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### 1. Branch meeting 2017

Monday June 12<sup>th</sup> 12.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

**Bevis Miller is our speaker.**

**“The case against Trident.”**

**Venue: Church of Christ, 298, St Johns Lane, Bedminster, BS3 5AY**

**Light refreshments will be provided if you let us know a week in advance.**

**[ucu.swest@gmail.com](mailto:ucu.swest@gmail.com)**

The church building is 15 minutes walk along Cotswold Road starting immediately at the Bedminster Station Entrance and there are steps down to St Johns Lane at two places on the right - use the second set of steps to St Johns Lane - the venue is 50 m on the left.

Alternatively take the No. 50 bus at the bottom of the incline to Temple Meads Station to Redcatch Road (where the bus turns off St Johns Lane) and continue walking along St Johns Lane to the venue on the right at the Littleton Road bus stop.

A third possibility is to walk (about 15 Minutes) from Temple Meads to St Mary Redcliff Church and on the same side of the road as the church on Recliff Hill take the No. 90 bus to the Littleton Road stop in St Johns Lane - which is adjacent to the venue.

Light refreshments and a range of hot and cold drinks will be made available.

If any member is in difficulty (and especially if it is a wet day) then ring 07599407145 - it will be easy to arrange collection from either of the 2 points Bedminster Station or Redcatch Road.

Branch members may ask a friend to accompany them.

### Are you getting all the info?

This newsletter has been distributed to SW RMB members by email.

If UCU Head Office has your email, then you should also be receiving regular updates on campaigns from UCU head office – the ones sent by Ed Bailey. You should also get occasional messages from Sally Hunt, UCU.

If you are only getting our newsletter, then let me know at [ucu.swest@gmail.com](mailto:ucu.swest@gmail.com) and I can amend your UCU members' database entry.



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### 3. Your Pension.

**TPS:** Members can raise any issues on-line

<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/members/member-hub.aspx> . Alternatively, write to Teachers' Pensions, 11b Lingfield Point, Darlington DL1 1AX.

**USS:** members can raise any issues on-line at <https://www.uss.co.uk/public/contact-us>  
Or write to Universities Superannuation Scheme Limited, Royal Liver Building, Liverpool, L3 1PY.

**John Daniell. SW RMB.**

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### 4. Environmental News.

UCU website for the environment :

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/environment>

Will Climate Change figure as an election issue?  
The planned speech quoted in the Independent recently highlights the Conservative's vision of how the economy will be run. The alternative to Government policies on climate and environmental pollution can be a vote winner. Don't let the ideology exposed in the quote below win the day.

*"Trade and growth are now priorities for all posts – you will all need to prioritise developing capability in this area. **Some economic security-related work like climate change and illegal wildlife trade will be scaled down.**"*

Read the full article on the GJA Breaking News site here

[http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page\\_id=642](http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page_id=642)

**Liza Sentence, SWRMB Env rep.**

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### 5. Trades Councils

Our RM branch is affiliated to several local Trades Councils but we would like to support more. If you would like to be our branch representative in your local Trades Council, then our branch will affiliate so that you can attend the meetings. It is all voluntary; you may not be able to attend our own UCU SW RM branch meetings, but if you can attend your local TC, that would be great. Email [ucu.swest@gmail.com](mailto:ucu.swest@gmail.com) and we will put you in touch with your local TC.



The AGM of Devon County Association (April 2017) heard from Ilfracombe, Barnstaple, Exeter, Plymouth and Torbay trades councils delegates of the Protest marches, rallies, public meetings of the anger towards the erosion of our National Health Service by Clinical Commissioning Groups in Devon. Bed closures, hospital closures and services being run down under ludicrous names of *Sustainability Transformation Plans*. Devon County Trades Councils agreed to oppose them all.

Education Funding is also high on the list of worries across Devon. Many Academies and Schools are seeing a proposed funding cut per pupil that will impact of on staff numbers and it was agreed would see a downing in attainment for children as a result. These cuts are not what many Academy Heads had in mind when going down that route Unions did warn that the Honeymoon Funding was just a one off for them to change from Grant Maintained.

The other main topic was the development of Exeter Bus Station that has been ridiculed by some as a waste of money and seen some real disquiet among Exeter City Councillors. It was agreed to send a letter to the local press with DCATUC concerns copied to the Council.

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**Trades councils we already support.** These are our current reps, but we can have more than one rep in any TC.

**Exeter** Tom Murray and Pete Bailey

**Torbay & South Devon** Liza Sentence.

**Gloucester** Ruth Amias

**Bristol:** Barbara Segal and Bevis Miller.

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## Anti-Cuts Alliances in the South West

A full list of anti-cuts groups in the South West can be found on the [False Economy website](#).

If you want to get involved, you can contact them directly from the link above.

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## 6. From the Archives.

**Doncaster, Plymouth or London?** The Labour party was conceived in **Doncaster**. Every day, thousands of commuters in the town's red-brick train station walk past a shiny gold plaque commemorating two local trade unionists, Thomas R Steels and Jimmy Holmes, "founding fathers of the Labour party".

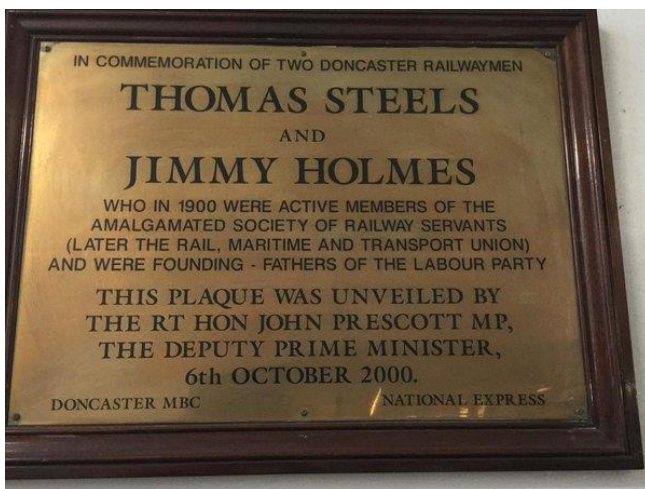


Photo: Analise Murray

It was Steels who, on the eve of the 20th century, (1899) penned a motion calling for an alliance of unions, socialist and working-class organisations to secure "a better representation of the interests of Labour in the House of Commons". Steels proposed in his union branch that the Trades Union Congress call a special conference to bring together all left-wing organisations and form them into a single body that would sponsor Parliamentary candidates.

The resolution was adopted by the TUC at **Plymouth** in 1899. It was carried by 546,000 to 434,000 votes, and the Labour Party was born.



Photo by [Lonpicman](#).

The proposed conference was held at the Congregational Memorial Hall on Farringdon Street, **London** in February 1900. However, the building was demolished in 1968. This plaque was on Caroone House which was built on the site in 1970. Caroone House was itself demolished in 2004, and the plaque has been reinstated on the site of the redevelopment, 5 Fleet Place. So founded 'hereabouts'.

**Jo Corke:** An article by Owen Jones 10.3.17 alerted me to the various claims; Wikipedia, Twitter and Doncaster LP supplied the rest.

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## 7. TUC International Workers Day Festival. May 1st 2017

May Day was first marked as an international workers' day in the 1880s as part of the campaign for the eight-hour day. The struggle was led by the American unions and came to a head in Chicago where strikes brought the huge manufacturers to a standstill. One rally ended when a bomb was thrown at police. Union supporters, socialists and anarchists were rounded up in a fierce crackdown of



the growing movement. Six people were hastily arrested and executed for the bombing but they were innocent. After massive protests they were pardoned and the campaign for shorter hours was successful with advances for workers in many countries.

In 1889 trade union and socialist delegates meeting in Paris declared May Day an international working class holiday and demonstrations took place all over the world. It was ironic that the right-wing in America – where the May Day campaign began – became so scared of grass-roots trade union demands that they established the Labor Day Holiday in September!

This year Bath, Exeter and Plymouth held trade union sponsored events.

**Kevin Costley TUC S. West.**

TULO (The Trade Union & Labour Party Liaison Organisation) is the umbrella organisation that coordinates the activities of the 14 trade unions who affiliate to the Labour party. UCU is not affiliated, so you may not know much about it.

The website is <http://www.unionstogether.org.uk/>

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## **8. UCU officer wins Guardian award.**

***“Until we get Equality of education, we won’t have an equal society.” Sonia Sotomayor associate justice of the nonconformist hall of fame.***

UCU's annual equality conference combines a joint equality conference for black, LGBT, disabled and women members as well as dedicated sessions for the four constituencies, joint sessions, various workshops and guest speakers.

UCU Oxford equalities officer, Karma Nabulsi has won The Guardian's 'Inspiring Leader Award'. The awards celebrate teaching excellence in universities and were presented by Lauren Laverne in a ceremony on Wednesday night.

Congratulations are due to Karma who dedicated her award to 'those who campaign daily on the important issues of equality, decolonising our curriculum, and protecting our universities' freedoms, which are increasingly under attack.'

Karma said for our newsletter: “Well as it was a public vote, and a collective effort, the congratulations really go to all of us! There was a piece in about it in Cherwell, the student newspaper, also it made it to the university website page news - which was quite funny that they had to celebrate the things we care about! Certainly not ticking boxes... All good wishes, Karma”

The Equality conference happens in the autumn term. There will be more information about the conference in the September newsletter.

**Jo Corke**

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## **9. Workers Memorial Day**

Every year more people are killed at work than in wars. Most don't die of mystery ailments, or in tragic "accidents". They die because an employer decided their safety just wasn't that important a priority. Workers' Memorial Day (WMD) commemorates those workers.



Workers' Memorial Day is held on 28 April every year, all over the world workers and their representatives conduct events, demonstrations, vigils and a whole host of other activities to mark the day.

The day is also intended to serve as a rallying cry to **“remember the dead, but fight for the living”**.

This year North Somerset, Bristol, Dorchester and Yeovil held events.

In 2017 International Workers Memorial Day had the theme Good health and safety for all workers whoever they are and will focus on inequalities in occupational health and the role unions play in narrowing the inequalities gap. The TUC will particularly want to focus on the hidden and new GIG economies, the risks faced by migrant workers and the issues of gender and class.

TUC

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## 9. Tolpuddle Festival



### 14-16th July

Weekend bookings for this year's Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival are now open. The music programme includes a wide range of performers to suit all tastes. The legendary Mekons will play on the main stage on Sunday 16th July. On the Saturday evening comic Francesca Martinez is bound to go down well with the Tolpuddle audience. Many of the discussion sessions,

debates and speakers will be confirmed closer to the event.

The Tolpuddle Radical History School will focus on War and Revolution in the centenary year of the dramatic events in Russia.

Fliers are on their way to unions now but the latest news will be posted on the web

site: [Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival 2017](#)

## 10. The Role of Retired Members.

Recruitment of members has always been a priority. However with the savage cuts in FE and potential for the same in HE, replacing lost membership is now critical. It may be that we, as retired members are able to help.

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## 11. Branch rules.

These were ratified at the AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Jo Corke

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## 12. Two teaching unions agree to merger.

In March 2017 the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (**ATL**) and the National Union of Teachers (**NUT**) announced that members have voted overwhelmingly in favour of joining to form a new union. The union will be called the National Education Union.

The National Education Union will come into existence on 1 September 2017 with over 450,000 members, representing the majority of teachers and providing a powerful voice for the whole education profession, including support staff, lecturers and leaders working in state-funded and independent schools and colleges. It will be the fourth largest trade union in the UK and the biggest union of teachers and education professionals in Europe.

Kevin Courtney, General Secretary of the NUT said: This is a fantastic result for members of both unions and for education. For too long

Governments, have played divide and rule amongst education unions. Today marks the beginning of the end of that. The NUT and ATL both have proud histories, but speaking with one voice we will be a stronger force standing up for education, teachers the wider education profession and for the children and young people we teach. The National Education Union will be a game changer in the education landscape and I am delighted to be jointly leading it forward over the coming months and years.

UCU Press release

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### 13. Branch Officers

**For more information**

**please contact [ucu.swest@gmail.com](mailto:ucu.swest@gmail.com)  
or contact the officers here:**

Chair: Tom Murray [tom.murray2@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:tom.murray2@blueyonder.co.uk)  
Vice Chair: John Daniell [john.daniell@btinternet.com](mailto:john.daniell@btinternet.com)  
Treasurer: John Daniell [john.daniell@btinternet.com](mailto:john.daniell@btinternet.com)  
Secretary: Charles Henderson  
[charles.henderson@btinternet.com](mailto:charles.henderson@btinternet.com)  
Regional rep: Margaret George  
[mmargaretg@gmail.com](mailto:mmargaretg@gmail.com)  
Membership: Jo Corke [ucu.swest@gmail.com](mailto:ucu.swest@gmail.com)  
Environmental Rep Liza [lizasentance@hotmail.com](mailto:lizasentance@hotmail.com)

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