

REGIONAL YOUNG MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

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September 2010

UNISON Young Members 'do' the festivals

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This year UNISON's Northern Young Members Group were lucky enough to get places at Glastonbury, Latitude and Leeds Festivals volunteering with the Workers Beer Company. In total they raised nearly £1500 between the three festivals which will be used for Young Members development and campaigning within the region.

Amy Shepherd, young member at Newcastle Hospitals Branch of UNISON became active in the Regional Young Members Group last year and was given the opportunity to go to Glastonbury, this year she thought she'd try Latitude!

'I've always loved music festivals and worked for the WBC last year at Glastonbury so this year I decided to attend a different festival—Latitude. It was absolutely brilliant! We were working on the busiest bar at the

main stage so didn't miss a performance and the shift flew over.

The WBC staff were excellent fun and it was like we had known each other for years! On our first day we weren't working until late so it gave us a chance to explore the festival.

Latitude isn't just about the music, it's also a literature festival and was different to any festival I have attended before, but was such a lovely mix.

At night the festival came alive and tents housed amazing DJ's, Bands and comedy acts. They even had a Christmas themed party! I would recommend volunteering at a festival with the WBC through UNISON's Northern Young Members Group to any of our young members who are willing to work hard but play even harder!

A million voices for young people - add yours!
www.million-voices.org.uk

If you want to join UNISON online, log on to www.unison.org.uk/join

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Northern Public Services Alliance



UNISON is backing the European Trade Union Confederation Day of Action on 29 September to protest against the austerity measures and cuts to public services being adopted by many European countries.

All UNISON regions are organising events to coincide with Europe-wide action, and many branches are also planning local activity.



Young people are amongst those worst affected by the Con-Dem government's economic policies. The budget statement, its details, and subsequent announcements show a devastating programme of attacks on young people from all angles, whether they are

unemployed, in education, training or in work. These attacks couldn't have come at a worse time, there are already 1 in 4 young people not in employment, education or training. The picture is very grim, but the trade unions are ready to defend public services, jobs and pensions.

Graham Smith, Chair of UNISON's National Young Members Forum, sends this message out to all our young members, believing that now is the time to step up to the mark and take action.

"We will do it in a disciplined and effective way that shows we mean business as we take on the biggest fight of our lives. It's really important that we get our message out there—demolishing the lies and myths of the Con-Dem approach".

"We say: stop cutting vital public services; stop cutting public service jobs; cut bankers' bonuses and bring in a Robin Hood Tax; keep services in-house and cut out the privatisation profiteers. The government has a duty to invest in young people and not to consign them to the scrapheap!"

We need to recruit and organise young members to help defend our services and themselves, not only building UNISON's Million Voices Campaign but getting involved in the Public Services Alliance. All young members are encouraged to participate in local activities where they can.

What is the Public Services Alliance?

The Northern Public Services Alliance is a trade union led organisation formed to:

- Campaign to protect public services
- Promote alternative to public spending cuts
- Protect public sector employment
- Build coalitions with public service users spending

The PSA aims to bring together trade unions, community groups, voluntary and faith groups and those dependent on public services to discuss how to organise against Government cuts, protect our communities and defend public services.

29th September - Day of Action

Rallies in the Northern Region will take place:

12pm
The Monument
Newcastle

5pm
The Bottle of Notes
Centre Square,
Middlesbrough

YOUNG MEMBERS





Raising the Bar: Campaigning for a sweat-free Olympics

Seminar Event: 7th October 2010

On the 7th October 2010, the Northern TUC will again be marking 'World Day for Decent Work' (WDDW) with a seminar event at the Centre for Life in Newcastle. WDDW is a global event organised by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

The basic idea around this day is that every person should be able to have a job that enables them to live a good life in which their basic needs are met. Every year on 7th October, WDDW highlights issues such as low pay, migration, discrimination, forced labour and the freedom to organise. You can read more about World Day for Decent Work at www.wddw.org.

This seminar will highlight the unfair treatment, low pay and workers rights violations in the garment industry globally and will be focusing on the Playfair 2012 campaign to ensure that workers producing sportswear and goods with the Olympic logo have their rights respected.

A broad coalition has emerged around the Playfair 2012 campaign both nationally and in



the Northern region and the event will feature speakers from UNISON, Labour Behind the Label and the International Textile Garment and Leather Workers Federation amongst others.

The event will aim to give the Playfair 2012 Campaign a real local campaigning edge and the event will look at actions and events that will work towards this.

If you would like to attend the event please contact Ben Sellers on 0191 227 5566 or e-mail bsellers@tuc.org.uk by 1st October as numbers are limited.

Date: 7th October 2010
Time: 12.30—1600
(including buffet lunch)
Venue: Darwin Suite
Centre for Life
Times Square
Newcastle

What is the Playfair 2012 Campaign?

The Olympics is a multi-million dollar industry, yet most workers producing sportswear and Olympic souvenirs for sale on our high streets continue to be paid poverty wages and work in degrading conditions. Playfair found 12-year-old child workers, adults earning 14p an hour, and employees made to work up to 15 hours a day, seven days a week, producing Olympic merchandise.



It shouldn't be this way. It's time for the organisers of the London Games, the sportswear industry and the International Olympic Committee to take responsibility for the working conditions in global supply chains producing these goods.

As workers, trade unionists, students and consumers, we are linked to the millions of workers employed in these supply chains. Acting together, we have the power to bring about change and demand that London 2012 is the first ethical Olympics—providing decent work and dignity for all.

Be inspired to demand that London 2012 delivers decent work for all.

Contact James Imhoof, UNISON Young Members Officer at Newcastle City Branch to find out more about UNISON's involvement in the campaign and how you can help.

Visit www.Playfair2012.org for more information and to sign-up to the Facebook group.

NEC Election—Young Members Seat

The ballot for election of the young members representative on UNISON's National Executive Council starts 27 September 2010, and closes 5pm 22 October.

The result will be announced on 17 November 2010. To be eligible to vote you must:

(i) be a young member under the age of 27 on the first day of the

ballot period;

(ii) have been on the union's RMS membership system on 27 June 2010;

(iii) be a full member.

UNISON's National Young Members Forum and Northern Region Young Members Group are supporting Graham Smith's nomination.

If you believe you are eligible to vote but have not received a ballot paper by 5 October 2010, please call the ballot helpline on:

0845 355 0845, or textphone on 0800 0967 968.

More information at:

www.unison.org.uk/elections

WIN a £50 HMV Voucher

UNISON Young Members Group have been successful in bidding for ULF (Union Learning Fund) funding through UNISON's national Learning, Equality and Diversity in UNISON Project so we can organise some learning and development opportunities specifically for young members.

So we can find out exactly what young members are interested in we have sent out a confidential learning questionnaire.

Once we collate responses we will

be organising some bite-sized informal learning opportunities for young members and we will also be running a new stewards course specifically to train young members who are interested in becoming active.

If you complete a questionnaire you will be entered into a prize-draw and could win a £50 HMV voucher!

Fill the survey in online by 15th October 2010 at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/V5KHLPK

Workplace Bullying

Are you constantly being criticised, are responsibilities being removed from you or are you been given trivial tasks to perform? Are false allegations being made against you? Do you think you are being treated differently because of your age, gender, race?

Does this sound familiar?

Bullying and harassment in the workplace is spiralling out of control. Stress and illness, mental and physical, is the result for those being bullied and this becomes part of their daily life. Many people are left just to suffer in silence.

A recent UNISON survey has revealed that bullying in the workplace has doubled in the last 10

years and that a third of the victims are young women. The survey also showed that many feel they have no option but to take sick leave, while others are forced to leave their jobs.

Bullying should never be tolerated, and victims should be supported and encouraged to report any incidents.

If you are being bullied at work:

- Keep a record—so you have a clear picture of what's happening to you
- Tell your union rep—it can be one step towards stopping bullying in its tracks



UNISON have produced a guidance about bullying at work for young workers, download at:

www.unison.org.uk/acrobat/B2738.pdf

Join UNISON

You can now join UNISON by completing an online application form. Visit:

www.unison.org.uk/join

JOIN IN: The next Regional Young Members Group will be held on 19th October 2010 at 5.30pm, County Hall, Durham