

**TUC CONGRESS 2010**

**SPEECH FOR JAMES STRIBLEY**

**SUPPORTING MOTION 13 A WORKPLACE AGENDA FOR  
DISABLED WORKERS**

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PRESIDENT/CONGRESS,

JAMES STRIBLEY, GMB FIRST TIME SPEAKER TO TUC AND  
PROUD REMPLOY WORKER SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF MOTION  
13.

ON MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> 2008, THE REMPLOY FACTORY IN YORK CLOSED  
ITS DOORS FOR EVER, THROWING AROUND FORTY SEVERELY  
DISABLED PEOPLE ON THE SCRAPHEAP

BUT KEEPING THE JOBS OF A TOP HEAVY MANAGEMENT THAT  
FAILED THEM.

THE CHANCES FOR THE EX-REMPLOY WORKERS TO GET  
DECENT JOBS WERE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN.

SOME EMPLOYERS SEE DISABLED PEOPLE ARE SEEN AS A  
POTENTIAL PROBLEM AND CHOOSE NOT TO EMPLOY US.

SO THE WORKERS STUCK TOGETHER AND STARTED A  
CAMPAIGN TO REOPEN THE YORK FACTORY.

BUT IT SOON BECAME OBVIOUS THAT WE WERE BANGING OUR  
HEADS AGAINST A BRICK WALL.

BUT WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR UNION, WE STARTED UP THE YORK DISABLED WORKERS COOPERATIVE.

WE ARE PROVING NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN YORK FOR DECENT SKILLED EMPLOYMENT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE.

OUR MISSION IS TO PRODUCE ETHICALLY MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS AND EMPLOY DISABLED PEOPLE ON DECENT TERMS.

WE WILL MAKE GARDEN PRODUCTS WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE BIO-DIVERSITY OF THE GARDEN.

- BEE HOMES
- LADYBIRD HOMES
- BAT BOXES
- BIRD TABLES AND NESTING BOXES

WE HAVE STARTED PRODUCING SAMPLES AND WILL BE STARTING FULL PRODUCTION SOON AND WE HAVE AN OPEN DAY ON 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE TUC WE WILL SOON BE TAKING ON A YOUNG APPRENTICE.

HE OR SHE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN WOODWORKING SKILLS THAT COULD STAND HIM OR HER IN GOOD STEAD FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

THAT IS WHY WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE YORK DISABLED WORKERS CO-OPERATIVE.

A UNIQUE VENTURE

- SET UP BY DISABLED WORKERS
- ORGANISED FOR DISABLED WORKERS
- FOR THE BENEFIT OF DISABLED WORKERS
- NO FAT CAT DIRECTORS ON HUGE BONUSES
- NO EXPENSIVE JOLLIES ON LARGE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS
- NO ONE RULE FOR THE BOSSES AND ANOTHER FOR THE WORKERS

**AND**

GOOD TERMS AND CONDITIONS THAT EXCEED ILO STANDARDS

WE ARE JUST STARTING – AND WE NEED SUPPORT AND HELP. BATTERSEA AND WANDSWORTH TRADES COUNCIL HAVE GIVEN US ASSISTANCE.

WE NEED MORE HELP

SO GO TO OUR WEBSITE:

[YORKDWC.CO.UK](http://YORKDWC.CO.UK)

THAT'S

[YORKDWC.CO.UK](http://YORKDWC.CO.UK)

WRITE IT DOWN

THAT'S IT

AND GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO INDEPENDENT DECENT JOBS FOR  
DISABLED PEOPLE

THANK YOU