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without the dedication shown by all the other members of the team.



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

ucu.swest@gmail.com

Branch meeting 2017

Friday October 20th

12.00 a.m. – 2.30 p.m.

Venue: UCU Office. Labour Party Rooms

26b Clifton Hill, Exeter EX1 2DJ

Our speaker is Nick Varney Regional official, UCU South West.

Nick Varney. I am the regional official for an extended SW region which includes institutions in Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and parts of Berkshire as well as the SW region as we all know it. As such I have overall line management responsibility for the industrial and organising work in our region, a role that could not be carried out

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 Justine Stephens. 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 and I can amend your UCU members' database entry.

2. Bevis Miller was our speaker in June 2017 on “The case against Trident.”



Three extracts from the Presentation.

Omission of the ‘non-replacement’ option - the scrapping of Trident and the cancelling of its replacement – from both the Strategic Defence and Security Review (2010) and the Trident Alternative Review (2013) is an ‘abdication of responsibility by the British Government.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted in 2016 (123 countries voted in favour, with only 38 voting against), agreeing to negotiate a global nuclear ban treaty. The first session of the negotiating conference concluded at the end of March 2017. Representatives from over 120 countries took part in the discussions, while the UK continued to boycott the process.

Is there another way to protect our security?

***Ban Nuclear Weapons with comprehensive surveillance including inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency**

***Invest in conventional weapons (air, sea and land)**

***International law and Diplomacy.**

Bevis Miller SWRMB.

3. Your Pension.

From UCU Head Office 1.9.17. USS pension scheme fundamentally strong despite alarmist reports.

Staff have spoken out over ‘alarmist and misleading’ reporting on the state of the

University Superannuation Scheme (USS) in a letter to the Times Higher Education challenging the methodology used to produce valuations and calling for removal of the controversial ‘Test 1’ which [the union believes uses an overly prudent approach and is providing the basis for unsustainable cuts to members’ benefits.](#)

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.

4. Environmental News.

The Greener Jobs Alliance

In 2011 the GJA was set up with funding support from the Battersea and Wandsworth TUC. Its aims were, and continue to be, to promote skills training and job creation in the low carbon sectors and to campaign for an industrial strategy that addresses climate change.

Graham Petersen who helped set up the GJA was, until 2016, UCU’s Environment Co-ordinator working with members to heighten the profile of sustainability in the union. The GJA still works closely with UCU through the Sustainability Officer, Adam Lincoln.

The GJA identified the ‘merry-go-round’ that had evolved in the training/retraining of a workforce capable of delivering low carbon options: -

- Without a clear national policy and incentives employers will not 'green' their operations.
- Training and education providers will not provide new training programmes without local demand.
- The workforce will not be interested in training for low carbon options unless they can see the relevance for job security.
- Households and businesses will not be able to introduce low carbon options if local companies do not have the skilled staff capable of doing the work.

The GJA works to share 'best practice' by liaising at local and national levels with employers, universities, colleges and training providers alongside trade unions and environmental groups to educate and train a society that can work towards achieving a low carbon and resource efficient economy. Whether or not you believe in climate change this can only be in our collective interest.

Their website greenerjobsalliance.co.uk offers online courses to increase knowledge and awareness. They also have resources and useful links for those who are involved in the workplace; but these are also of interest to those who feel they want to 'keep up' with what is happening.

The monthly newsletters give reports on conferences, including UCU's; training programmes, up to date information on industrial strategy, political and global issues.

"To halt climate change we need to leave most of the reserves of carbon fuels in the ground. We need workers to insulate homes and buildings to conserve energy. Workers to build enough renewable power to meet all our energy needs. Workers to maintain the new systems the future of humanity depends on. The conversion to a sustainable energy policy will provide millions of jobs world-wide as the pamphlet One Million Jobs demonstrates." This motion was supported at the UCU's 2017 annual conference.

UCU website for the environment:

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

Liza Sentence, SWRMB Env rep.

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 and we will put you in touch with your local TC.

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

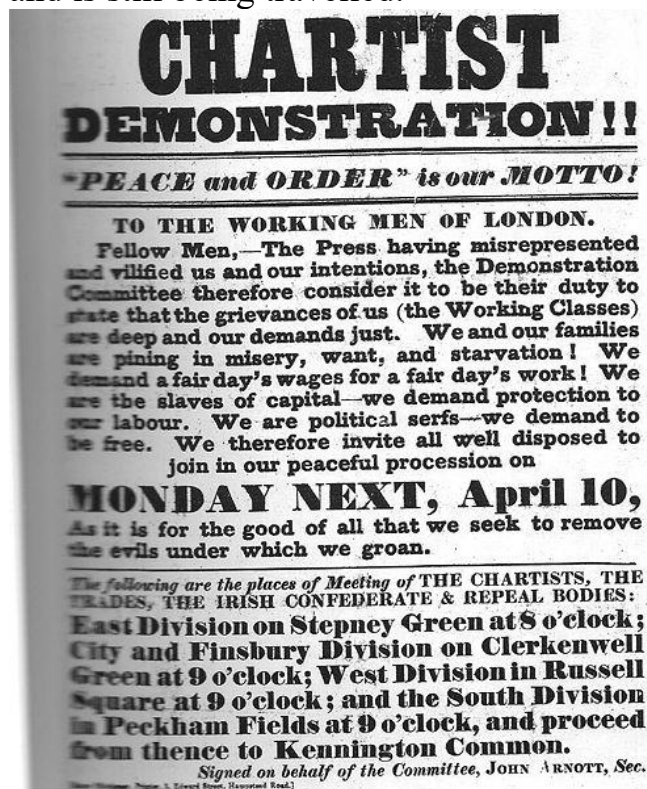
Torbay & South Devon Liza Sentence.

Gloucester Ruth Amias

Bristol: Barbara Segal and Bevis Miller.

6. From the Archives.

Part 1: The road that has been travelled and is still being travelled.



In October 1842 the Northern Star¹ reported on the trial of a group of Chartists who had been present at a meeting in Manchester. Most came from Manchester but there were others from Bolton, Sheffield, Bradford, Leeds and London. They were variously employed as a bookseller (2) minister and surgeon, schoolmaster, Chartist lecturer (2) newsagent, joiner (2) weaver (4) shoemaker, and a tea dealer.

They were united in their belief that things had to change, and that, amongst other points, all men should have the vote. Interestingly there were many groups of Female Chartists who supported their menfolk.

The barrister for the prosecution was a Mr Brandt. "No one could believe that it could be allowed by law that anybody of men not themselves engaged in labour and not party to (a contract of employment)

should combine for the purpose of exciting others to turn out (i.e. strike) even if it was only to obtain a higher rate of wages.

But when that was accompanied by acts of violence when the conduct of these parties was not merely to leave their own employ, but by threats, intimidation and violence and by the intimidation of numbers, even to induce those at labour to leave their employ, then every person engaged in that transaction was illegally engaged in it."

The list of members of the Grand Jury for our Chartist friends' trial includes William Assheton of Downham Hall and Cuerdale in Lancashire (1788-1858). Educated at Harrow and Brasenose College Oxford, an Officer in the Cheshire Militia and later Major in the Royal Lancashire Militia, he was JP and DL for Lancashire, and JP for the West Riding of Yorkshire. The prospects of him feeling much sympathy for their cause.....? There are also two MP's on the list.

Part 2, about the trial, the general reaction of other Chartists, and of the individuals themselves and the widely different backgrounds from which they came, in the next newsletter.

1. Northern Star was a weekly Chartist newspaper started in 1837 and based in Yorkshire.

Verne Hardingham Rugby

7. Professor Harriet Bradley

UCU Distinguished Service Award

Nominated by South West Regional Committee

As a long-standing branch rep at both the University of Bristol and UWE, a regional officer and NEC member, Harriet has made a significant contribution to UCU in many roles. A member of both AUT and NATFHE from the mid-1980s, Harriet served as executive committee member at Bristol from 1996, with a break while she was Dean of Social Sciences and Law. She had two spells as Bristol LA President. Nationally, she served two terms on the

NEC and was Chair of NEC Education Committee. Currently she is Chair of UWE UCU's executive committee. She also served one year as Vice Chair of the South West Regional Executive Committee.



Harriet's contributions to UCU have been many and varied. Achievements include carrying out a survey of professorial staff at Bristol, producing a report showing the difficulties that women face in gaining senior posts, along with recommendations for improving their promotion chances. A tireless caseworker, at Bristol Harriet worked with Human Resource on implementing the institution's first anti-bullying policy. She also led on securing an agreement on fractional posts for teaching staff on short-term, hourly-paid contracts. More recently, Harriet played an active role organising the 2016 Cradle to Grave conference.

Harriet has managed to combine her UCU work with a successful, social justice-orientated academic career. As Dean, she was not only an academic 'leader', she was also a UCU champion. Harriet ran her Faculty on a team basis. She resisted compulsory redundancies by offering strategic development opportunities, and helping young academics with career progression, especially young women.

The example that Harriet has set colleagues and fellow union members has indeed been exemplary. A constant presence and speaker at local UCU rallies and events, a leading scholar and educator who has inspired a generation of students, a

passionate campaigner and feminist activist, Harriet is a role model for many. To quote one of her students, 'Harriet has nurtured many young working-class female students and given them opportunities in an attempt to even out the inequalities in academia. Her actions are examples of true widening participation and I will forever be grateful for the step up she gave me'.

UWE UCU branch newsletter June 14th 2017

8. Sally Hunt elected President of TUC.

Sally Hunt is the 13th woman to hold this post.

Margaret Bondfield was the first woman to chair the General Council of the Trades Union Congress (TUC). Bondfield's investigations into workers' pay revealed considerable differences between the rates paid to men and to women, even for identical work. (Plus ça change). Elected as Chair in 1923, she resigned to accept a government post before becoming the President.

In 1942 Anne Loughlin was elected as chairman of the General Council of the TUC (upon which she had served since 1929). She was only the second woman, after Margaret Bondfield, to hold this post.

Francis O'Grady (2013 -) is the General Secretary of TUC.

Jo Corke SW RMB

9. Tolpuddle Festival 2017

Thanks to everyone who came and helped make the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival 2017 such a fabulous event. The website <http://www.tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk/festival> has some good photos.

The 2018 Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival **Friday 20th-Sunday 22nd July 2018**

10. Employment Tribunal fees.

The highest UK court came down in favour of the trade union Unison, which argued that fees of up to £1,200 were preventing workers – especially those on lower incomes – from getting justice.



The TUC general secretary, Frances O'Grady, said: "This is a massive win for working people. Too many low-paid workers couldn't afford to uphold their rights at work, even when they have faced harassment or have been sacked unfairly."

<https://www.unison.org.uk/news/article/2017/07/tribunal-fees-victory/>

11. Vice-chancellors pay.

This summer four MP's including Dave Drew, a UCU member from his days at Redland College, have resigned their University of Bath roles. All four were ex-officio members of the Court of Bath University, a statutory body representing the interests of the university's internal and external stakeholders.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-41012130>

UCU general secretary Sally Hunt wrote on 8.9.17 in THE on [the 'upstairs downstairs' world of HE and why UCU is offering free membership to staff at beginning of their careers.](#)

12. Annual equality groups conference 2017

UCU's annual equality conference 2017 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. **Joint Equality groups conference 2017** will be held [Novotel Birmingham Centre](#), 70 Broad Street, Birmingham, BN1 2HT from **Thursday 23 November - Saturday 25 November**.

The conference will hold four small half day conferences for each equality strand and a plenary session for all. This will mean **not** all delegates will need to be at the conference for the full 3 days.

The deadline for registration is **Thursday 26 October 2017**.

More information here:

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

Equality conference

As in previous years there will be time for motions and nominations in each equality group. All sessions will have relevant guest speakers. There will be plenty of time for networking with other colleagues during the conference.

This is what we did last year:

Equality conference 2016

The 2016 conference took place in Birmingham from 1-3 December. The conference included conferences for the four equality groups and a plenary for session opened by Vicky Knight, UCU vice-president. The session was based on 'supporting members after Brexit' and discussed the rise in racism and xenophobia since the EU referendum, the immigration issues that may face our members and the potential impact on equality and employment rights.

Sector specific workshops were held and delivered by Andrew Harden (head of FE) and Paul Bridge. (head of HE)

Speakers included Dawn Livingston, Organiser with HOPE not hate, Sally Brett, Senior Policy Officer, TUC and Kirsten Forkert, UCU member at Birmingham City University, Malia Bouattia, NUS president, Cooper Bates, Leeds City College, Trish Fay, Durham teaching assistant & Sara Tomlinson, NUT.

13. 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.

14. Branch Officers

For more information

**please contact ucu.swest@gmail.com
or contact the officers here:**

Chair: Tom Murray tom.murray2@blueyonder.co.uk
Vice Chair: John Daniell john.daniell@btinternet.com
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