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For more information please contact:

ucu.swest@gmail.com

or contact the officers below:

Are you getting all the info?

This newsletter is sent three times a year by email.

If UCU HO has your email you should also receive regular updates on campaigns from UCU head office as well as occasional branch emails.

Let us know if that is not the case and we can check with the Head Office on your behalf.

1. Branch meeting - AGM

Monday 11th March 2019

Time: 12.00 noon – 2.30pm

Venue: UCU Office. Labour Party Rooms
26b Clifton Hill, Exeter EX1 2DJ

**Travel expenses will be reimbursed and
light refreshments will be provided.**

Newsletter: A termly newsletter for retired UCU members is sent to all branch members for whom we have email addresses.

Email addresses: UCU encourages us to use our home email when we retire.

Chair: Tom Murray tom.murray2@blueyonder.co.uk

Vice Chair: John Daniell john.daniell@btinternet.com

Secretary:

Regional reps: Margaret George mmargaretg@gmail.com

Liza Sentance lizasentance@hotmail.com Tom Murray
tom.murray2@blueyonder.co.uk

Treasurer: John Daniell john.daniell@btinternet.com

Membership: Jo Corke ucu.swest@gmail.com

Environmental Rep Liza Sentance

lizasentance@hotmail.com

TC Exeter Pete Bailey peter.bailey1@hotmail.com

and Tom Murray tom.murray2@blueyonder.co.uk

TC Torbay Liza Sentance lizasentance@hotmail.com

TC Gloucester : Ruth Amias ruthamias2000@yahoo.co.uk

TC Bristol: Barbara Segal barbara.segal@phonecoop.coop

TC Mendip: Bevis Miller drbevismiller@gmail.com

TC Taunton & W. Somerset: Charles Henderson

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SW NPC Ruth Amias, ruthamias2000@yahoo.co.uk

SW NPC D/C Liza Sentance lizasentance@hotmail.com

and Tom Murray tom.murray2@blueyonder.co.uk

2. A Casual Vacancy.

At the request of the committee, this item is repeated from the September newsletter because no member has volunteered to fill the post.

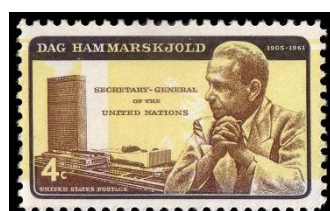
The mid-term resignation of our branch secretary brings an unexpected opportunity to UCU SW RMB branch members. This is a "Casual Vacancy" until the AGM in March, when you can offer to continue.

As a branch we rely on volunteers for the positions of officers and reps to our affiliated institutions. Each of us brings our personal preferences and experience to the post we choose and there is some flexibility on how we do it.

In a nutshell, we have 3 meetings a year to organise, including the AGM, and the ongoing work is to deal with incoming emails or forward them as necessary.

In this branch we are keen to work collaboratively with other officers and activists and there is internal and external support for the role of secretary. There are guidance notes from our own branch and from the UCU Regional office in Exeter, on many issues and the other officers are available to help you if you would like that.

For example, other members can take the minutes at the meetings so that you can be fully involved in the agenda. When we have a speaker, internal or external, at meetings, the onus to provide one is not necessarily on the secretary.



It is not as hard as this post was.

Below are the branch secretarial

activities that need to be covered. Please give this consideration as, without a branch secretary, we cannot continue to operate.

If you would like to know more please contact our Chair, Tom

tom.murray2@blueyonder.co.uk Or

ucu.swest@gmail.com

Summary of role of Retired Members Branch Secretary

1. To be responsible for the effective administration of the branch and the committee.
2. To act as the main point of communication in all matters both internal and external to the branch (in conjunction with the Membership Secretary)
3. To make all practical arrangements for branch and branch committee meetings. (in conjunction with other committee members)
4. To draft meeting agendas (in conjunction with the chair), to distribute meeting agendas and papers, and ensure accurate notes are taken and appropriately distributed.
5. To organise the branch annual general meeting (AGM); ensuring that the meeting arrangements complies with relevant policies and procedures and that all paperwork is completed both prior to and subsequent to the meeting.
6. To ensure proper organisation of all branch and congress election processes in accordance with UCU election procedures.
7. To ensure that UCU election procedures are followed when the branch agrees to support a candidate in an UCU election.
8. To maintain regular contact with UCU staff at the regional office and to keep them informed of branch activity and issues.
9. To be the point of contact with other branches and affiliated bodies and link representatives in order to support them in their role.

Tom Murray chair SW RMB

3. National Pensioners Convention

Some of you will already be individual members of the NPC.

<https://www.npcuk.org/join-us-and-get-involved>

In this branch we are affiliated with Western NPC and Devon and Cornwall branches; Liza Sentence, Ruth Amias and Tom Murray are our reps.



At the Devon National Pensioners Convention Meeting 18th May 2018, the Guest Speaker was Martin Rich from **Devon Communities Together**. Martin gave an interesting talk about the work of DCT, a charity founded in 1961 to help communities resolve and move forward the matters that are important to them. They have volunteer Trustees, permanent staff and temporary specialist staff (who work on projects where their expertise is needed). DCT are involved in a multiplicity of projects/types of work for example Advice and training for parish & town councils; Supporting communities to create action plans; Reducing fuel poverty; Providing affordable housing; Influencing development through neighbourhood planning. DCT helped to set up Healthwatch <https://www.healthwatch.co.uk/> an independent organisation that monitors good practice in the NHS and assists people to make complaints when

necessary. DCT will help individuals and take referrals from (for example) CABs, Parish Councils & Western Power. With regard to energy DCT can help people to negotiate/complain to energy providers, with energy/tariff problems who had run up large bills accidentally or through no fault of their own. Martin stated that there are now similar organisations to DCT in every County in England.

Dave Francis, Devon Cornwall NPC

The annual **Pensioners' Parliament** is widely regarded as one of the most important activities in the pensioner movement's calendar. The **2019 Pensioners' Parliament** will take place at the Blackpool Winter Gardens from 11-13 June 2019.

The NPC SW AGM will be held in Plymouth on 21.3.19 and they would be delighted to see any of our members there.

Your branch delegates to NPC are

Ruth, Tom and Liza

4. In The News.

In the News is a regular post on the UCU website. <https://www.ucu.org.uk/news>

5. Trades Councils

In November 2018 the first-ever autumn meeting of South West Region trades councils took place. It is hoped this will be an annual event and added to the Trades Councils' calendar.

Two TC 2019 dates for your diaries:

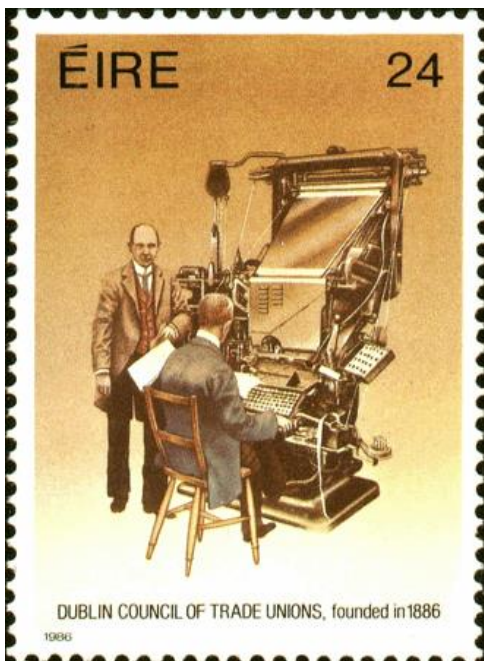
1. Saturday 2nd March, Bridgwater, 10am to 4pm: 2019 South West Trades Councils' Annual Meeting.

2. Saturday/Sunday 8th/9th June, Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare: 2019 National Trades Councils Conference; 1 delegate per trades council, visitors welcome! The decision to hold the 2019 Conference in Weston-super-Mare is seen as a measure of the respect that West Country and in particular Somerset Trades Council activists had achieved in the national movement. This conference was last held in Weston back in 1951 and it would be great if we could make this conference best attended for many years.

[Dave Chapple TUC JCC Rep](#)

6. Trade Council History in Stamps

This stamp came to me in 1986, commemorating the centenary of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions.



"In 1884, 34 craft unions were involved in organising an exhibition of artisan work in Dublin. This necessitated regular meetings, and encouraged the unions to continue working together. As a result, in 1886, 27 of the unions founded the Dublin

Council of Trade Unions, with a meeting at the Odd Fellow's Hall. The organisation was successful, and by 1894 it was able to convene a meeting of trade unions from across Ireland, which formed the Irish Trade Union Congress (ITUC)."

[Jo Corke and Grâce à Wikipedia](#)

7. From the Archives.

Readers may remember that I mentioned briefly Henry Hetherington in a previous issue and promised more information later.

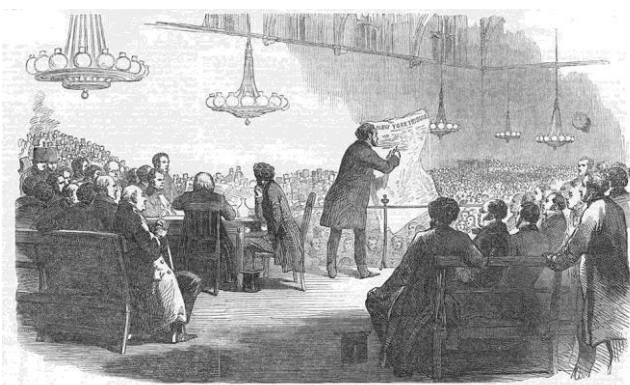
Newspapers had been a source of revenue to the Government since 1792. By the 1830's all newspapers which sold for less than six pence had to pay four pence by way of duty to the Stamp Office. They had to have on them an official Stamp Office stamp. This meant that the information they contained was not within the reach of the ordinary working man.

In 1831 Hetherington founded a newspaper known as the Poor Man's Guardian which was unstamped, and which he sold for just one penny: within the reach of the working man.

As a result there was what can best be described as the 19th century equivalent of the Poll tax revolt, involving as it did men and some women who persisted in selling unstamped newspapers on the street, at factories and in shops. They knew that they would be liable to imprisonment for periods varying from 7 days to three months at a time in prisons such as Newgate or Clerkenwell. Their details can be found in the paper, together with details of money raised from supporters to provide compensation for loss of their earnings, and enable them to support any family.

Bringing the so-called offenders to task was undertaken by former employees of the newly established London police force who were then employed by the Stamp Office on a free-lance basis. They were paid on the basis of the number of convictions at the rate of one pound per conviction. One earned seventy pounds and another earned sixty pounds in a particular year: not inconsiderable sums of money!

The London Dispatch of 18 June 1837 publishes the names of a group of working class men who wanted to show their support for Henry Hetherington a newspaper owner and publisher in his herculean task of getting the tax reduced and ultimately abolished. Who were these men? They were an early example of the 'little' men who had not previously done anything of this nature but wanted to be involved. They are shown as having a wide range of occupations including carpenter, fishmonger, tailor, printer, smith musical instrument maker, a brace maker, and watchmaker to name but a few. (courtesy of British Newspaper archives website)



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxes_on_knowledge#/media/File:Meeting_for_the_Repeal_of_the_Taxes_on_Knowledge.JPG

Illustration from the *Illustrated London News*: "Meeting for the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge, St Martin's Hall, Long Acre".

Although there was a partial reduction of the tax to one penny in 1836, it took until 1855 for it to be abolished. Henry

Hetherington did not live to see his success, having died of the cholera in 1849.

Verna Hardingham Rugby

8. Book Corner.

I am now the proud owner of *Banner Bright, An Illustrated History of Trade Union Banners*, by John Gorman. New edition 1986. This is a continuation of a series of articles on Trade Union Banners for the branch newsletters using copyright free images.

Born in 1930 in Stratford, East London, John Gorman was the son of a London carpenter, whose own father had come from Devon, and a domestic servant, who had been born in a South Shields mining community. He entered the world of work as a carpenter and became a fine silk screen printer. John joined the Sign and Display Trades Union on his first day at work.

http://grahamstevenson.me.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=237:john-gorman&catid=7:g&Itemid=108

The inspiration for 'Banner Bright' had been the rescuing of an otherwise discarded union banner; many others were saved for posterity. Norman Willis, General Secretary of TUC in 1986, wrote in the Foreword, "It is not only the people's pride in their unions which is depicted on the banners; it is the pride in the work itself. The images of this work, so proudly woven on the banners, have a special poignancy today, when so many of the skills and talents of so many of our people are being wasted on the dole."

John Gorman died aged 66 on October 31st 1996, following two heart attacks in a

row. In the way that one notices coincidences, John Gorman was born on my birthday and died on the day I began compiling this article.

Banner of TASS (Technical and Supervisory Section) of AUEW.



This banner is displayed in the entrance hall of Esher Place, one of the Unite union's training colleges.

This work has been released into the public domain by its author, Rugxulo at English Wikipedia.

Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival is a good place to see Trade union banners, here erected in front of the main stage in front of the TUC Martyrs Memorial Cottages.

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/892149>

CC licence Nigel Mykura.

Jo Corke SW RMB

9. Environmental Matters.

Established in 2004, the **Green Gown Awards** UK and Ireland recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities, colleges and the learning and skills sectors across the UK and Ireland as the education sector

leads a path to efficiency, employability and better quality of life for us all.



Organised by the EAUC, the Ceremony was held in the home of iconic locomotives and engineering brilliance, The National Railway Museum in York in

conjunction with the University of York and York St John University.

There were 4 winners from our South West region: **Student Engagement**# The Students' Union **UWE**: *Bring Your Own Bowl*

Research with Impact – Student Category Alex Dixon - **Exeter College Technology Centre**

Sustainability Champion Award

Student: Amy Bernice - The Students' Union **UWE**

Sustainability Champion Award

Staff: Paul Murray - **University of Plymouth**

You can see the full report at

<http://www.greengownawards.org/green-gown-awards-ceremony>

Liza Sentence SWRMB

10. Bristol Volunteer reading in school.

Continuing the Education Opportunities theme suggested by our contributor Terry Bickford. The Mayor is keen to ensure that every child that needs one can have a

volunteer, reading one-to-one with them in their school. They estimate that in order to do this they need to recruit around 300 volunteers as soon as possible. Helping a child that is falling behind with their reading has the potential to change lives! For more information about this opportunity and to find out about the next training day please follow this link:

https://candobristol.co.uk/projects/reading_in_schools.



Photo CC Public Domain Free for personal and commercial use. No attribution required.

11. Theatre Corner.

Townsend Theatre Productions set up as a collaboration of experienced, highly-skilled theatre practitioners in 2011. It is a company making a name for delivering vivid, politically committed theatre.

Their new show *Rouse, Ye Women!* is by Neil Gore and based on the story of Mary Macarthur and the women chainmakers.

The folk opera tells the story of the Black Country women in the 1900s who started work at the forge as children and spent their entire lives making chains. In 1910 hundreds of women chainmakers held a ten-week strike against their employers. Led by Mary Macarthur, they won a minimum wage which doubled their incomes. The strike was a prelude to the 'Great Unrest' of industrial action that swept Britain in 1911, and led to a landmark victory for a fair wage, changing the lives of thousands of workers.

South West Tour Dates

Feb 20 - 8.00pm - [Dorchester Arts Centre](#)

Feb 21 - 7.30pm - [The Plough Arts Centre](#)
Great Torrington

Feb 23 - [The Lighthouse Poole](#)

Apr 17 - [Rondo Theatre Bath](#)

TUC South West.

12. SOUTH WEST TUC

Pensioners' Annual Conference:

18.10.18 at Weston College, WSM.

Tom Murray and Barbara Segal from our branch were among 67 trade union delegates who attended this conference. Three Extracts and comments.

1. Conference heard with concern about the 'ID' checks initiated by the

Government that were trialled in the May 2018 local elections in five towns (Bromley, Gosport, Swindon, Watford and Woking). Voters were required to produce evidence of identity (e.g. passport or driving licence).

In the 2011 Census, 9.5 million people stated they did not hold a passport, 9 million do not have a driving licence and in 2013/14 1.7 million lacked even a bank account. That makes mandatory voter ID a barrier to many people exercising their right to vote.

<https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/campaigns/upgrading-our-democracy/voter-id/>

Out of 44.6 million votes cast in 2017, there was one conviction resulting from the 28 allegations of in-person voter fraud. Adding a major barrier to democratic engagement off the back of this would be a sledgehammer to crack a nut. We don't need more barriers to people taking part in our democracy.

2. Neil Duncan-Jordan – National Pensioners Convention.

Neil spoke about two issues that were the subject of motions to the conference.

The crisis of Social care and the need for human contact. This is a badly paid sector and badly unionised. Tom Murray said that it was not just funding that was the problem. He pointed out that different aspects of social care get their funding from different sources. He argued that we need an integrated National Care Service. Summary: we need more resources, and it is up to the government to get this through taxation.

The TV concessional licence. The concession, as formulated, comes to an end in June 2020. The options that may be considered are funding free licences for all over 75, means-testing to restrict the scheme to those on lower incomes, or removing free licences from those with a spouse, partner or dependent living in the household who is under 75.

Neil said it was essential to bring it back to government responsibility as more and more people rely on the TV. Conference agreed the motion that TUC oppose any attempt to terminate the free TV licence for pensioners over 75.

3. The South West TUC Pensioners' Annual Conference provides an ideal opportunity to improve the effectiveness of trades unions, working together, in the South West on behalf of pensioners within the region, through encouraging more debate and action. Tom Murray said that increasing effectiveness is not restricted to more motions at Conference and Nigel Costley said that it was up to all of us to campaign, not just the TUC.

Liza and Jo SW RMB

13. Trades Union Council campaign.

NHS Co-funding and Co-payment Bill 2017-19.

Co-payment is currently used for dental treatments, eye tests and prescription charges.

MP Christopher Chope (Conservative) has introduced the NHS Co-funding and Co-payment Bill which is due to be debated in Parliament on 25.1.19. Chope's Bill, if successful, could open the opportunity to further charging.

<https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/nationalhealthservicecofundingandcopayment.html>

The NHS 70th anniversary may be over but there is still work to do to maintain 'Free at the point of delivery'.

The British Library Learning site has, as it says on the tin, "Timelines Sources from History".

<http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item107556.html>

Jo Corke SWRMB



My Pension Online is the Teachers' Pension online portal designed to help you manage your pension more efficiently.

<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/members/faq/my-pension-online/my-pension-online.aspx>

Editors Note.

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Recently, as you may have guessed, I have been looking through my stamp collection and featured some of them in this issue. If you have a stamp with some TU interest that you'd like to feature, please send a photo and short piece of text about it.

We have found a place to send the stamps we don't want – Stamp Active is a voluntary organisation which promotes stamp collecting for young people in the UK. <https://www.stampactive.co.uk/>

The patron of course is Alan Johnson former Home Secretary and Member of

Parliament and was once a postman. He says “Stamp collecting has given many hours of pleasure to millions of people over the years. It is a remarkable offshoot of Rowland Hill’s most famous initiative combining the appreciation of art, geography and communications in one satisfying pursuit.”

We send them to: Stamp Active Network,
3 Longfellow Road, Banbury, Oxfordshire
OX16 9LB.

Jo Corke SW RMB

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