



Issue 21

May 2009

G20 Put People First!

By Steve Allnutt

Seventeen UNISON Members travelled from Lincoln to London on Saturday 28 March to join fellow trade unionist and many thousands of ordinary people like us, representing other interest groups protesting about the global injustices here and across the world.

With the financial banking system in freefall, huge bonus payments to disgraced directors with our money, our members are braced for massive public spending cuts as a result, and if they're lucky 'keep their jobs' but at what price?

The public sector has salvaged and saved the private sector whilst the planet's future is put on the back burner once again?

Low pay issues are still this union's priority, maintaining the public sector even more important, the global economy and expansion of government's roles to help the third world plus ensuring the protection of the planet through sustainable

decisions and actions.

The four-mile demonstration attracted some forty thousand and more, and it was rewarding to see our young members and many more young people there in what was a 'carnival atmosphere'. UNISON was the largest contingent with members from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and branches from all over England. Coaches left from all over the East Midlands for the three-hour long protest march to London's Hyde Park, where leading celebrities and our General Secretary Dave Prentis addressed the huge audience (despite adverse winter weather conditions). Various artists provided entertainment.

We need more members to join future demonstrations now! We cannot wait till governments fail us; we must constantly remind them along with our colleagues and families of the threats we all face if we do not
PUT PEOPLE FIRST!

in lincs

NEWSLETTER

Richard Banks was also at the G20 Protest

Ahead of the G20 summit, approximately 40,000 trade unionist, left wingers, environmentalists, NGO's and aid charities took part in the "Putting People First" peaceful demonstration through central London on 28 March. Public services have never been more vital to our society and our economic recovery. We were protesting against job losses and the threat to public services as hardworking families foot the bill for bailing out the banking system across the UK and beyond.

A coach organised by UNISON but open to anyone who was

interested left from Lincoln at 6.30am. We had typical British weather to say it rained, it was windy and the sun did manage to come out for a short time to warm us up. We marched from mid day along the north bank of the River Thames past Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, past Downing Street and Piccadilly Circus, Park Lane and on to Hyde Park where Tony Robinson introduced many speakers including Dave Prentis the General Secretary of UNISON, Mark Thomas comedian/activist and Bianca Jagger social and human rights advocate.

Win a £500 Shopping Voucher!

Enter UIA's fabulous free prize draw and you could win a £500 shopping voucher to spend at the supermarket of your choice! One lucky winner will be picked at the end of **each** month up to and including December 2009.

Visit our website for full details and your chance to win. Terms and conditions apply. Closing date 31st December 2009.

www.unisoninsurance.co.uk

Legal Services for UNISON Members

UNISON provides legal assistance to members through Thompsons Solicitors, specialists in employment law, who have worked on behalf of trade unions for over 80 years.

The table below shows what services are available to you and your family.

	Members	Members' families
Employment advice	Free	X
Accidents at work including industrial and work-related diseases	Free	X
Accidents outside work including road traffic accidents and holiday accidents	Free	Free
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) work-related injury due to a crime of violence	Free	X
Criminal law work-related criminal offences	Free	X
Wills	Free Incl' joint will	Special rates
Conveyancing	Special rates	Special rates
30 minutes legal advice (on any non work issue (including immigration issues))	Free	X
Clinical negligence	Free *	Free*

*Free initial consultation, special rates thereafter.

To access services you must contact the Branch Office in the first instance.

News from Mouchel

By Tracey Harrison

On the 31st March at The Collection in Lincoln, we received the news of redundancies at the Lincoln site with the reason given that Mouchel are making efficiencies in the workplace. This has resulted in the release of temporary staff, less reliance on agency and contracted staff and some staff being made redundant. A dreadful time for any of our members who maybe put at risk, UNISON will be representing and giving our full support to members who have

AGM Welfare Raffle

Thank you to everyone who attended our 2009 Annual General Meeting,

Members raised £56.00 for UNISON Welfare by purchasing raffle tickets at the event.

We would like to thank everybody who donated prizes to this worthy cause.

been affected.

At the session I asked our Partnership Director Philip Wade how we can continue our present level of service delivery and provide the higher level of service required by Richard Cuthbert, Mouchel's Chief Executive with a reduction in staff. Philip did reply with good question and we will have to look at the way we deliver the service to LCC. The number of temporary workers released has resulted in a substantial number of posts being lost in some areas. The redundancies have been kept below 20 therefore individual consultation is taking place with staff affected and no collective consultation with UNISON is required. I'm sure this leaves us all wondering how we can continue to deliver with such a reduction and how the increased pressure placed on staff to deliver is managed. I would be interested to hear our members' views on this and both our Mouchel Representatives and myself are available to speak to any individual members and groups of members who are concerned.

Members who are part of the Final Salary Pension Scheme received letters on the proposal to remove the Rule of 85 for future benefit accrual as at 1st June 2009. This does not mean

the removal of the Rule of 85, it actually means that any pensionable service after the 1st June 2009 would not be subject to the 85 year rule. This will therefore reduce the benefits payable on pensionable service after 1st June if a member retires before the age of 65. The LGPS (Local Government Pension Scheme) actually implemented this change on 1st October 2006. A meeting has been requested for Lincoln staff by UNISON so that questions can be asked and the issues discussed in more detail. I would encourage any member of the scheme who is concerned about the change to request figures pre the change and post the new proposal.

If any member has any issues, please contact your local Representative or myself via the UNISON Branch Office on 01522 554910 or email tracey.harrison@mouchel-lincoln.com.

Your local Representatives are:

Justine Healy	6073
Mouchel Property	
Mike Lynch	6091
Mouchel IT	
Jon Whitworth	6498
Mouchel Finance	
Andrea Willis	6106
Mouchel Health and Safety	

National Women's Conference 2009 – Southport

By Allison Eatch and Dawn Pipes-Goulsbra

Thursday 19th February saw Dawn and I heading for Southport to the National Women's Conference. However, at 12 noon I found myself somewhat off track in Morrison's car park in Wetherby. Having printed off a route map I inadvertently stapled the pages in the wrong order going from page 2 to page 4. It took me some time to realise I was heading in the wrong direction, hence the detour to Wetherby! I finally arrived in Southport at 4pm, 7 hours after leaving Lincoln. Dawn didn't fair a lot better, even without a detour, having encountered the same roadworks and diversions as I did in Wigan, Ormskirk and Southport. Half term is obviously when local authorities dig the roads up in the North West.

Deciding to check in later at the hotel (there was a long queue at reception and what seemed to be a protracted checking in process) I raced over to the Conference Centre. I joined a Pensions Seminar run by Colin Meech, a National Officer at UNISON. Although pensions is often seen as a dry topic, it is something which affects us all. Among the various facts and figures which Colin gave out was that NALGO (one of the unions which joined forces to create UNISON) was formed in 1922 specifically in order to negotiate the Local Government Pension Scheme. There are currently only 2,000 final salary schemes left. The Conservatives have said they will close final salary schemes if they return to government. You may wish to take this in to consideration when voting in the forthcoming

European elections. Having attended two Women's Conferences now I've found that there is a lot more to Conference than the main business of listening and voting on motions in the conference hall. The Fawcett Society (which we are affiliated to) and Object both had stalls in the foyer. Dawn and I picked up some literature and discussed the campaigns which both groups are currently running. For more info see www.fawcettsociety.org.uk and www.object.org.uk.

One of the speakers at Conference was Hanana Siddiqui from Southall Black Sisters (SBS). SBS have recently challenged and won Ealing Council's attempt to cut their funding. The Council wanted SBS to make their services available to white women in the interests of 'community cohesion' but weren't proposing an increase in funding to cover the likely increase in numbers seeking services. Effectively the Council were asking SBS to provide more services for the same money. Sound familiar?

After Conference on Friday I went to a Cuba and Venezuela fringe meeting. Carol Regan from the Cuba Solidarity Campaign (CSC) another organisation which the Branch is affiliated to, spoke about the blockade of Cuba which has lasted 48 years. She spoke about equality of opportunity in Cuba. 66% of women are in professional jobs. The class size in primary schools is 20 and just 15 in secondary schools. Each G.P. looks after 120 families. Impressive figures.

On Saturday morning having breakfast in the hotel there was an unfortunate commotion at the table next to us. A woman was complaining about the waitresses and their apparent lack of attention, slowness and general bad service. She seemed to be making a meal of it (pardon the pun) from what we could see and we felt uncomfortable at this outburst. Adding to our discomfort was the fact that the women at the next table were UNISON Conference delegates. After breakfast Dawn and I spoke to the manager to offer a more balanced view as we had been more than happy with the service. We also passed on information concerning the 'stolen hazelnuts'. The manager told us that one of the young waitresses, who was Polish had been in tears earlier on in the week over the way the women at the next table had spoken to her. Was there racism at the bottom of it all? I don't know. I do know that the waitress, probably on minimum wage was being treated badly and without any respect. As trade unionists we speak up in defence of other people. If we don't, those of you who are familiar with the words of Pastor Niemoller see en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_they_came will know the potential consequences. As for the 'stolen hazelnuts' I'll leave you to ponder what that was all about.

If anyone would like to know more about the motions debated in Southport or about the Women's Group please contact me or Dawn via the Branch Office.

"To promote, empower and encourage participation by Disabled Members throughout UNISON, and raise awareness of disability issues in Lincolnshire."

Disabled Members Self Organised Group

Join us at our next meeting on 14th May 2009 at 4.00 pm in Committee Room 3 County Offices Lincoln.

Disabled Members who are interested in getting involved in the group and would like further information. Contact myself on 01522 550793 or the UNISON office on 01522 554910

For those who are not already a member of UNISON, or if you have a colleague who might be interested in joining, include the following details:-

Your name:

Address for correspondence:

Postcode:

Place of work:

Email: trevor.majer@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Winner of IPOD Shuffle



The winner of the UNISON Branch IPOD Shuffle recruitment prize at the Lincolnshire County Council Induction morning in March is Stephanie Fox.

Stephanie has been notified and our congratulations go out to Stephanie on winning the prize and our commiserations to the other entrants who entered the prize draw .

Mike Spedding

Members will be saddened to hear of the tragic and untimely death of Mike Spedding.

Mike was Branch Health and Safety Officer for several years, at the time when his "day job" was Safety Advisor in Mill House. He understandably felt he had to give up his UNISON position when he became Corporate Health and Safety Manager for the County Council, but he remained a good friend to the Branch, and a firm advocate of trade union involvement in health and safety issues.

Quite simply, Mike was a lovely bloke. He was such a fundamentally decent man, reliable, good-humoured, and it was always a pleasure to see him. It seems hard to believe that someone with such an appetite for life has been taken from us.

Our thoughts and condolences are with everyone who knew Mike, and most especially with his family.

John Sharman

Contact UNISON

If you need to contact UNISON, or would just like more information about what is going on in your area or nationally, then look no further. Here is a comprehensive list of how to get in touch.

By telephone:

You can call the Lincolnshire County Branch office on 01522 554910 which is open Monday to Friday (except bank holidays) from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. Alternatively, you can contact UNISON Direct on 0845 355 0845.

By email

If you prefer to contact the branch via email our address is info@lincunison.org.uk.

Website:

We have a dedicated website for members to access with information relevant to Lincolnshire. Local representative's details can be found on the website together with latest news and developments. You can find us at www.unisonlincoln.co.uk.

UNISON also have a national website www.unison.co.uk.

An Introduction to Committee Members

One long standing member of the Retired Members Committee is Thomas Whitby. Thomas has agreed to give us a look into his past and present with this lovely précis of his career.

Born 1928 in The Meadows, Nottingham. Thomas' primary education was at Queens Walk, Nottingham. He later moved to West Bridgford and attended the Mundella School in Nottingham. The school closed and pupils were evacuated on the outbreak of World War II. West Bridgford was then deemed a 'safe area', so after a year wasted, Thomas attended West Bridgford County Secondary School (later classified and re-titled Grammar).

Thomas joined the Royal Air Force at 17 ½ years and retired after 36 years service. The highlight of his service career was being in the Electrical Engineering Authority for the Phantom aircraft at HQ Strike Command.

In a total change of employment, Thomas became Caretaker/ Groundsman at a residential school for boys with behavioural problems. The role of the school

changed to a mixed sex establishment for children with emotional and/or behaviour problems.

Previous training as a Youth Leader and nine years running a County funded Youth Club prompted Thomas' appointment as a Residential Child Care Officer. This required changing Trade Union affiliation from NUPE to NALGO.

With impaired hearing since 1977, Thomas was a Branch Disabled Self Organised Group delegate, and due to further hearing loss, was unfortunately forced into early retirement in 1990.

At Branch request, Thomas became Lincolnshire County Retired Members Officer and his first involvement with the East Midlands Retired Members Committee was as Newsletter Editor.

Thomas married his lovely wife, Gillian, in 1958 and has no children. He enjoys playing croquet and is Director and Adjudicator at an amateur dramatics group.

Are you a Young UNISON Member?

UNISON defines "young" as being aged 26 years or under. Our East Midlands region is extending an invitation to anyone who meets this criterion to join a trip to Alton Towers on 4 July 2009. The

deal is that if you recruit another young member to UNISON membership, both of you will get the trip for free.

If you're interested contact the Branch Office and we'll pass on

your details to the Regional Officer organising the event.

John Sharman (aged 26+) (by a distance)

Vacancies

Following the Branch AGM on 18 March, we have some vacancies for Branch Officer posts.

These are:

- **Lifelong Learning Co-Ordinator**
- **Young Members Officer**
- **Voluntary Sector Officer**
- **Assistant Welfare Officer**

UNISON provides training and support.

Interested? Please contact the Branch Office on 01522 554910 if you'd like to find out more.

**Deadline for articles for the next issue:
28 July 2009.**

New Workplace Representatives and Branch Officers

The branch is very pleased to welcome the following new Workplace Representatives and Officers to the branch team.

Workplace Representatives

Phyl Lynn	Linelands
Clarence Corley	Roman House
Kathleen Purchase	Bishop Grosseteste University College
Gabi Connelly	Boston Probation
Peter Nagle	Homeleigh, Horncastle
Richard Bowman	Translinc
Angeline Roberts	Broughton House College
Steve Irwin-Banks	LCC—Louth Area Office, Adult Social Care
Sheila Goodall	LCC—Gainsborough, Adult Social Care
Elaine Bushell	Cordeaux School
Dawn Molson	St Bede's Catholic Science College
Margaret Watters	Banovallum School
Dianne Crabb	St Georges College of Technology
Christopher Tall	Newark College
Philippa Gallop	LCC—Lincoln Children's Services
Gerry Monaghan	Grantham College
Angela Aisthorpe	LCC—The Cedars

Branch Officer

Steve Irwin-Banks	Health and Safety Officer
Tony Gaskell	Welfare Officer



Have you changed your: Name, home address, workplace or job title?

Please let the Branch Office know if you change your: name, workplace, job title or home address. This is so we can send you UNISON information and to comply with legal restrictions should we need to ballot members for industrial action.

To inform the Office of any changes, please complete the tear off slip below and return to:
Lincolnshire County UNISON, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln. LN1 1YL. ☎ 01522 554910

Name

Membership Number:

Home Address:
.....

Job Title:

Workplace Address:
.....

Application form goes here