

In this newsletter

1. Branch meeting in Exeter.
2. A Casual Vacancy
3. National Pensioners Convention.
4. In The News.
5. Devon Senior Voice.
6. Millicent Fawcett.
7. From the Archives.
8. South West Region Report 7.9.18
9. Windrush.
10. Environmental Matters.
11. Equality Matters.
12. UCU Conference 2018 update.
13. SW TUC.

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 - OGM

Monday 15th October 2018,

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

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TC Torbay Liza Sentance lizasentance@hotmail.com

TC Bristol: Barbara Segal barbara.segal@phonecoop.coop
and Bevis Miller drbevismiller@gmail.com

SW NPC & Glos TC. Ruth Amias,

ruthamias2000@yahoo.co.uk

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

2. A Casual Vacancy.

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.

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

When Jack Jones retired as general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union in March 1978 he was well aware that there was no single organisation which represented and campaigned on behalf of pensioners. Although some trade unions had retired members' sections, and there were

various pensioner organisations and charities in existence, there was no umbrella body that could co-ordinate and lead the campaign.

With the initial support of the TUC, in 1979 he worked on a blueprint for an umbrella organisation, made up of affiliated groups, and in keeping with this idea he came up with the Chartist inspired name, the National Pensioners Convention. <https://www.npcuk.org/history>
Some of you will already be individual members of the NPC.

<https://www.npcuk.org/join-us-and-get-involved>
In this branch our affiliation with Western NPC began on June 11th 2013 with a presentation by Glen Burrows (Western), Chris Elliot and Dave Smith (Devon), representatives of South West branches of the **National Pensioners Convention**; we agreed to become affiliated to the Western NPC.

Since then Ruth Amias has represented us at the Gloucester, Avon, Stroud meetings; we have extended our affiliation to include the Devon and Cornwall branch; Liza Sentance and Tom Murray are our reps.



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.

This year's **Lobby of Parliament** will take place on 24 October, 1-3pm, Committee Room 14, House of Commons. There will also be the usual gathering outside as well at 11.30am with invited speakers.

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>

In case you missed this one, 20th July 2018, the chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce) Professor Madeleine Atkins received [a pay package worth £554,648](#) last year. At the height of the scandal over vice-chancellors' pay Professor Atkins said that, while Hefce published guidance on how governing bodies should approach the setting of senior pay, it had no power to set pay levels in universities. She also said that she did not think the debate about pay in higher education was "going to go away any time soon".

Anne Milton, Minister of State at the Department for Education, appeared [in front of the education select committee](#); when asked about staff pay, she said it was a matter for the AoC to sort out. She also said she was uncomfortable with the discrepancy between what staff are paid and the huge sums some college leaders are given.

Sally Hunt told [HuffPost](#): 'Higher education has been beset by scandals over senior pay and expenses this year. While much was made of the pay cut taken by the Office for Students chief executive, less has been said about this extraordinary golden goodbye sneaked out in the accounts at the end of term. University staff have once again been offered a shoddy pay deal that will do nothing to arrest the decline in their pay, yet they see those at the top begin rewarded with massive pay deal once again.'



5. Devon Senior Voice is a Devon-wide network of older people. The network provides opportunities to harness the skills, enthusiasm and experience of older people by offering volunteering opportunities and enabling them to have a say in the services that affect them.

Devon Senior Voice merged with Devon Communities Together on the 1st June 2018. They have a wide range of opportunities under the heading "Helping Communities to Help Themselves". There may be something for you... have a look at their website <https://devoncommunities.org.uk/hello>

Jo Corke SWRMB

6. Millicent Fawcett; finally.

On 24th April 2018 a statue commemorating the life of the suffragist, Millicent Fawcett, was unveiled opposite Parliament; the first statue of a woman erected in Parliament Square. *Quiz* – Who are represented by the other 11 statues in Parliament Square?*



She campaigned for women's right to vote during the early 20th Century and is seen as one of the most influential feminists of the past 100 years. Sadiq Khan, London Mayor, said: "*When you think of the great people in Parliament Square and when you realise that not one of them is a woman, it sort of begs the question, are we saying there haven't been incredible women in the past? That our country hasn't been built on the back of great women?*"

The bronze casting, by the artist Gillian Wearing, features Fawcett holding a banner reading "**courage calls to courage everywhere**" and was commissioned as part of this year's centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act - which gave some women over the age of 30 the vote. It followed a campaign by the feminist writer and activist Caroline Criado Perez, who also led last year's successful effort to get Jane Austen to appear on the £10 note.

At the event the 50:50 campaign, which calls for equal representation in Parliament, was out in force. *"We need more statues of women, but we also need more women writing statutes,"* said the group's Frances Scott.

Ms Criado Perez said *"I wanted her to be standing there not at all sexualised, but statesmanlike. We wanted the statue to be her at a meaningful age, so we chose when she was awarded a brooch from the NUWSS (National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies) at 50 years old. She's directly facing Parliament with her placard, so the MPs can see her every day and think, 'I should probably go and sort that problem out'."*

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43868925>

*The 11 are Nelson Mandela, Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi, former prime minister of South Africa Jan Smuts and former British prime ministers Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Robert Peel, David Lloyd George, Viscount Palmerston, Earl of Derby Edward Stanley, Earl of Beaconsfield Benjamin Disraeli and George Canning.

Footnote: There have also been calls for a statue of Britain's first woman prime minister, Lady Thatcher, in the square, but the plan was rejected by Westminster Council.

7. From the Archives.

The Little People.

I'm not interested so much in the people who lead armies into battle, or act as Prime Minister: my enthusiasm has always been for what I call The Little People. By that I mean the people who in a small way, by banding together and exercising their democratic rights, seek to make the world a better place. One such group of people were the **Chartists**. For those of you who want to find out about them in detail, a quick search using your search engine will tell you quite a bit about what they tried to achieve, and what happened to them. Ultimately they succeed in all but one of their demands, and as that demand was for annual elections, perhaps we should be grateful to them.

As part of a larger project, I have been researching the organisation in London: its members and their activities with particular reference to the East End of London. A potted biography of just one family from one group of Chartists will perhaps serve to illustrate what I am getting at. The details come from information contained in the Northern Standard and Leeds General Advertiser, courtesy of the British Newspaper archive on line; and from Ancestry and Findmypast websites, to put a little flesh on their long dead bones.

William Drake was a shoemaker who according to the 1851 census was by then 50, and had been born in Devon. He lived at 171 Brick Lane with his wife Martha, their two children and a son-in-law, or step-son from, presumably an earlier marriage. Additionally, they had lodgers who were also in the shoe trade. The group with which he was involved and was sub-secretary of, was called the Standard of Liberty, and ran from his home address which is also the address of a pub called the Carpenters Arms.

Meetings took place in both public houses and coffee houses, and indeed in the open air if there was likely to be sufficient public interest, and there was no suitable venue available. I am curious that he is also shown as running the Charter Coffee House from 166 Brick Lane at the same time, and am still trying to find out more about that. I can only think that the responsibility for earning sufficient was a communal responsibility (his daughter was shown as a shoe binder at the age of ten) and that his wife may well have had charge of the business while he was involved at meetings and running the other businesses.

Undoubtedly he would have known William Hetherington, a member of the Queens Head locality, living in Ropemaker Street who was heavily involved in trying to persuade the Government to reduce the tax on newspapers, suffering imprisonment for this belief. More of him in a future article.

Verna Hardingham Rugby

8. South West Region Report 7.9.18.

Our branch delegates are Margaret George, Tom Murray and [Liza Sentence](#) who wrote this report.

Yesterday.7.9.18, I attended a meeting of the SW Regional Council FE Sector. They are seeking our help in different ways in the Get the Vote out campaign. This is an extremely important campaign as 50% of Members are needed to cast their vote. It is not about persuading members to vote in a particular way, just to vote.

If you feel that you can offer assistance in talking to Members or handing out leaflets please contact your local college or the Regional office. Exeter College is

one where at present it is looking as though they will not meet their target. Bridgewater and Taunton is another Branch where help would be appreciated. All colleges would be pleased to hear from us.



15th - 19th October there is to be a week of action on pay and funding to build public awareness of the issues with a national lobby of Parliament on the 17th.

The feeling of yesterday's meeting was that Retired Members can offer an important contribution to the campaign. We don't have the fear of losing our jobs; the most that can happen is that we can be asked to leave the campus. As long as you sign in as a visitor and are accompanied on site, I am assured there should not be a problem.

Let's help to Get the Vote Out.

[Liza Sentence SWRMB](#)

9. Windrush.

As many of you will have done, I contacted my MP, Thangam Debbonaire, Labour, on this issue. Below is her reply (20.7.18). As a result of pressure from many quarters the Home Secretary has paused the hostile environment policy.

However, as of August 2018 there were victims who were still destitute, and at PMQ on 12.9.18 Sir Hugo Swire asked the PM why the Windrush report has not been released, despite him raising it two months ago.

So we would like to see this policy - which has ruined people's lives - ended for good. Let us all keep up the pressure whenever we can.

*"Dear Friend,
The Windrush generation were invited here as British citizens to help rebuild the UK after the Second World War. This is their home and they have contributed hugely to our country. However, a growing number of people have recently faced uncertainty over their legal status to be in the UK.*

There are British citizens who have been made homeless, been denied healthcare and lost their jobs. It has also been revealed that at least 63 people could have been wrongly deported, although the final figure could be much higher.

The Windrush generation have been treated appallingly after a lifetime of working hard, paying taxes, bringing up their families and contributing to our society. They were always British citizens and they have been let down by the state. I believe this whole situation is a direct consequence of the hostile environment policy of the Home Office.

Following widespread pressure, the Government has now confirmed that the Windrush generation do have the right to remain and will be granted British citizenship. Secondary legislation has been brought forward to guarantee the rights and status of the Windrush generation and their children born in the UK, plus those who arrived here as minors.

The Home Secretary is pausing the hostile environment policy but I think this is too little, too late. I would like to see this policy - which has ruined people's lives - ended for good. I welcome the limited measures announced, including the temporary end to data sharing and further advice for employers and landlords to avoid affecting the Windrush generation. However, I believe the Government must provide the figures on how people were affected and set up a proper hardship fund to show members of the Windrush generation that this is action, not just words."

So still work in progress.....



Bristol St Paul's mural. Creative Commons licence.
Gioconda Beekman

While searching the web, I came across this British Library Learning site which has, as it says on the tin, "Timelines Sources from History".

<http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item107829.html>

Jo Corke SWRMB

10. Environmental Matters.

Green Gown Awards.

Established in 2004, the Green Gown Awards recognise the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges. With sustainability moving up the agenda, the Awards have become established as the most prestigious recognition of best practice within the further and higher education sector.

The Green Gown Awards are administered by the [Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges \(EAUC\)](#) and is locally organised by University of Gloucestershire. The winners of the prestigious Green Gown Awards UK & Ireland will be announced at the Awards Ceremony to be held at The National Railway Museum, York on 8 November. The full list of finalists is <http://www.greengownawards.org/2018-finalists>

There are over 80 finalists in 14 categories. From the South West region there are finalists from the University of Plymouth, University of the West of England, University of Gloucestershire and Bath Student Community Partnership.

Liza Sentence SWRMB

11. Equality Matters.

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, workshops and guest speakers.

Equality Groups Conference 2018 will be held at [Manchester Conference Centre](#) from Thursday 29 November - Saturday 1 December 2018.

Registration is open now.

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

I have attended for several years, and the event is very rewarding. If you self-select for one of the groups, then you can attend; accommodation and travel expenses are paid by UCU. The conference will hold four small half day conferences and a plenary session for all equality strands. This means not all

delegates will need to be at the conference for the full 3 days.

Jo Corke SWRMB

12. UCU Conference 2018

UCU Congress: The summer congress had unfinished business. Tom Murray is attending the follow-up Congress meeting on October 18th 2018.

13. SOUTH WEST TUC

Pensioners' Annual Conference: 18th October 2018; venue: Weston College Knightstone Campus, WSM BS23 2AL

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.

Delegates to Bridgwater Trades Union Council, some of whom are NHS employees, are angry at yet another attempt to undermine the NHS by proposing to charge for, amongst other services, General Practitioner appointments. MP Christopher Chope (Conservative) has introduced the NHS Co-funding and Co-payment Bill which will be debated in Parliament in October 2018. Chope's Bill, if successful, could open the floodgates to further charging.

Said Trades Union Council Secretary Dave Chapple:

"The NHS was created in 1948 so that healthcare would be available to all, regardless of



wealth & income, and free at the point of delivery. This NHS principle was first undermined by a Labour Government as early as April 1951, when charges for prescriptions and spectacles were introduced. Aneurin Bevan, Harold Wilson and John Freeman resigned from the government as a result.

The excuse that may be given in 2018 is that too many people visit their doctors for frivolous reasons and a charge would deter them. Even if this were true, and there is little evidence, the effect of such a charge would be to deter those on low incomes. Some of these people might have serious ailments, which would then get worse, costing the NHS more in the long run.

The NHS is in crisis because of lack of funding. The answer to this is more funding, through direct taxation, of cash-rich companies and individuals, including some high-profile Westminster MP's who, many believe, find various "legal" ways to dodge tax payments, NOT by penalising those who can least afford to pay.

When the UK Banking system was collapsing in 2008, they were bailed out to the tune of c. £280 billion: no lack of cash funding then!"

Members of Parliament should oppose this Bill when it returns to the House of Commons in October. Please write to your MP. Or you can sign and help collect signatures for the petition which is being organised by Bridgwater Labour Party (Contact glenburrows@btinternet.com for details)

This year is the 70th birthday of the NHS – let's make sure it's still around in another 70 years. Fight this attempt to create a two-tier NHS, or, eventually, an NHS which only the wealthy can afford.'

Mark Newman Secretary, Cornwall Trades
Union Council

END.