

# MANCUNION

THE UNISON NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015

## GENERAL ELECTION SPECIAL



## VOTE FOR CHANGE ON 7TH MAY

I would like to start this issue by thanking those members who attended our Annual General Meeting. Whilst there were not enough of us to make the meeting quorate (so we could take votes and make decisions on business), it was good to see those who did manage to attend and we had an excellent speaker on the need to oppose austerity.

We can hardly miss the fact that we are in the general election period, even we have given over an edition of the Mancunion to it. We are still being told that in the region of 40% of the electorate remain undecided, and as we know many will end up not voting at all.

Yet big decisions will be made about the future of Public Services such as the NHS, Social Care and Education as a result of who wins this election. This will have a massive impact upon UNISON members and our families,

so I urge everyone to use their vote. There is another important election for UNISON members, you will receive your ballot papers any day now for the NEC (National

Executive Council) elections. These are important because this is the body that runs UNISON between National Conferences.

After the disgraceful last minute cancelling of our Strike over Local Government pay in October it is more important than ever that we elect

people who will represent our views at the highest level in UNISON.

It is important members use their vote and support members who we voted to nominate and in particular Pat McDonagh, our Branch Chair.

Please also consider voting for the other candidates nominated by our Branch.



## IN MY VIEW

### EVELYN DOYLE

### BRANCH SECRETARY

## IN THIS ISSUE

On the facing page is a report back from the Special Local Government Conference on Pay. This was an extraordinary event and an important step in reaffirming that our union is a member-led organisation.

As the general election on May 7th is fast approaching we have a message to our members which sets out why it is more crucial than ever to vote. We examine the reasons why you should consider voting for a Labour Government and why we believe that UKIP do not have the answers. Alongside our usual features we also have updates on Equalities and Branch Education.

**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 the branch office on 0161 254 7500 or send an email to [unison@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:unison@manchester.gov.uk).

If you want all the latest news then make sure you bookmark our website [www.unisonmanchester.org](http://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 based in Manchester Town Hall in room 321 so feel free to contact us anytime.



[www.unisonmanchester.org](http://www.unisonmanchester.org)

# SPECIAL CONFERENCE REPORT

On 24th March your branch delegates attended a special UNISON local government conference to discuss pay, which our Branch led the call for.

We all know that the last pay dispute ended badly. Some very bad decisions were made, outside of the control of branches and ordinary members like us.

A strike was called off and a shoddy, feeble pay deal pushed on us.

We have been determined to get pay back on the agenda. We were determined to change our procedures so that this can't happen again. And we were determined to make it clear to our national leadership that they work for us. They are in their positions at our behest and they should do what our members tell them to do.

Our members want to fight on pay. They need to lead that fight.

We went to the conference with four main objectives:

- To change our procedures so that elected UNISON members can go and take part in pay negotiations with the employers.
- To change procedures so that strike action can't be called off without branches being asked what their members want to do.
- To have clear figures drawn up to show how much money our members have lost due to pay deals that are below inflation.
- To force our leaders to submit a new pay claim to the employers.

The day didn't start well. It was already a short conference with a lot of business and there were people who did not want these changes and were prepared to go out of their way to stop them.

A delegate complained that they hadn't read a report that one of the motions referred to (even though it was sent twice to all branches weeks before). Our President decided to suspend conference for twenty minutes so that people could read it. When we started again motions dragged on and we broke for lunch without having achieved any of our aims.

The knowledge that we were all running short of time seemed to create a change in the afternoon session. This was a contentious conference with a lot of people wanting to speak, but branches worked together to get through motions quickly.

Attempts to slow the conference down and prevent motions getting heard failed. Even wasting time on three card votes\* on plainly carried motions couldn't stop the momentum.

We are pleased to report that all the motions our branch submitted were heard and carried.

We achieved all four of our objectives.

Now the fight on pay begins again. In earnest.

Except this time it is different. We, the ordinary members are the ones who will be calling the shots. No one will be holding us back or taking it upon themselves to surrender on our behalf.

We have a new pay claim that we are in control of. We have a dispute with our employer and the will to win it.

## \*WHAT IS A CARD VOTE?

When delegates vote at UNISON conference they do it by a show of hands. The President then says whether the motion is carried or lost based on that.

Occasionally the vote is too close to call and either The President or a delegate will call for a card vote.

When this happens, rather than a show of hands, each branch will write down the number of members in that branch on a special voting card. These votes are then counted up.

So if you had 9,000 members and 9 delegates, the vote of each delegate is worth 1,000.

If 1 delegate wants to vote for a motion and the other 8 want to vote against then on the card it will say 1,000 for, 8,000 against.

Of course all this can take a lot of time and really slows the conference down....

# GENERAL ELECTION ON MAY 7TH

A message to UNISON members on the General Election.

The words we all keep hearing at the moment seem to be “the most important general election of our lives”.

We hear it from Labour and trade unions alike. But is it really the case?

Let's take a look:

## Important for trade unionists?

As members of a trade union we would be naive to not face the fact that a second Tory government could spell disaster for us. Despite some of the lowest levels of strikes in history, the Tories are determined to skew union democracy out of all recognition. Demanding strike ballot results that are only valid if over 50% of the membership vote in favour. Not 50% of those who vote.

No one else is being put to this test. Not a single MP would be elected on those rules. No one is proposing that over 50% of all shareholders in a company should be in favour before laying off staff.

The irony is, if the law allowed for simpler voting, electronically or a good old fashioned show of hands, we could have far higher turnouts. But it suits the Tories for us to spend huge amounts of money conducting postal ballots.

It's a personal and ideological attack. They don't like us and we don't like them.

## Important for public sector workers?

As public sector workers we have cause to worry.

At Manchester City Council we've seen huge job losses with workers stretched to the limit to deliver the services we believe in. Across the rest of the branch in voluntary organisations, charities and education, services are restructured

or closed. And everywhere pay is dropping.

## Important for all of us?

With a second term for the Tories we are looking at public spending dropping to 1930s levels.

It's been a 60 year Tory struggle, but with another term they may finally achieve their ambition of undoing everything we won under the Attlee governments.

## But what of today's parliamentary Labour party?

Well no one is going to compare our shadow cabinet to Attlee's. The healthy mix of trade unionists, social campaigners and academics is a thing of the past. We are in the world of Oxford Politics, Philosophy and Economics graduates. Professional politicians.

But there is a lot to hope for in a Labour government.

A number of key policies from the Labour policy forum have matched UNISON's policies:

- Tackling low pay and zero hours contracts
- Rescuing our NHS and care services
- Making sure wages rise when the economy grows
- A massive house building and improvement plan
- Rent controls and secure tenancies
- A million hi-tech green jobs
- As many apprenticeships as university places
- Stamping out exploitation to prevent undercutting of wages
- Fair distribution of public funds, to the areas most in need
- Fairer taxes on the wealthy

We have a voice in the Labour Party at all levels. The Tories want to silence us forever.

## Important to vote?

It is vitally important for all of us to vote. Not





# A MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS

just to support the principles of democracy or any of that philosophical stuff.

No seat is safe. We can't rely on some seats to automatically be Labour. This country is in political flux with more up for grabs than you might think.

North Manchester is usually all Labour, but in the last council elections UKIP came within a hairs breadth of taking Moston Ward.

We need to be sure we keep UKIP out of our town hall.

But the real crucial battleground in the city is the Withington constituency. John Leech, the last elected Lib Dem in the city, is clinging to a tiny majority. He can be ousted. He sneaked into parliament with false claims that the Christie would be closed and has spent the last five years propping up the Tories down in Whitehall.

## So... Is it the most important...?

The fact is we will only know if we lose. We will only know if our fears were justified if Cameron walks back into number 10.

Here at UNISON Manchester we would rather not find out.

Campaign, vote and vote Labour. Let's have something to feel good about on the morning of 8th May.

## How can you help?

If we are going to get Labour in (and keep UKIP out!) then we all need to pitch in. Give us a call at the branch and speak to Carl Greatbatch our Labour link officer who will be able to tell you how you can help.

And its not just helping with the election. We need Labour party members to represent our views in ward and constituency parties. Or maybe you are thinking of being a candidate yourself at some point?

Even if you don't have the free time to deliver leaflets or knock on doors, why not go and check out Labour's website [www.labour.org.uk](http://www.labour.org.uk)? It has other ways to help. They are doing a lot of social media work, perhaps you could forward some emails or tweet friends who aren't sure how they will vote yet.

Or you could make a donation. In the last year Labour raised £1 million through small donations. Fivers, tenners or whatever people could spare. It all adds up. Remember hedge funds and big business are slipping millions to the Tories and much of the media will be in their corner, so every little bit helps.

## UNISON NEC ELECTIONS

In the next few days all members will receive ballot papers to elect our National Executive Council members who will hold positions for 2 years. They will lead our union during that time and it is vital our members use their vote to determine who will carry out that vital role.

Please take the time to select who you want to represent your interests. NEC members are elected to represent all regions, service groups and self organised groups. Our Branch agreed to submit the following nominations which members are urged to consider voting for in the elections:

### North West Regional Seats:

#### Women's Seat (2)

Tracy Delaney (Oldham Branch)  
Michelle England

#### Male Seat

Tony Harmson (Lancashire County Branch)

#### General Seat

Pat McDonagh (Manchester Branch)

### National Seats:

**Local Government Male Seat**  
**Community Section Female Seat**  
**Community Section General Seat**  
**Black Female Seat**  
**Black Male Seat**

Dan Goodwin  
June Poole  
John Gray  
Liz Cameron  
Calvin Smelda

Please use your vote!

# HERE ARE 10 REASONS WHY UKIP

## **UKIP – A PARTY OF CUTS! THE ENEMY OF PUBLIC SERVICES!**

Massive Government cuts have savaged the North West. Yet when asked about this Nigel Farage, UKIP leader, replied – “What cuts? There haven’t been any real cuts” (BBC July 2013). He called for massive further cuts, ‘real cuts’, to clear the deficit. No matter this would drive us into depression. Godfrey Bloom stated, “public sector jobs are taking money out of the economy and wealth creation. I hope hundreds, thousands of jobs will be lost...you will never understand UKIP until you understand this point. Public spending takes money out of the economy, it doesn’t put it in.” Common sense and much evidence would differ. Public services are vital to a balanced society yet UKIP favour public squalor. A balanced economy is not either/or, it is both Public and Private Sector.

## **UKIP THREATEN OUR NHS**

Nigel Farage said in 2012 he favoured an insurance based system in place of our NHS. No other party leader would survive in post for a minute with such views.

Even worse, Paul Nuttall, his Deputy Leader has said : “I would like to congratulate the coalition government for bringing a whiff of privatisation into the beleaguered National Health Service. I would argue the very existence of the NHS stifles competition. The NHS ...is not fit for purpose in the 21st Century”. Under greater scrutiny, Farage has tried to hide from this and has said he wants businessmen to run hospitals. He is the only party leader to refuse to promise to guarantee NHS funding. Instead he peddles the myth that the NHS is all bureaucracy and waste.

Yet the Commonwealth Fund, in an international comparison of eleven countries found the NHS public service model to be the most efficient in the world (privatised USA 11th). UKIP falsely claim that massive cuts can be made to the NHS without damaging front line services. This is a cruel deception. Look out for crazy money saving schemes like paying to see your GP if UKIP gain influence.

## **UKIP - MISS THE MARK ON WAGES – NO ANSWER ON EXPLOITATION**

UKIP have blamed immigration for making Britain the low pay capital of Europe. Yet the level of immigration, though higher than in the past is not sufficient to explain why all UK workers are on

average £40/week worse off than in 2010, full time workers £50/week worse off. Wages in real terms have fallen back to the level of the year 2000. This results from a bankers’ crisis building on 30 years of anti-worker policies, a reduction in collective bargaining cover from 80% to 25%. In many cases, skilled migrants lift wage rates by helping businesses to improve productivity.

Yet in lower skilled markets, the problem is employers exploit immigrants. They interpret Europe’s free movement rules to recruit in the cheapest labour markets. It is not immigrants to blame but bad employers. We need a Living Wage, an end to exploitation, stronger unions and more apprenticeships. UKIP is silent on these matters. They are a business party that would continue to see employers impose zero hour contracts and low pay on British workers.

## **UKIP OPPOSE WORKERS RIGHTS AND WILL DRIVE A RACE TO THE BOTTOM**

Nigel Farage has said he favours abolishing regulation for Britain’s small businesses, denying millions of workers maternity rights, health and safety protection and employment rights. He wants to pull out of Europe to empower bosses, not workers. UKIP are scathing about trade unions. UKIP have admitted that pulling out of Europe, their main goal, will save £21 billion, each year (most of which is already spent here).

A large sum, but at 1.4% of national income, peanuts compared to the potential damage to our economy. They have spent this money many times over. Yet their real belief is Britain will thrive out of Europe by embracing the free market principles that led to a world crash in 2007. Smashing workers rights and trade unions is crucial to that, keeping hard working people down-at-heel.

## **UKIP THE NASTY PARTY - MORE TORY THAN THE TORIES**

“I’m the only politician keeping the flame of Thatcherism alive” - Nigel Farage. UKIP get much of their funding from ex-Tory multi-millionaires like Arron Banks and hedge fund founder Christopher Mills. Their strategists are not ordinary people but practised spin doctors who are thoroughly steeped in our political establishment. Mr Farage himself attended a public school and made a packet in the City as a commodities trader. He has made much of the claim that he will not tax the minimum wage. However, big rises in VAT have not been ruled out to pay for this. Also he has not promised to



# DO NOT HAVE THE ANSWERS..

keep or increase the minimum wage. Yet his tax cuts will not benefit the 17% who earn too little to pay tax, but will benefit the rich much more, increasing the already excessive inequality gap.

## **UKIP – MANY QUESTIONS BUT NO ANSWERS ON IMMIGRATION**

UKIP claim immigration is the root of all our problems. Yet they are at pains to stress, unless we come out of Europe they would be able to do nothing about it. Their strategy is to make Britain unfriendly to migrants so they don't come. Yet hard working people prepared to leave their home behind and travel here to work will not be frightened away by UKIP. But they may be driven into the illegal, underground economy, where exploitation threatens to undercut wages. The real solution is to create greater equality between countries. Yet UKIP oppose measures to boost growth across all of Europe which would make population movements more stable. Meanwhile, ask yourself the question, how many people do you know who have left Britain to make a better life for themselves in Europe, or further afield like Canada or Australia?

## **UKIP – MISSING THE REAL ISSUE ON IMMIGRATION**

UKIP see the issue of immigration as being about numbers. Yet global numbers don't really impact on local communities. It makes little difference if millionaires move into London.

More foreign students, keeping our Universities funded is as good for the country as more tourism. Our NHS depends on immigration, and has done since it was set up, especially as some people trained here take up the option of working abroad. Much of this immigration we need and the benefits are large and widely spread. The problem is the pressure points of immigration are often concentrated on working class host areas and the migrants themselves who are forced to share congestion, poverty and underfunded local services. Yet in other places in chronic decline due to deindustrialisation, new people save the area from rows of empty houses. Either way, it is precisely these poorer areas that give the wider country the benefits of immigration and those communities should have adequate housing, jobs and resources to cope. These communities are a vital engine of our national growth and should be supported. UKIP are a party of cuts, not a party to deliver our areas from decline.

## **UKIP – A TIME BOMB FOR PENSIONERS**

UKIP claim to represent older voters who fear

change and feel globalisation has not treated them well. Yet the biggest threat to pensioners comes from the underfunding of the NHS and our care service, making it harder to keep pace with our ageing population. Similarly pensions may become unaffordable for those retiring in future. In the long term research to find cures for dementia and other diseases of age may assist. Whilst returning to proper employer based pension schemes to provide savings for the future and investment for our industry is needed. Yet in the short term, we need more younger workers. Part of this will need to come from immigration for some years to come. Part must come from improving the skills of young people born here by a massive expansion of apprenticeships. Again immigration helps with all this as foreign students bring £billions to our universities.

## **UKIP – DENYING A FUTURE TO OUR GRANDCHILDREN**

UKIP have extremely short sighted policies on the environment and global affairs. They oppose renewable energy and overseas aid. Interestingly both attitudes could lead to more immigration than we have ever seen before. Climate change and worsening poverty overseas, in a world of cheaper transport and the internet could see more people try to move in future. We need to take a leaf out of the book of our Labour Government in 1945. Whilst struggling here, we worked with the USA to save Europe from famine and collapse. This policy led to the biggest wave of economic growth in our history and peace in Europe. The alternative would have seen vast numbers coming here in desperation. There is plenty of time to save the planet for our grandchildren if we act now. UKIP would see us do nothing and leave our grandkids in the stew.

## **UKIP – A PARTY THAT OFFER ANGST AND HATE, NOT HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE**

Five more years of this coalition cuts, not yet half way through, will see Councils like Liverpool bankrupt. Five more years will see our NHS privatised beyond repair. Britain is more unequal than it has been for a century, with inwork poverty at record highs. Yet rather than make the next General Election about these issues, UKIP are determined to blame migrants or Europe for a bankers' crisis. They have no serious alternative, yet seek to wreck a centre left majority that could make vital changes to our country. Nigel Farage is on record as saying he will resign if Ed Miliband wins the election without a promise of a referendum on Europe. He has not said he will resign if David Cameron wins.





# LIVING WAGE AGREEMENT

UNISON is delighted to announce that we have negotiated a living wage agreement with the Church of England. This new agreement covers 4,700 schools within 41 Diocese and supplements an existing agreement with the Catholic Church that covers 2,300 schools and the Co-operative Society.

Oasis are also supporting the living wage both in-house and with its contractors.

In total these agreements cover 50% of schools across the country.

Manchester Branch Lead Officer for schools Cath Baggaley said. "This is great news for our low paid members in C of E schools right across the city."



## M PEOPLE NEWS

As the Joint Trade Union Officer (Quality Assurance), part of my role is getting feedback from people on their experience of m people.

That way we can keep track of how well the process is working.

Here are some of the positive comments I've received:

"I have learnt many new skills on my journey with m people, attended computer workshops and gained new experiences and confidence. m people has helped and supported me greatly throughout the last 2½ years."

"I won't pretend that m people is going to be ideal for everyone but I'd like to describe my experience

of it to date, after a slow start, as a success story."

"If you want a new challenge why not speak to someone about m people today?"

"This was a good move for me. I now know that I have capabilities beyond what I truly thought. I feel valued, which in turn gives me a good sense of well-being."

"I have gained new skills and experience and that also means that I am well placed to apply for roles in the future."

**Sonia Stewart**  
Joint Trade Union Officer  
(Quality Assurance)





# BRANCH EQUALITIES UPDATE

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE REPORT

Manchester Branch sent two delegates to this year's conference, held in Southport. Two days full of intense debate and discussion on a wide range of subjects, with our delegates speaking on a number of motions.

With 720 delegates, this was the biggest women's conference we've ever had. It goes to show that more and more women are getting involved in UNISON, both in branches and at national level.

There was a lot of anger in the hall about the impact of Tory cuts. This first flared in a debate on housing, but carried on right through other motions. Talk of fighting back against cuts to services was cheered loudly. Our delegates spoke positively of the need for UNISON to influence Labour on defending public services and were well received.

Conference was addressed by Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper and our General Secretary Dave Prentis. Both urged us to build the turnout for the general election and urged people to vote Labour.

Yvette Cooper also took questions.

We asked: "Given that benefit sanctions affect women the most, particularly women with children claiming in work benefits and that this government have rewarded their backers like HSBC with massive tax breaks, will Labour commit to revoking benefit sanction and use the law to recoup the millions stolen from the Public Purse by HSBC and their cronies?"

She answered that there needed to be a review of how benefit sanctions are used, and that yes, Labour intended to pursue tax arrears.

Next year's conference is in Brighton, and will be held in February. This is a very welcoming conference particularly to new delegates. If any Women's Group member feels that they would like to be a delegate please speak to the Chair or Co-Secretaries.

A full report from the conference is available to read on our branch website.

**Lesley Lancelott - Women's SOG Chair**

## SELF ORGANISED GROUPS

### Disabled Members

Discussions have been taking place about setting up a Branch Disabled Members' Self Organised Group. We'll be able to tell you more about the group and how you can get involved in the next issue.

### Black Members

The next meetings take place 8 April, 13 May, 10 June and 8 July. 2pm to 4pm, in the Branch Office. For more information contact the Joint Chairs Damian Daley - [d.daley1@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:d.daley1@manchester.gov.uk) or Gloria Buckley - [g.buckley1@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:g.buckley1@manchester.gov.uk)

### LGBT Members

The next meeting will take place after Easter. We will publish the date on our website or you can get in touch with the Chair Paul Amman [pamann@wea.org.uk](mailto:pamann@wea.org.uk).

### Women Members

The next meeting is 22 April, 12.30pm-2pm in the Branch Office. For more information email Lesley Lancelott - [l.lancelott@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:l.lancelott@manchester.gov.uk)

**Sonia Stewart - Branch Equalities Officer**



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# EDUCATION & LEARNING REPORT

## 'POP UP' CLASSROOM

Our new mobile learning centre is arriving in April, complete with 10 Samsung Galaxy TabPro tablets. This means we'll be able to do learning and training sessions at workplaces or out in communities that don't have a suitable venue or equipment. This new resource means we'll be able to bring learning to even more people

Please note the 6m x 3m pop up gazebo is not for parties... unless I'm invited!

## STEWARDS - ARE YOU ERA ACCREDITED?

All stewards and workplace reps have to renew their ERA accreditation at least every five years. The course is now the responsibility of Northwest Region and is a 1 day training package instead of the full five day course.

However if there are reps who feel less confident and would prefer the five day course, then we can arrange it.

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS COURSE

This excellent level two nationally accredited course will be taking place again in May. If you are interested or want more information, please contact me.

Please note that places are limited and tend to go quickly. So please book early.

Visit the branch website for course dates. There will also be more information about conversational language courses, British Sign Language and a one day dementia awareness

workshop coming up in the next few weeks.

Whatever your learning or career needs, if you want advice, support or information, contact me or your Union Learning Rep.

To book yourself onto a course or for more information about Branch Learning and Education for UNISON members, please email [s.lynch@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:s.lynch@manchester.gov.uk).

## THE 6 BOOK CHALLENGE LAUNCH

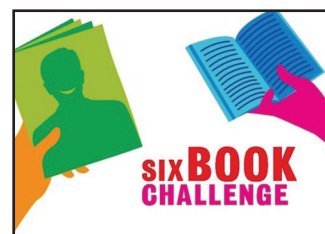
Friday March 27th saw the launch of a pilot scheme for the nationally supported 6 Book Challenge for MCC staff in the Town Hall Extension.

Check the Manchester City Council intranet for details and let those that don't have access know too.

So if you like to read or are thinking about picking up a book again why not turn it into a certificate for your achievements and a possible prize.

If you want to know about the challenge then visit the scheme website below.

<http://sixbookchallenge.org.uk/>



Steve Lynch - Branch Education Officer



[www.unisonmanchester.org](http://www.unisonmanchester.org)

# GOOD TO MEET YOU...

**Name:** Rena Wood

**Job:** Assistant Branch Secretary

**How long have you been a member of the union?** 30 years as of November this year

**What do you like about your role in UNISON?**  
An opportunity to try and make a positive difference.

**Whereabouts do you live?**  
A few miles from the city centre.

**Where would you want to live?**  
Nowhere else.

**Best thing about UNISON?**  
Our collective strength.

**Who or what is your inspiration?**  
The Cuban people, Rosa Parks refusing to move from the front seat of a bus reserved for white people to the back of the bus and most of all my mum for her resilience as a 31 year old widow with 3 teenage kids in the face of adversity doing her utmost best for us.

**What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?**  
Lack of patience.

**What is the trait you most deplore in others?**  
Sheer selfishness.

**If you were Prime Minister, what would you do first?**  
Impose a fairer more equitable tax system.

**What superpower would you like?!**  
To be invisible on demand.

**What's the worst job you've ever done? What's your ideal job?**  
Working on a cheese counter at Lipton's supermarket on a Saturday was the worst job.

The best was working for Geoff George in the Education Welfare Service.



**Favourite holiday destination, film, drink, football club?**

Cuba, Brubaker/Colour Purple, Assam tea actually and Manchester United, who else!

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

The best? On the picket line during the 1989 Pay "no strings" dispute, the support from members of the public was phenomenal.

The worst? When my manager, Geoff George, a UNISON member announced he was leaving the Education Welfare Service where I worked, a sad day.

**Why do unions matter?**

Because we fight for social justice and fairness for everyone.



