can. We have a great community surrounding our school. For me it's not just a job, in the holidays I will deliver food parcels to those families who need them, it is a great place to work.

"Everybody who works should be in a union even if it is just for peace of mind and support when you need it. It's good to know that UNISON is here."



Patricia Dawson
Kitchen Manager at Highfield Primary School
nominated by Michelle Hinegan.

"I am shocked and surprised to have won, I had no idea I had even been nominated. I do feel kitchen staff sometimes get forgotten about. I really feel over the moon to have won; there are five of us who work in the kitchen and we make a really good team.

"Highfield is a great school to work at; we do a Breakfast Club too and we all work well together. I love the children at the school, some of them are proper little characters...I like a challenge! There is a real sense of camaraderie working in a school, we all lift each other's spirits. I love my job, it's like my baby!

"I started working for Bolton Council in 2012 and have been at Highfield since 2013 and worked my way up to be a manager. I joined

UNISON when I started working in schools as it is a responsible job where you need to make sure everything runs smoothly. It's important to have peace of mind and UNISON is always there to support you and offer guidance."





Bolton Pride 25

Ten Years of Bolton Pride

In 2025, Bolton celebrated its tenth anniversary as a celebration of love, equality and diversity with local UNISON playing an active part. Pride is rooted in the decades long fight for LGBT+ rights, including the Stonewall Riots of 1969 and the birth of the gay liberation movement.

Bolton UNISON fully supports the principle of solidarity and the fight for LGBT+ equality both here in the UK and around the world. Pride is an opportunity to celebrate but also a time to reflect on the struggle against persecution and injustice.

*Pictured: Bolton UNISON members
Photos: C/o Bolton UNISON*



YOUR NORTHERN MIRROR... BEST FOR THE LATE, LATE NEWS

FRONT DEMO FURY



Police move in as violence flares after demonstrators laid siege to a town hall



Smoke bombs that brought chaos to the anti-Front demo

From Page One

gave Nazi salute back to the angry mob... diminished to only about 50.

tion was to drive a wedge between the demonstrators. We used to police horses to split the crowd.

How The Far Right Was Defeated Back In The Day

Geoff Brown's must-read new book charts the rise of the Anti Nazi League in the late Seventies, and the part that Bolton people played...

It's not much acknowledged that Bolton people led the way in defeating the extreme right wing, violent National Front in the late 1970s. However, it is well charted in Geoff Brown's new book 'A People's History of the Anti Nazi League (1977-1981)'. The hugely detailed, yet incredibly easy to read paperback, shows how the National Front, or NF, was defeated

by a movement that almost sprang from nowhere.

As the UK was plunging into pre-Thatcher economic despair, the NF had begun to pick up a growing number of supporters and votes by waving union jacks, appealing to 'patriots' and distributing leaflets screaming 'Send back the coloured

immigrants'. There are lots of parallels with today.

Meanwhile, as Brown writes, NF leader, John Tyndall 'told a court that he saw Hitler's *Mein Kampf* as his guide', while the other NF leader, Martin Webster, told the press 'We are busy building a well-oiled Nazi machine in this country'.

One of the ways the NF tried to get publicity – *no social media or net in those days* – was through marches, and when Webster was allowed to parade on his own through Levenshulme in south Manchester, surrounded by one thousand police, it was Ramila Patel, from the Bolton Asian Youth Organisation, who got national headlines marching in front of him with a banner reading 'Black and White Unite and

Thousands clash as Front march in



POLICE clashed with angry protesters last night in a huge demonstration against the National Front.

Thousands jeered NF leaders John Tyndall as he arrived to address a meeting at Bolton Town Hall.

The police had mobilised 1,200 men, and 19 demonstrators were arrested as fire-works, eggs, and smoke flares flew.

Two people were taken to hospital with injuries caused in the crush.

The first scuffles broke out when Greater Manchester's Chief Constable, Mr James Anderson, in civilian dress walked behind the police cordon bathed in television arc lights.

A crowd surged for chanting 'Nazi scum', Mr Anderson said.

By JAMES STANSFIELD

I was a member of the National Front.

At the height of the fury the security cordon was breached. But 20 mounted policemen were brought in and the line held.

And half an hour after the meeting began, only a handful of demonstrators remained.

Critics

Mr Anderson hit out at critics who have attacked the cost of police protection.

In relation to policing

meetings. I am protecting law and order.

He said spot checks on coaches and cars had uncovered a knife, a number of wooden poles, and two missiles.

But he praised leaders among the demonstrators who had urged the crowd to behave responsibly. He said: 'They did their utmost to calm the situation.'

Mr Tyndall met local party officials in a pub near the town hall before the meeting.

About 300 supporters turned up. Many looked reluctant when asked to contribute £25 each to Front funds and the amounts asked for drained

**BOLTON TRADES COUNCIL
PICKET AGAINST THE
NATIONAL FRONT
OUTSIDE BOLTON TOWN HALL FRIDAY
10th FEBRUARY ASSEMBLE 6-6.30pm**

The Town Council has decided to allow the National Front to use Bolton Town Hall to hold a public meeting. This comes only months after they burned a multi-racial festival planned by the Trades Council, intended to promote racial harmony.

The National Front is a fascist party and history has shown all too clearly that fascism was dangerous only in order to destroy it. That's why the Trades Council urged the race speak for fascists. But it's up to you they should not be allowed to use the Town Hall.

The National Front intends to forcibly 'take over' all black and coloured people's organisations if they are not here in the country or not. Because of propaganda like this and because of National Front, race or 'supremacy' black people are being economically threatened and attacked in many parts of the country.

The National Front is well-organised. At a time of economic crisis and falling living standards they play on the fears and prejudices of working people in order to destroy the unity and solidarity of the labour and trade union movement.

The time has come to stand up and be counted. We must not let them get away with it. They will get worse as they did in Germany. The time to oppose them is now.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN BY BEING THE FOLLOWING:

• See or write to your local councillor. Demand that the Council's decision be reversed.

• Write a letter to the press saying the Town Hall should not be let out to fascists.

Win a signed copy of Geoff Brown's A People's History of the Anti Nazi League (1977-1981). Just answer this question:

What is the main symbol of the Anti Nazi League?

**Answers by email marked ANL
Comp to admin@unisonbolton.org**

Fight...Smash the National Front...'

The Bolton Asian Youth Organisation came to fore again, in 1978, when the NF was allowed to hold a meeting in Bolton Town Hall...

"That morning in Bolton, pickets on the snow covered steps of the Town Hall were out from 8am carrying a fifteen-foot banner 'No Nazis in our Town Hall' Brown writes "An Asian Youth Organisation [AYO] car with loudspeakers toured Asian areas publicising the march and picket. Despite heavy policing of these areas with roadblocks and spot searches, 700 followed the AYO banner marching into the centre [of town]..."

At the Town Hall they met with thousands of fellow demonstrators, who were then confronted by thousands of police officers, as sieg heil-ing NF members entered the meeting. The next day, the papers described it as a 'riot'.

This all happened at the very birth of the Anti Nazi League, which went on to involve millions of people in the fight against the Front – through badges, carnivals, demonstrations, trade union activity and its sister organisation Rock Against Racism. The biggest bands of the day played the huge carnivals, celebs and footballers condemned the

NF and it became cool to be anti-racist and anti-fascist

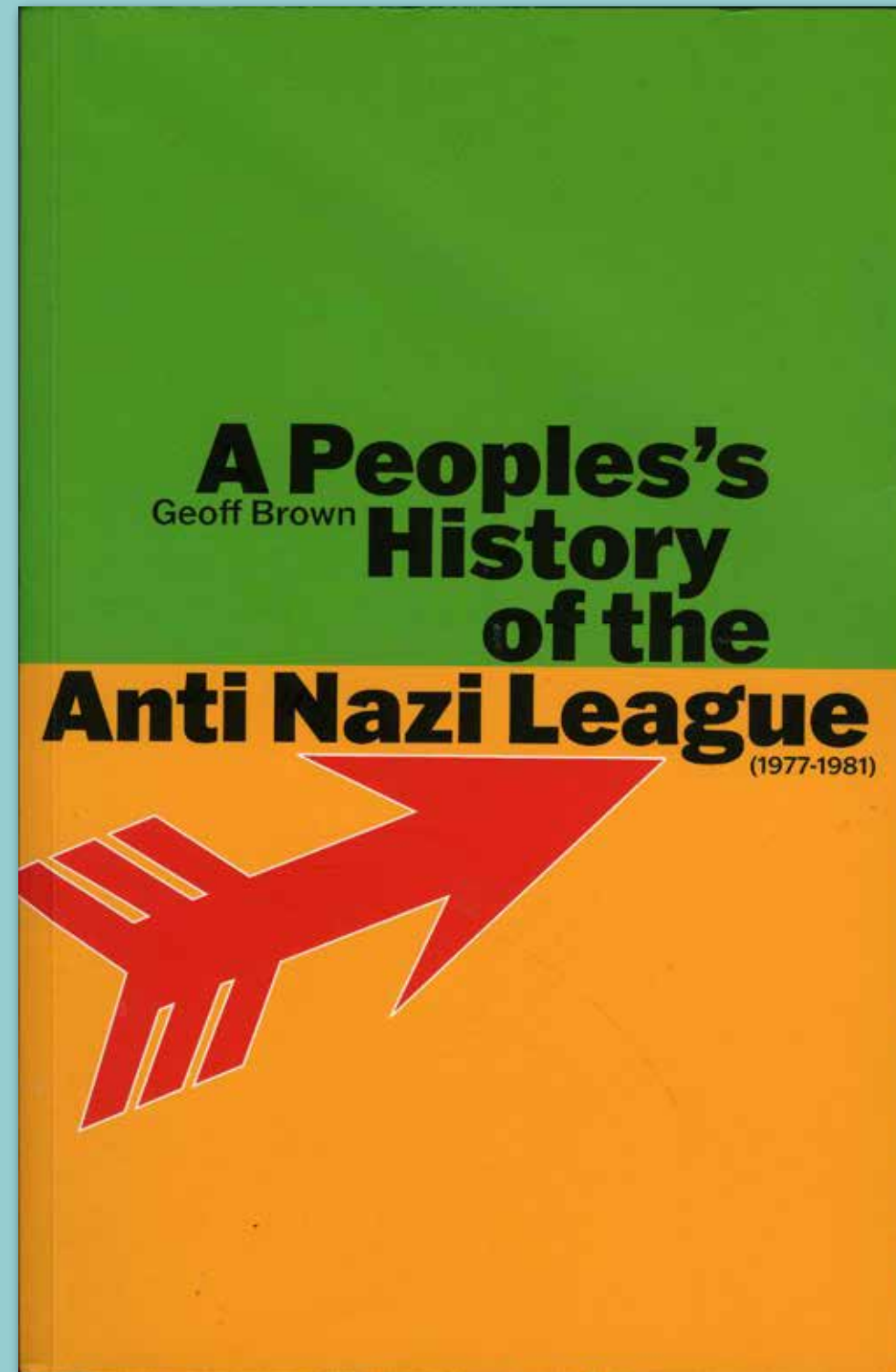
In the book, Bolton AYO activist, Prav Parmar, recounts the feeling after the London Carnival..."The atmosphere down there was colossal, fantastic. Coming back to Bolton, you had to do something. And the best thing was all the skinheads were coming on board... They were chasing you before, calling you..."

At the subsequent General Election in 1979 the National Front was humiliated, and a few years later it was finished. How did the Anti Nazi League manage this? And what lessons are there for today?

Geoff Brown, back then a full time Anti Nazi League organiser in Manchester, tells the 'people's history' in a way that you can smell the flares, follow the flying bricks and see the state at its worst...

Geoff Brown - A People's History of the Anti Nazi League (1977-1981) (Bookmarks Publications) £12 (492pp, including almost 150 pages of notes and index)

Geoff will be signing copies of the book at the Bolton UNISON AGM on Wednesday 18th March 12.30pm at the Lancaster Suite, Bolton Town Hall



UNISON Members Hooked at Pan Panto

Bolton UNISON's annual takeover of the panto at The Bolton Halls was another thrill-a-minute filled afternoon as camp Captain Hook and his pirate crew met their match from a flying Pater Pan, Wendy and Tinkerbell, and a ticking, dancing crocodile.

Children and their families laughed, sang and screamed to an unrelenting stream of awful jokes, puns and panto prat falls, as

the festive season began with a fab swashbuckling venture into Never Island. Even Hook himself said he loves his Christmas boos (get it?)...



Angela Hancock, Retired Member

"It's my first visit. I've never taken advantage of it before but now I've got grandchildren I'm here. I think it's marvellous, it makes it easier for families to bring a number of children because the cost is a lot less than the normal tickets. So I think it's a good idea, yes!"



Angelina Derby, Bolton Cares, and family

"It's our first time coming to the panto and have brought the grandkids. I think it's brilliant, the kids will have a good time."



Jean Nock, Retired Member, and family

"We've been before, and I think it's good, affordable and the kids love it."



Pamela Graveson, Start Well Team, and family

"We come every year because it's fantastic value for a family event."



The Hogg family



Kath Greenhalgh, Bolton Primary School Worker, and family

"We come regularly and enjoy it. It encourages families to get together and do something nice and festive."

Maya Garman
"I've come with my grandma and am really looking forward to the songs and costumes..."



Beverley Rostron, Adult Services, daughter and carer

"I do try every year to get tickets for the panto as we do enjoy it. I think it's brilliant for families, absolutely amazing, especially now when things are so tight and people are having to cut down on treats for their kids. It means that anyone can now treat their kids; it's so important at Christmas."

UNISON Members Hooked at Pan Panto



Justice Family



Bham Family



Clarke Family



Greenwood Family



Hurst Family



Liptrot Family



Little Family



Martindale Family



Morris Girls



Sabinsky Family



Southern Family



Thomas Family

Poetic Tribute to Julie Cooney

UNISON member, Julie Cooney, a Family Time Worker based at Harvey Children's Centre, sadly passed away last October. Julie joined UNISON in April 2003 and became an Accredited Steward and Health and Safety Rep in November 2023.

Julie's colleagues have been fundraising to install a memorial bench at the garden at The Harvey Centre. This will ensure that people have somewhere peaceful to sit, reflect, and remember Julie.

Anyone wishing to contribute can contact Mandy Scott, Julie Swindell or Lee Hawsworth, care of the Harvey Centre.

Nici Moss, an Administration and Information Assistant working at The Harvey Centre, penned this tribute to her colleague...

We Keep Showing Up

We deal in emotions for a living;
the raw, messy, unfiltered kind.
We see tears, tantrums, brave faces
trying to hold it together.
And still, every morning,
we grab a brew, exchange a look that says
"Here we go again,"
and get on with it.

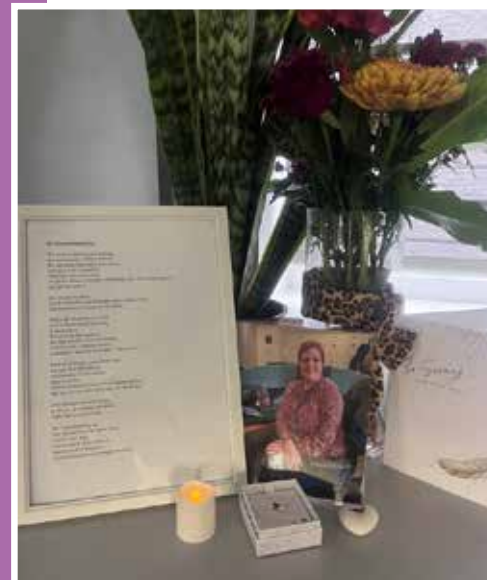
We steady the ship,
patch each other up with bad jokes and biscuits,
and somehow, it keeps us standing.

When life hits close to home
and we lose one of our own,
it lands hard.
But even in the sadness,
we find comfort in small things;
a kind word, a shared silence,
a shoulder squeeze that says, "I've got you."

Each of us brings something real;
a laugh that lifts the air,
a calm voice in the storm,
and, for Julie,
a flash of leopard print; bold, unapologetic,
her joy woven into every day we show up.

Our strength doesn't shout;
it shows up quietly, faithfully,
right here, in this team.

We keep showing up.
For the families, for each other,
and for our Julie.
whose spirit stays with us
in every act of kindness,
and every ounce of strength we find.



Events for the General Strike Centenary

May 2026 will see the centenary of the General Strike with events around the area commemorating the struggle...

In May 1926, when an estimated 1.7million workers went on General Strike, the country was paralysed for nine days in support of Britain's coal miners. It was a pivotal moment in UK working class history. Here's a guide to local events commemorating the centenary...



Keep Smiling and Victory Is Ours

**At the Working Class Movement Library
Opens 4th May 2026**

The core of the exhibition will consist of a unique collection of bulletins produced daily during the dispute by the strikers themselves, often hand typed and hastily compiled. The bulletins give a dramatic and vivid insight into the strike and were produced locally in hundreds of towns and cities across the country.

Other items from the Library's collection include propaganda publications, radio transcripts, contemporary photographs and cartoons, posters and flyers. The exhibition will be supported by an events programme.

For more details see www.wcml.org.uk
enquiries@wcml.org.uk 0161 736 3601

Opening hours: Wednesday - Friday
1pm - 4.30pm

Address: Jubilee House, 51 Crescent,
Salford, M5 4W

On The Line: 100 Years of Solidarity and Strikes

PEOPLE'S
HISTORY
MUSEUM

**At the People's History Museum
21st March - 1st November 2026**

On *The Line* takes visitors through 100 years of turbulent industrial relations, beginning with the 1926 General Strike. The exhibition focuses on the theme of solidarity, and examines the impact of strike action on both individuals and wider society, told through powerful objects in People's History Museum's collection.

The Museum's galleries also include a 1926 General Strike display with

artefacts from the strike including police truncheons, newspapers, a telegram announcing the end of the strike, as well as miners' lamp badges used for fundraising for miners and their families.

For more details see www.phm.org.uk
0161 838 9190

Opening hours: 10am-5pm every day
except Tuesdays

Address: Left Bank, Spinningfields,
Manchester M3 3ER

Exhibition

**At the National Coal Mining Museum for England - Wakefield
Dates to be confirmed**

The National Coal Mining Museum for England will be hosting an exhibition exploring the importance and impact of the 1926 General Strike on the coal mining industry and communities in the English coalfields.

For more details see www.ncm.org.uk/
info@ncm.org.uk
01924 848806

Opening hours: Summer Wed to Sun
10am-5pm Winter Wed to Sun 10am-4pm

Address: Caphouse Colliery, New
Road, Overton, Wakefield, WF4 4RH

North West Labour History Society Journal

To commemorate the General Strike, the North West Labour History Society will be reprinting in its 2026 issue eyewitness testimony of the General Strike in Manchester. The writer was Eddie Frow, also one of the founders of

the NWLH journal.

For more details see www.nwlh.org.uk
info@nwlh.org.uk
07531423649

For more information on all national events to commemorate the General Strike see the interactive map www.generalstrike100.com



Bolton UNISON AGM 2026

At lunchtime on Wednesday March 18th Bolton UNISON will be holding its Annual General Meeting with lots of attractions to entice all union members...

For anyone who has never been to the busy AGM at the Town Hall's Lancaster Suite, it's worth just over an hour of your time to find out what the union is doing, and to meet stewards and members who are on the same work wavelength. But there's more...

Expect an inspirational guest speaker, live music, a raffle, goodie bags and a free buffet from noon. There will also be lots of stalls, including Geoff Brown signing copies of his iconic new book *A People's History of the Anti Nazi League*.

Check out the branch social media accounts for more details...

UNISON BOLTON AGM 2026
Wednesday 18th March 2026
12.30pm
Lancaster Suite
Bolton Town Hall



support
 illness
 accidents
 problems at work
 employment rights
 health and safety
 professional issues
 personal injury
 bargaining
 equalities
 pensions

There are so many ways UNISON can help you, we can't list them all. But just call **UNISONdirect**. Help is only a phone call away.

 **0800 0 857 857**

Open 6am to midnight, Monday to Friday and 9am to 4pm Saturday.


 the public service union

Textphone
0800 0 967 968

UNISON's Solicitors Can Help

Thompsons Solicitors offers free expert legal advice to members...



UNISON members have the support of the union's solicitors, Thompsons, which was established in 1921 by the civil rights lawyer Harry Thompson. Since then, the company has stayed true to its original vision of using the law to protect and advance the rights of individuals.

Thompsons, which has 18 offices across the country, manages to secure over £150 million in compensation per year for people who have been injured or mistreated, and has pursued numerous test cases that have established and refined the law and the field of health and safety at work, both before and after the Health and Safety Act 1974, which the firm helped to establish.

For generations, Thompsons has worked

with trade unions and represented members who have been injured in workplace accidents, and has a dedicated team of specialist trade union solicitors who represent tens of thousands of people injured in workplace accidents each year, ranging from minor lacerations through to brain and spinal cord injuries and serious burns.

UNISON members and their families can access free expert legal advice provided by Thompsons Solicitors through their union membership.

**For more information see www.thompsonstradeunion.law/trade-unions/unison
Or call UNISON Direct on 0800 0857857**

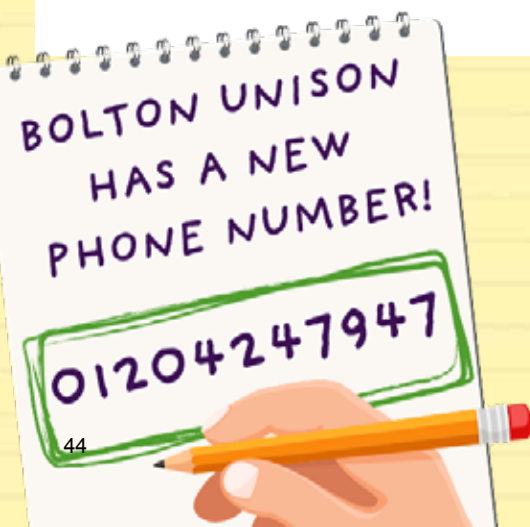


Social Workers Pop By For Cake and Catch Up

The UNISON stall at Castle Hill...

In October, UNISON held a stall in the break-out area at Castle Hill, primarily for Social Workers. Union reps, Lauren Alergant, Leanne Greenwood and Andrew Thomas met with numerous colleagues who popped by for cake and a catch up.

UNISON is happy to organise similar events in other workplaces for different groups of staff. Don't hesitate to get in contact if you would like something similar where you work.



UNISON Membership Entitlement

Don't miss out on your
FREE £5,000

Accidental Death Cover

Cover is for UK residents aged 18-69.

12 months free cover. Annually renewable. Always free.



Register today at:

UNISONProtect.com/JE

UNISON
protect
working with UNISON

UNISON
living

Terms & Conditions apply. UNISON is an introducer appointed representative of UNISONProtect, a trading name of Union Income Benefit Holdings Ltd (UIB) who arrange this insurance. The insurance is underwritten by Stonebridge International Insurance Ltd.

UNISON

Local Landmarks Wordsearch

Can you find these top local landmarks hidden deep in our Wordsearch?

HEPWORTHSTATUE
LEMANSCRESCENT
PADERBORNHOUSE
RIVINGTONPIKE
HALLITHWOOD
SMITHILLSHALL
TURONTOWER
VICTORIAHALL
WINTERHILLMAST

K S X R U M V E L T I W U R K A C M M L
H S B V B H E P W O R T H S T A T U E P
R K K D T I J Y Q G N O Y S U D U U U V
J H K U M Q R I V I N G T O N P I K E Y
J K X L S U W M A R V W X Q Y P M H U T
F B P S W I N T E R H I L L M A S T M M
N I F L S H A L L I T H W O O D G V Z W
N Q F P Q H P A M X U A H H C D M Z G C
G S M I T H I L L S H A L L B N H J U E
M V J B Y U H H I V Q Y N W Q N S X T S
Q F T U R T O N T O W E R F V W W P G K
P A D E R B O R N H O U S E V J R O P B
F Q P A F B B T L K F I B T Z V T Q W V
L E M A N S C R E S C E N T L N A F I V
J Q Y O Y D A W J A A U Q O G Y C X S K
P K X F L N R P U P W K U E W I P V V R
Y U V I C T O R I A H A L L S P L H K V
A O D K R P S W Y D O Q I K R P Z B W G
X T T V U L F T Q U I C X P L J Z W J N
P I A C W S N U Y C S O M H W R K P F S

BOLTON UNISON

BRANCH CONTACTS

Branch Officers

Branch Chairperson:	Phil Chanin (01204 247947)	phil.chanin@unisonbolton.org
Branch Secretary:	Andrea Egan (01204 247947)	andrea.egan@unisonbolton.org
Joint Branch Treasurer:	John Pye (01204 247947)	john.pye@bolton.gov.uk
	Liam McLoughlin (01204 247947)	liam.mcloughlin@bolton.gov.uk
Vice Chair:	Jane Howarth (01204 247947)	Jane.howarth@bolton.gov.uk
Assistant Branch Secretary:	Christine Collins (01204 338906)	christine.collins@unisonbolton.org
Equalities		
Co-ordinator:	Christine Collins (01204 338906)	christine.collins@unisonbolton.org
Women's Officer:	Christine Collins (01204 338906)	christine.collins@unisonbolton.org
Education Officer:	Janet Bryan (01204 247947)	janet.bryan@unisonbolton.org
Lifelong Learning Officer:	Janet Bryan (01204 247947)	janet.bryan@unisonbolton.org
LGBTQ+ Officer:	Ben Moore (01204 247947)	admin@unisonbolton.org
Welfare Officer:	Julie Tudor (01204 247947)	admin@unisonbolton.org
Membership Officer:	Phil Chanin (01204 247947)	membership@unisonbolton.org
Young Members Officer:	Ben Moore (01204 247947)	admin@unisonbolton.org
Environmental Officer:	John Pye 01204 247947	john.pye@bolton.gov.uk
Communications		
Officer:	Martin Challender (01204 247947)	admin@unisonbolton.org
Joint Labour Link	Christine Collins (01204 247947)	admin@unisonbolton.org
Officers:	Phil Chanin (01204 247947)	admin@unisonbolton.org
Health & Safety Officer:	Tracey Rigby (01204 247947)	admin@unisonbolton.org
International Officer:	Karen Dalley (01204 247947)	admin@unisonbolton.org
Sports & Social Officer:	Andrea Egan (01204 247947)	andrea.egan@unisonbolton.org
Retired Members		
Secretary:	Jackie Winstanley (01204 247947)	admin@unisonbolton.org
Disability Group Lead	Leanne Greenwood (01204 247947)	admin@unisonbolton.org
Black Members		
Group Lead:	vacant	admin@unisonbolton.org

Convenors

Adult Services:	Phil Chanin (01204 247947)	admin@unison.bolton.org
Place & Chief		
Executives:	John Pye (01204 247947)	john.pye@bolton.gov.uk
Bolton at Home:	Janet Bryan (01204 329850)	janet.bryan@boltonathome.org.uk
Bolton Cares:	Julie Tudor (01204 247947)	boltoncares.convenor@unisonbolton.org
Children Services & Schools:	Lauren Alergant (01204 338907)	childrens@unisonbolton.org

The logo graphic for UNISON, featuring three green wavy lines that sweep across the top of the word 'UNISON' from left to right.

UNISON

Bolton UNISON

AGM

Wednesday 18th March 2026

12:30pm

Lancaster Suite

Bolton Town Hall

**Stalls, music, raffle, goodie bags,
an inspiring speaker
and a free buffet from 12pm.**