

The Activist

GMB News From Around The Region



Delegates at GMB's July Equality Summit

EQUALITY SUMMIT

The GMB held its first Equality Summit in July and there was a fantastic turnout from members, activists and staff who gave up their Saturday to discuss the importance of GMB's equality agenda. Delegates to the summit were addressed by Neil Derrick, Regional Secretary, who spoke about his commitment to making our region one of the most dynamic when it comes to equality campaigning and organising. The day's discussions were vibrant, with honest appraisals of what we have done in the past, what we can improve and where we go from here. Proposals to come from the summit included the production of an equality calendar highlighting key campaigning dates for next year, to make links with community groups and work more closely with branches to embed our equality agenda. Lou Foster-Wilson, GMB's Equality Officer, is currently touring GMB branches to talk about the equality agenda and the importance of having Branch Equality Officers. If you want a visit to your branch meeting please email Lou on: louise.foster-wilson@gmb.org.uk. In the meantime, if you would like to get more involved with GMB's work on equality you can email Summer Risebury at: summer.risebury@gmb.org.uk.

LONDON PRIDE

On Saturday 25th June, the region sent a delegation to take part in the festivities at London Pride. They joined with comrades from GMB London region on an open-top bus emblazoned in black and orange flags and banners as part of the parade. Yorkshire General Branch member, Leanne Cole, said: **"It was fantastic to see such a celebration of diversity and equality, and I was really proud to represent our region."** There was some great networking with GMB officers and activists too and we have given London region a return invitation to join us at a one of the Pride events that GMB is supporting.

In this issue...

Equality Summit	page 1
Durham Miners' Gala	page 2
Mental Health At Work	page 3
Young Members' At Glasto	page 4
REC Road Trip	page 5
GMB Sign New Learning Agreement	page 6

L to R Kerri Wilson, Lou Foster-Wilson, Cindy Gavin, Neil Cole and Leanne Cole at London Pride



- ◆ Leeds Pride 7th August
 - ◆ Wakefield Pride 14th August
- (Please contact jessica.carrington@gmb.org.uk for info on Pride)



THE ACTIVIST

GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN

0345 337 7777 www.gmb.yorkshire.org.uk

The Activist@Durham



Young members flying the flag

POLITICAL SCHOOL AT DURHAM

GMB Young Members' Section sent a delegation to the Durham Miners' Gala, which included Yorkshire & North Derbyshire members Jawad Khan, Beccie Ions and Barney O'Connor.

They attended a two day political school to broaden their knowledge in areas such as political campaigning and the history of the Miners' Gala. Young members then participated in the march alongside the GMB banner.

DAVEY HOPPER RIP

Tributes have been paid to Davey Hopper, General Secretary of The Durham Miners' Association, who has sadly died after a heart attack on the 16th July 2016.



*Have we got your correct contact details?
Contact GMB to update your GMB profile*



DURHAM MINERS' GALA

Activists from around the region made the journey to the historical town of Durham for the 132nd Miners' Gala.

The Durham Miners' Gala is the largest annual gathering of trade unionists in the UK. It is held on the second Saturday of July and sees trade unionists from across the country descend on Durham city to celebrate the mining industry. It dates back to 1871 when Durham Miners' Association organised the first Gala in Wharton Park, Durham.

By 8am thousands of people had already filled the streets with colour and noise. Trade union banners and brass bands from across the country made their way in a procession towards the park to listen to an array of speakers which included our own General Secretary, Tim Roache. The crowd also heard from Leeds East MP Richard Burgon and Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn who both gave impassioned speeches.

Speaking to *The Activist*, Neil Derrick, said; "Having been brought up in the North East, its great to see so many from the GMB attending the big meeting. One proud coal mining area saluting another. All in all everyone had a fantastic day and it was a real show of unity."

Team GMB at Durham Miners' Gala



THE ACTIVIST

GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN

0345 337 7777 www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk

The Activist



GMB's Care Sector Forum

BECAUSE WE CARE

The Regional Care Sector Forum took place at Grove Hall on the 14th July 2016. The theme for the forum was **Prioritising Social Care: Challenging the Funding Crisis**. GMB reps, officers, academics, care providers and Elly Baker, GMB national officer for care, took part in a what was a lively and interesting day with the focus of discussion on issues which affect our members in the care sector.

From a wide range of topics discussed it was decided that the next regional campaign to run alongside our 'call for better funding in the care sector' was to be bullying in the workplace. The campaign will start with the launch of a survey to assess the depth and scope of the issue.

Elly Baker addressed the forum and spoke about the national picture in health care. Ideas and suggestions were shared on the best way to escalate the GMB campaign to address the lack of funding in adult social care. Plans were also put into place for the next phase of the campaign and it was suggested we make contact with MPs and councillors so we can get them on board with our campaign.

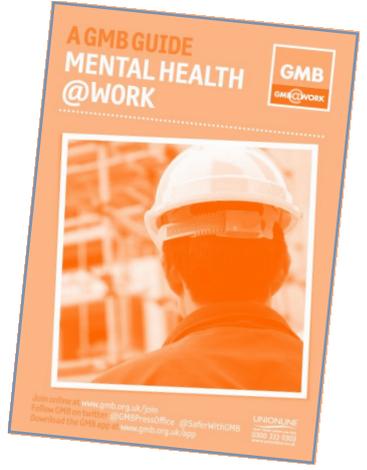
If you work in the care sector and would like to get involved in our forum contact Lou Foster-Wilson on 0345 337 7777.

Have you got an article for **The Activist**?
Email it to: steve.jennings@gmb.org.uk

June 2016 Latest Inflation
Headline Inflation Rate (RPI All items)
1.6%
Consumer Prices Index (CPI)
0.5%

MENTAL HEALTH AT WORK

Over the past few years we have seen more emphasis on the importance of mental health and personal wellbeing. Mental health is now estimated to affect one in four people in the UK each year. Chances are, you or someone you know has been affected by mental health. This has increased significantly over the last decade with insecure employment contracts, the rise in cost of living and more pressure to perform. As a result of this, the region's Young Members' Section is launching its own campaign with the following objectives:



- To increase understanding within society of mental health in order to reduce stigma and discrimination.
- To encourage employers to put into practice workplace policies in order to tackle stigma and provide efficient support to those who have mental illnesses.
- For workplaces to promote staff wellbeing by providing information and support and becoming a mindful employer.

Speaking to *The Activist* GMB young member, Beccie Ions, said: **"GMB has produced a booklet called Mental Health@Work which looks at how we can make a difference in the workplace. It aims to raise awareness of mental illness and help make life better for people. There needs to be better workplace policies to accommodate those who have mental health issues and focus on wellbeing. Together, we can make a difference. Please support this campaign and help change the workplace."** For a copy of the booklet contact GMB on 0345 337 7777.

TRAIN TO GAIN

Workplace representatives from GMB's West Yorkshire Police Branch and guests from West Yorkshire Police HR enjoyed a day's training on ACAS Codes of Practice at our GMB training centre in Brighouse. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day.



West Yorkshire Police Branch

THE ACTIVIST

GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN

0345 337 7777 www.gmb.yorkshire.org.uk

The Activist

GMB YOUNG MEMBER HONOURED FOR COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Congratulations to GMB young member Emily Warrillow from Brighouse General branch on receiving 'The Diana Award for Active Campaigning in the Community'. The Diana Award is a legacy to Princess Diana's belief that young people have the power to change the world for the better. The organisation is committed to identifying and developing young people, and engaging them in social action.

Emily's passion for improving quality of life led her to start a successful campaign in her community to demolish an unsightly derelict building close to where she lived. The demolition of the building ensured that young people from the area wouldn't be enticed to hang around near the abandoned site. After the successful campaign, Emily began empowering her fellow peers to also step up and make their opinions known. She actively leads by example to show that every voice counts. Well done Emily on receiving your award – you are an inspiration.



Emily Warrillow receiving her award from Tessy Ojo, Chief Executive of the Diana Award

SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF FORUM

The School Support Staff Forum meet on a quarterly basis and the next forum will take place on Thursday, 22nd September 2016, from 10am-2pm at GMB's regional office in Wakefield. Up for discussion and debate are Academies, Violence in Schools and Zero-Tolerance on Abuse in Schools, Free Education and Training, plus lots of other relevant topics and issues. Formal invites will be sent out soon.

If you are a school workplace representative or contact who has not attended a schools' forum before and would like to, then please email rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk for more details and a formal invite to show your head-teacher.



WORKERS' BEER @GLASTONBURY 2016

Every year the region's Young Members' Section send teams of volunteers to summer festivals, through the Workers' Beer Company, to raise money for campaigns and activities. Workers' Beer Company run bars at various festivals and the volunteers' wages are paid directly to their charity or organisation. This fundraising has enabled the region's young members to be able to lead on and run with their own campaigns and activities without having to rely on regional or national funds.

The festivals are always a lot of fun and are also a great opportunity for networking with other like minded individuals. This year we sent a team of four to Glastonbury and a team of eight to Latitude. The work was hard as usual, but the spare time and fun made it all worthwhile. **Team GMB - Work Hard, Play Hard!** For information about Workers' Beer visit: <http://www.workersbeer.co.uk/volunteers/> - To get involved with our young member activities email:

rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk



Team Glasto 2016

THE ACTIVIST

GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN

0345 337 7777 www.gmbyorkshire.org.uk

The Activist



Sarah Barnes from PLP signs the agreement of behalf of GMB

GMB SIGN LEARNING AGREEMENT AT ST. LEGER HOMES

St. Leger has been celebrating 'learning through partnership working' after signing up to a 'Joint Learning Agreement' with GMB and other trade unions.

The agreement is a commitment to give all employees access to learning opportunities and to provide support throughout the learning process.

Susan Jordan, Chief Executive of St. Leger Homes explained: **"The agreement is a fantastic step forward in helping us identify and promote lifelong learning and development initiatives across the business. This sends a powerful message that we're committed to working in partnership to ensure access to quality learning opportunities for all staff."**

The agreement is being put into action by a new 'Joint Learning Group' that identifies, promotes and monitors new learning initiatives both within and outside the organisation. Early initiatives include sourcing training around staff health and wellbeing, and supporting staff with future career aspirations through 'career conversations'. As part of the agreement, eight Union Learning Representatives (ULRs) from all four unions have been elected to act as advocates for learning and development. This includes undergoing training to act as a point of contact for staff in promoting and supporting learning activities across the business, as well as exploring access to funded learning through learning partnerships. The GMB ULRs are Marcus Beeby and Colin Wardley.

Sarah Barnes from GMB's Productive Learning Project was instrumental in signing the deal on behalf of GMB. Speaking to *The Activist* she said: **"This is a great opportunity for GMB members to get on the ladder to life-long learning. I'm sure many of our members will benefit from this new learning agreement."**

L to R Alfie Booth, Stacey Booth, Andy Irving, Neil Derrick and Iola Shaw



LEEDS WEST INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

GMB and the Labour Party in the Leeds West constituency secured funding with the specific aim of building closer relations between different ethnic groups in the local community. An event, which was showcased at Armley Sports Centre in Leeds and had a sporting theme, celebrated the culture and diversity of the area.

As part of the festival a football tournament was held. Participants included two community teams, a GMB team, an LGBT community team, a team from the Sikh community and a team from Armley Sports Centre. It was a great tournament with some commendable performances on the pitch, but the champions on the day were the lads from Armley Sports Centre. There was fun for the children too in an Olympic-style event and all those who took part were given a medal.

The day culminated in a celebration of food and music at the Junktion Cafe in Armley. The Junktion Cafe is an organisation run by volunteers and reliant on food donations to enable them to feed the most vulnerable for free. GMB sponsored the cafe in 2015 through the Congress Local Gift Award and a number of Leeds branches have also donated.

GMB Organiser, Stacey Booth, said: **"This is the first event of its kind in my local community and we hope to build on the success and see it become an annual event."**

UNIONLINE

YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM

0300 333 0303

www.unionline.co.uk

THE ACTIVIST

GMB - Grove Hall - 60 College Grove Road - Wakefield - WF1 3RN

0345 337 7777 www.gmb-yorkshire.org.uk