

MANCUNION

THE UNISON NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014

10 July 2014

STRIKE

FAIR PAY FOR ALL



Can I first say I feel honoured to be elected as your Branch Secretary, it is a privilege and a great responsibility but together with our team of officers and activists at every level of the Branch I feel sure we can continue as a thriving, democratic, accountable and above all effective organisation to represent all our members interests.

I would like to thank Julie Connolly, who has now retired as Assistant Branch Secretary, for her hard work on behalf of members for over 30 years, firstly in NUPE, who with NALGO and COHSE created UNISON 21 years ago, and since then as a UNISON activist.

I would like to welcome Pete Banks to his new role as Assistant Branch Secretary and also Sonia Stewart who is now taking up his previous duties as the Trade Union secondee to the m people team.

Pat McDonagh stood down as Branch Secretary to work on the Public Service Reform agenda which will over time involve all public services and trade unions across Greater Manchester.

He will however continue to also work for our Branch as Branch Chair.

Since the last Mancunion issue we have seen the positive results, in political terms, of the complete elimination of the Lib Dems from Manchester Council.

They have rightly paid the price for their support for their Tory masters attacks on our public

services and communities.

We have also seen the stain of the North West BNP MEP removed and replaced by a very different Griffin! (Theresa).

But I also write at a time of challenge for our union, our Branch and our membership.

Local Government workers know themselves the effects of our pay cuts over the last 4 years and losing 18% of our real wage value.

Members have decided enough is enough and we will be taking strike action on 10th July.

The last time we took strike action Council figures showed 95% of the workforce took strike action.

This time we will be joined by hundreds of thousands of other public sector trade union members.

Apart from taking strike action please consider becoming a picket and attend the rally arranged for 12.30 on 10th July in Piccadilly Gardens.

Members from employers not balloted would be welcome to attend to show their support.

Let's work together to win fairer pay for all our members.



IN MY VIEW

EVELYN DOYLE

BRANCH SECRETARY

IN THIS ISSUE

This magazine contains everything you need to know about taking industrial action on 10th July. There are articles about the issues and what to do on the day.

We always get new people wanting to join at these times so we've included an application form. There's also a poster for you to display at work.

See you on the picket lines!

Patrick Taylor and James Crowley

Mancunion Editors.

CONTACT US

Whether you have a problem at work, just need some advice or want to be more involved in the Branch, we are always eager to hear from members. To get in touch you can call us on 0161 254 7500 or email us at unison@manchester.gov.uk.

If you want all the latest news then make sure you bookmark our website www.unisonmanchester.org. You can also follow @UnisonMcr on Twitter where we pass on all the latest news and post live updates from major UNISON events.

The branch office is situated in Manchester Town Hall in room 321 so feel free to pop in for a chat anytime.



www.unisonmanchester.org

IT'S TIME TO STRIKE

UNISON members across the country have spoken. With the employers still not willing to negotiate we will take our first day of strike action on 10th of July.

We know why we are taking action. We have read all the facts and figures about our wages. How the pay freeze was a cut. How 1% is a pay cut.

More importantly we have lived it. All of us getting poorer every year. More of us claiming more benefits to make ends meet. More of us having to make sacrifices while the rich get richer.

All these sacrifices made in the name of austerity. A policy that has not fixed our economy. A policy that is Tory ideology, no matter what the financial situation.

The current offer is not fair. In any way. The Local Government Association and the Tories will talk big about offering us the living wage. Don't be fooled. Many branches, like ours, weren't willing to wait for the LGA to offer this to us. We have gone out and won it for ourselves and now they have the cheek to offer us what is already ours.

We are done waiting for a better offer. It isn't going to come without action and on July 10th we will take that action.

The Government will oppose us. The press

will oppose us. But we have something more important. We have each other. Other UNISON members across the country, our friends and colleagues that we work with every day. We have the unions that are balloting on this pay claim as well - GMB and Unite. We have other unions facing different disputes who may take action on the same day.

We also believe that our service users and the wider public will support us. They are suffering under Tory austerity too.

Maybe you work with people who aren't trade union members. Talk to them. They already know the issues. They get the same wages and have the same problems as us. Ask them to join and stand with their fellow workers on July 10th.

Take this magazine into work. There is an application form on the back for others to join us and a poster too. By displaying it in your workplace you're letting colleagues know they are not taking action alone.

One day of action may not be enough. We may have to take more, hopefully joined by our members in the NHS. The most important message is this. We have a weak Government. We have a valid claim. History teaches us that Tories never give anything to working people without a fight.

If we all stand together we can win.

On legal advice UNISON did not ballot some employers where there was any doubt as to whether they were party to the dispute. The Tory laws were changed recently which makes it easier for employers to challenge ballots to prevent action and for every employer to claim up to £300,000 from a union.

However UNISON is reviewing contracts and where possible more employers will be balloted for the next round of strike action.

POST-STRIKE RALLY POINT

**12.30 - 1.30 PICCADILLY
GARDENS**

**ALL MEMBERS WELCOME TO
ATTEND**



Manchester Branch

Unity is strength



**ENOUGH IS
ENOUGH**

**STRIKE FOR FAIR
PAY**

ALL OUT 10 JULY

YOUR GUIDE TO STRIKING

We know not everyone has taken industrial action before and may need some advice. So here's a guide to what you should do on 10th July.

Striking

Obviously, don't go to work or do your job, but you also shouldn't take leave, flex time or TOIL. If you do, it will be recorded as though you have worked. That will weaken the strike and our bargaining position. Remember to ask anyone who is working not to do your work while you are on strike.

We do make some very rare exemptions to strikes. For instance if you deliver 'life and limb' services or if you are pregnant or in your last year before retirement. If you think this may apply to you, please do contact the branch. Don't assume.

Picketing

Sad to say there will be a few people who will work on that day. We need to be there to ask them to join the strike and join UNISON. It is always worth reminding them that they can join UNISON immediately, even on the picket line, and they can strike and be protected by legislation and the union.

It can be upsetting when colleagues and friends cross a picket line but remember, there are strict laws on picketing so be polite.

We need to make sure every workplace is picketed. You'd be surprised how far some people will travel to avoid a picket line. If you work in a busy building that you know will be heavily picketed, don't stay at home. If you want to help picket your workplace, please contact the Branch on **0161 254 7500**.

Money

These are tough times. If being on strike will cause you genuine financial hardship don't

worry or feel pressured to go into work. Get in touch, we have a hardship fund set aside for these situations.

It's by taking strike action that we can improve pay for all.

Don't worry

If someone tries to force you to work, if someone threatens you or anything happens to make you feel uncomfortable then we want to know about it. You have a legal right to strike and we will not stand for our members being harassed. Like unions have always said: an injury to one is an injury to all.

Pre-strike Activities

As part of our pre-strike preparation the Branch is organising a series of meetings for members who wish to join a workplace picket and we strongly encourage you to attend one if you can.

All the meetings will be held in the Branch Office at Room 321 in the Town Hall and last no longer than an hour. Dates and start times are below:

- **Friday 4th July 4.30pm**
- **Monday 7th July 12.30pm**
- **Wednesday 9th July 12.30pm**
- **Wednesday 9th July 4.30pm**

Picketing will begin from 6.30am and those who picket will receive an allowance of £20 to cover their expenses for the day.

And remember...

Any problems on the day get in touch. We are all in this together and your branch officers are there to help. The emergency numbers on the day are **07968565900** and **07525986222**.

More information is available on the Branch website **www.unisonmanchester.org** so keep checking it for updates on the strike action.



GOOD TO MEET YOU...

Name: Natasha Greeley

services.

Job: Customer Service Advisor

What superpower would you like?

How long have you been a member of the union? Almost 2 years

Whereabouts do you live?
Moss Side, Manchester

Where would you want to live?
No matter where I went, I think I'd always come back to Manchester.

Best thing about UNISON?
Support it gives to its members

Who or what is your inspiration?
My mum, clichéd as that is, haha.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself? Shyness

What is the trait you most deplore in others?
Arrogance

If you were Prime Minister, what would you do first?
Build more social housing, introduce 'Robin Hood' taxing system, and stop the privatisation of all our



Freeze time – you could get up to all sorts of mischief

What's the worst job you've ever done? What's your ideal job?
Working in Primark was a bit pants, I'd like something where I feel rewarded every day. Something that helps people.

Favourite holiday destination, film, drink, football club?
New York, Inception, Mojito, Manchester City

What was your best day at work, and your worst?

Being abused most days when I worked in a sales call centre was pretty rubbish. I don't think I have one particularly good day that stands out. Each day is what you make of it.

Why do unions matter?
Because everyone needs a voice, and you shout louder together.

CHANGES IN THE BRANCH OFFICE

Following elections at our Branch Executive Committee meeting last month there have been a few changes in our office.

Branch Secretary Pat McDonagh stepped down from his role to take up the position of Branch Chair and Evelyn Doyle was voted in to replace him.

Evelyn said: "I would like to thank Pat for all the work he has done for the Branch through very difficult times."

Pete Banks moved into the vacant Assistant Branch Secretary position created after former ABS Julie Connolly took retirement.

Pete said: "My 3 and a half years as the Joint

Trade Union Officer in m People have been a great experience for me and the results achieved for our members are something I am very proud of."

Sonia Stewart, former Branch Chair, was elected into the post of Joint Trade Union Officer (Quality Assurance) working within m People.

Sonia said: "I'm really pleased to have been given the opportunity to take up the role of Joint Trade Union Officer and I am looking forward to working with a great team in the future."

Rest assured the Branch Office Team remains as strong and committed as ever and as always, if you are having problems at work do not hesitate to contact us.

Join UNISON

To be completed by new applicant

Please fill in this application form in
BLOCK CAPITALS and send it to:-
Manchester UNISON, Room 321, 3rd Floor,
Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester, M60 2LA

Recruit a friend to UNISON...
and receive a £10 for each member you recruit!

Recruiter

To be completed by the existing UNISON member.

Name:
Membership Number:

1 Tell us about you

Title First name

Surname/family name Date of birth / /

Home address

Postcode

email

Phone number (please indicate if home, work or mobile)

National insurance number (from your payslip)

Please give your ethnic origin: (tick one box)

☐ Bangladeshi ☐ Pakistani ☐ Black African ☐ Black UK ☐ White UK
☐ Chinese ☐ Asian UK ☐ Black ☐ Black other ☐ Irish
☐ Indian ☐ Asian other ☐ Caribbean ☐ White other

2 Tell us about your job

Employer's name

Your job title/occupation

Workplace name and address

Postcode

Payroll number (from your payslip)

3 What you will pay each month

Please tick the appropriate box for your earnings before deductions.

Annual pay	Your subscription
Up to £2,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £1.30
£2,001-£5,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £3.50
£5,001-£8,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £5.30
£8,001-£11,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £6.60
£11,001-£14,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £7.85
£14,001-£17,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £9.70
£17,001-£20,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £11.50
£20,001-£25,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £14.00
£25,001-£30,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £17.25
£30,001-£35,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £20.30
over £35,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £22.50

5 Choose how you wish to pay Please tick ONE box only

EITHER deduct from salary:

☐ I wish to join UNISON and authorise deduction of subscriptions from my pay by my employer.

Signature

Date

Please go to unison.org.uk/privacy-policy to see how we will protect and use your personal information

OR pay by direct debit: please complete the direct debit form below

☐ I wish to join UNISON and authorise deduction of subscriptions by direct debit

Date

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to UNISON, 130 Euston Road London NW1 2AY

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To: The Manager

Address

Bank/building society

Service User Number

9 7 0 0 5 0

Reference number (for office use only do not complete)

Please pay UNISON Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with UNISON and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature(s)

Date

Bank/building society account number

Branch sort code

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

