

The Activist

GMB News From Around The Region

GMB

GMB@WORK



Rachael Maskell, MP pictured with GMB's Bill Chard and Paul Wade and representatives from the Private Hire and Hackney trade

YORK MP GETS BEHIND CITY'S CAB DRIVERS

GMB has met with York MP, Rachael Maskell, to highlight the plight of York City Cab drivers. GMB appealed to the licensing department at City of York Council to step up its enforcement procedures and put an end to UBER drivers from other local authorities swamping the city.

At a meeting organised by the taxi trade, over 100 Hackney and Private Hire drivers told GMB that scores of UBER cars descend on York from other local authorities like Kirklees, Calderdale and Leeds. The York drivers have witnessed the illegal picking up of passengers which would automatically make the driver's insurance invalid so the customer would not be covered. Licensing enforcement officers are powerless to stop and inspect these out of town vehicles and reports indicate that some of the cars appear to be not fit for the road.

GMB contacted City of York licensing department requesting an urgent meeting to discuss this issue and to highlight the dangers to the citizens of York and visitors to the city. The influx of out of town drivers obviously has an impact on the livelihood of resident drivers and could lead to the collapse of the home-grown industry which would have a major impact on York's economy.

Bill Chard, speaking on behalf of the GMB's Professional Drivers' Section, said: **"UBER only have a small number of cars registered in the City of York. It is therefore, obvious that they will flood the city with drivers from outside areas."**

"These drivers have no connection with, and are not controlled or managed by City of York Council. GMB calls upon the Council to withdraw UBER's licence as they have proved that they are neither fit nor capable of operating safely in the city."

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GMB CONGRESS 2017 - PLYMOUTH

The closing date for motions to Congress is 31st January 2017. Branches should ensure motions are submitted to regional office by this date.

REGIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS - 2017 - 2021

Nomination forms for Regional Council elections have now been dispatched - Branches should ensure that nominations are submitted correctly (under rule) and that nomination forms are returned no later than the 28th February 2017.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE - 11TH MARCH 2017

To be held at the Marriott Hotel Leeds. If you are interested in attending or would like further information please contact the Regional Equalities Officer: louise.foster-wilson@gmb.org.uk

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CALLING ALL FOSTER CARERS

The GMB has been actively campaigning for improvements in fostering nationally. We have recently submitted evidence on behalf of our foster carer membership to the Education Select Committee Inquiry into fostering as well as submitting amendments to the Children and Social Work Bill. The next stage of our National Campaign is for foster carers to meet and speak directly to representatives from the Labour Party. Therefore, Paula Sherriff MP for Dewsbury, will be attending an event on the 19th January 2017, where she will be able to listen to the concerns of our foster carer membership. **The venue is Dewsbury Town Hall on Thursday, 19th January from 10.00am to 1.00pm (buffet lunch provided).**

Please encourage anyone you know who is a foster carer to attend this important meeting. Attendance should be confirmed by email to: rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk

GMB HITS OUT AT CUTS TO FOSTER CARER ALLOWANCES

Cuts to foster carers' allowances have been given the go ahead at Bradford Council but GMB has warned that the move could force carers to either quit the job altogether or move onto the books of independent foster agencies, which could end up costing the authority far more in the long run.

Tristan Chard, GMB Organiser for foster carers in Bradford, said: **"The number of foster carers GMB represents in Bradford has rocketed from zero to around 75 in the past few months because of growing anger at how they are being treated. A number of foster carers are now actively looking to transfer to an independent agency, where they would be paid more. Continuing, he said: "Who pays for it? The local authority. It's a nonsense. We are saying, 'Look at addressing the issues in foster care, manage people better, treat them fairly and with respect and people will stay'. What they seem to be doing is targeting foster carers, in our view, as a bit of a soft target because they have got no protection."**



The lucky 57 selected for the programme

JO COX WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Congratulations to GMB Organiser Stacey Booth and GMB Brighouse General Branch Secretary, Cath Pinder who have both secured a place on the Jo Cox Women In Leadership Programme.

Over 1,000 women from around the UK applied to go onto the programme and only 57 were successful.

The Jo Cox Women in Leadership Programme will be run in memory of the late Jo Cox MP. Jo was a proud Labour feminist who campaigned for women's representation in the Labour Party and around the world.

The programme will bring forward a generation of women who can continue the fight for Labour values in parliament, local government and in their communities.

Speaking to *The Activist* Stacey said: **"When I found out I had been selected to go on the programme I was over the moon and it's one of my proudest achievements to date. I left school not having any idea about how politics impacts on our daily lives and how important it is to be politically active."**

"It was the GMB and TUC, through my training as a GMB Rep, that gave me my political education and I cannot thank them enough."

Cath said: **"Because I knew and worked closely with Jo I wanted someone from Batley & Spen CLP to try and get on the programme. I decided to apply and when I was accepted I was so nervous because I didn't know what to expect."**

I'm so pleased that my constituency, which has been through so much, could be part of this positive legacy."

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

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Hannah Cain, Paul O'Brien and Carla Ward

GMB BACK A WINNING TEAM

GMB Representatives were invited to attend the annual Sheffield FC Ladies end of season presentation night. Paul O'Brien - Doncaster GMB Branch Secretary, Bob McNeill - GMB Organiser and Phil Whitehurst - GMB National Officer were there to celebrate a very successful first-ever season in the Women's Super League where the team finished a very respectable fifth place.

The GMB Player of the Year 2016 was awarded to Sheryl McCue for her consistent and steely performances in the heart of midfield throughout the season. Unfortunately, Sheryl was unable to attend to collect her award. Even so, the night was a great success and GMB were made very welcome.

Pictured with the GMB trophy is Paul O'Brien with the club and team captain Carla Ward and GMB's very own England starlet Hannah Cain, who is now a firm fixture on the first team at Sheffield FC Ladies when not away with the England U17's on European and World Cup duty.

It's also great to report that Hannah has since been called up to the England U19's training squad.

UNIONLINE

YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM

0300 333 0303

www.unionline.co.uk

NEW FOOD BANK GETS THE THUMBS UP

Families struggling to feed their children are to receive a major boost thanks to The Well Food Bank in Normanton. The service receives items and donations from people across the area including the GMB, Castleford Tigers and local businesses. GMB donated £200 to The Well Project as part of our support for working communities in partnership with Castleford Tigers.

The Well is based at a former agricultural storage building at Haw Hill Park, off Castleford Road. It also includes a clothes bank and a youth club.

Centre manager, Jenny Farrall-Bird, said: **"We decided to provide this service as we found there is a massive growing need for it. We have gone from offering something just for young people to catering for the whole community."**

Steve Jennings, GMB Senior Organiser, said: **"The GMB is happy to support local communities in these very difficult times."**



GMB Senior Organiser Steve Jennings and Castleford Tigers Mascot 'JT' pictured with support workers at The Well

SAVE THE DATE: #RunForJo

Sunday, 25th June 2017

A fun-run is being organised at Oakwell Hall (Birstall) - Join us for a 6k cross-country run and 2.5k family run in memory of the late Jo Cox MP. There will be a picnic area, refreshment stalls and stuff for the kids to do. For further details email: caroline.jones@gmb.org.uk.

 @GMBCampaigns

 GMB Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Region

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

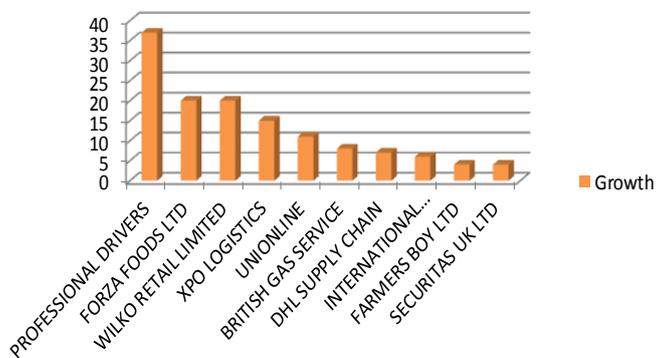
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Top 10 Membership Growth



GMB Reps Enjoying A Political Education

POLITICS@WORK

Political education is not always welcomed by reps on their final day of GMB@WORK training but by the end of the session most find the subject fascinating and are keen to learn more.

Colin Burgon, former MP for Elmet and Rothwell and Steve Jennings, Political Officer, deliver the training.

Luke Stephenson, GMB Representative from ASDA, said: "I really have got into politics and have attended the Political School at Wortley Hall. This has made me confident enough to join the Labour Party and go to meetings."

If you are interested in politics please visit the education programme for details of our courses or contact Steve Jennings by email on: steve.jennings@gmb.org.uk or ring 0345 337 7777.



RELAUNCH OF GMB LEARNING CENTRE AT THURNSCOE

For several years GMB members and members of the local community have benefited from a wide range of learning opportunities at the learning centre in Thurnscoe Library, including maths, English, employability skills, IT and genealogy. GMB's Productive Learning Project donated nearly £4000 to replace eight computers that were in need of an urgent upgrade.

MP for Wentworth and Dearne Constituency, John Healey, attended the relaunch, along with GMB Councillors Annette Gollick and Pauline Phillips and Councillor Sir Steve Houghton, leader of Barnsley Council.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Launch of the Jo Cox Loneliness Commission
27th January 2017
- ◆ HeartUnions Week
8th - 14th February 2017
- ◆ GMB Branch Weekend
18th & 19th February 2017
- ◆ NHS London Demo
4th March 2017
- ◆ Women's Equality Conference
11th March 2017

Latest Inflation - November 2016

Headline Inflation Rate (RPI All items)
2.2%
Consumer Prices Index (CPI)
1.2%

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