

## GMB News From Around The Region



GMB Young Members Get 'Question Time' panel to sign up to Mental Health Campaign at #GMBbigweekend

## #GMBbigweekend

### GMB's Regional Event of The Year

What a fantastic turn out we had for the GMB Branch Weekend (#GMBbigweekend) which is now in its ninth year. 180 GMB activists from across the region took part in what is thought to be the most successful event to date.

Preparation for the weekend took more than three months in the planning, but the hard work paid off, with a packed agenda of industrial, political and organising topics and interactive workshops.

Held on the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018, the event was kicked off on day one by Regional President, Andy Irving who welcomed delegates, many of who were at the Branch Weekend for the first time.

In his address, Neil Derrick - Regional Secretary, gave an overview of the region's position, both financially and in terms of membership. He spoke at length about our successes over the previous 12 months and opportunities for 2018, which would see a new Sheffield office incorporating an activists' centre, the continuation of new and improved communications to members, the further development of the Rugby League Players' Association and new opportunities for growth.

Delegates took part in interactive workshops throughout the day that covered a number of areas including, Sexual Harassment, Building The Workplace, Active Campaigning and Union Communications. Feedback from these groups will be taken forward and help formulate our activities for the remainder of the year and beyond.

cont...

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### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

International Women's Day seeks to celebrate women's achievements, as well as act as a catalyst for change when it comes to gender equality. It's been observed for over 100 years and is now celebrated around the world. The theme of this year's International Women's Day is #PressforProgress

## THE ACTIVIST

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

0345 337 7777 [www.gmbbyorkshire.org.uk](http://www.gmbbyorkshire.org.uk)



# The Activist@#GMBbigweekend

## BRANCH AWARDS 2017

An awards ceremony took place in the evening and a number of branches were honoured for their work and campaigning activity throughout 2017. GMB Chesterfield No 1 Branch received Community Campaign of the Year Award, Yorkshire Ambulance Service Branch received Regional Branch of the Year for Outstanding Achievement in GMB@Work Award (The Kerry May Award) and Sheffield Municipal & Light Branch received the Equality Champion of the Year Award. The Class of 2017 Award went to 002 Group for recruiting the most members in their workplaces.

On day two, last year's award winners kicked off the morning session with a short presentation on what they had spent their £1000 prize on to promote the branch and its activities.

## QUESTION TIME

Joining the delegation for the Sunday morning session, a number of guest speakers made up a 'Question Time' panel. The line-up included Yvette Cooper MP, Richard Burdon MP, Cllr Judith Blake, Cllr David Sheard & Alex Sobel MP. Chaired by Senior Organiser, Steve Jennings, the panel took questions from the floor for more than an hour, before the weekend's proceedings came to an end.

Neil Derrick, Regional Secretary, said: **"The Branch Weekend is a perfect opportunity to pay tribute to our GMB branches who work so hard for members throughout the year. Their campaigning and activism is second to none. From the feedback we have had, the weekend was a resounding success, in particular the Sunday morning 'Question Time' session. I know 2018 will bring its challenges and opportunities but I'm confident with our network of dedicated reps we are in great shape and ready to deal with these head-on."**

Cath Pinder, Branch Secretary of GMB Organising Branch and REC member, said: **"Without doubt the #GMBbigweekend was a huge success and it was fantastic to see other branches receive the accolade they so rightly deserve."**

Click here to see pictures from the event: [#GMBbigweekend](https://www.facebook.com/GMBbigweekend)

## Save The Date

Next year's #GMBbigweekend is on 9th & 10th February 2019. Details will be sent out later in the year so make sure you secure your place at the 2019 event.



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# The Activist@#GMBbigweekend

GMB members from Yorkshire Ambulance Service



Ailsa Cooling & Andy Irving



Jake O'Malley



Jo Early & Aafaq Butt



Cathy Scott



GMB Organising Branch



Question Time



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GMB members hold a demo outside of 001 Private Hire firm in Oxford in defence of Mohamed Fadlalla

## GMB MEMBER DISMISSED FOR SIMPLY ASKING COLLEAGUES TO SIGN-UP TO UNION

On 5th January 2018, GMB member Mohamed Fadlalla (Mo) was sacked from 001 taxis in Oxford. His crime was organising drivers into GMB. Not only did the company sack him, they tried to blacklist him from gaining future employment as a driver.

Jobs and conditions are very precarious at the firm and there are reports of bullying and victimisation of the workforce.

Mo is pursuing a claim in the Employment Tribunal for unfair dismissal and we are asking members, colleagues and friends across the trade union and Labour movement to get behind Mo by writing to his employer using the draft text below.

Email Mo's employer at: [mark@001taxis.com](mailto:mark@001taxis.com) copying in [gmbxfordregion@gmail.com](mailto:gmbxfordregion@gmail.com)

Dear Sir,

I'm very concerned about the rights of taxi drivers in your company and note that your company sacked a GMB Union member for organising drivers of your company into the GMB union, which is a legitimate union voice for taxi and private hire drivers in the trade.

We urge you to immediately reinstate Mohamed Fadlalla and compensate him for his loss of wages. I also urge you to respect the rights of your workers, and respect their right to be a member of GMB Union. 001 should recognise the GMB as an independent union being the legitimate voice of your drivers.

Yours sincerely,



## DHL DOES THE DIRTY BY SACKING LOYAL WORKERS AND SLASHING THEIR REDUNDANCY

GMB has accused DHL of 'doing the dirty' after staff were given the double hammer blow of losing their jobs and their enhanced redundancy payments at the same time.

Many of those working on the O2 contract at the site would have received historical enhanced redundancy rights from the time they worked for Tibbet & Britten, and through TUPE regulations would have kept their original terms and conditions when they transferred.

DHL and incoming company Brightstar are trying to renege on making these payments leaving workers thousands of pounds out of pocket.

GMB Organiser for the site, Andrew Aldwinkle, said:

**"These workers have shown nothing but loyalty to DHL and are now being thrown out of their jobs through no fault of their own."**

**"As if that wasn't bad enough, to now be told they will not receive their full redundancy package is an absolute disgrace. GMB are calling upon DHL to ensure that not one single worker misses out on enhanced redundancy pay."**

**"DHL are coming under increased scrutiny and are getting a reputation for the shoddy way they treat their employees. This is a chance for them to get some positive publicity and do the right thing."**

**"GMB has spoken to local Labour MP, Yvette Cooper, who has offered her support to fight for the workers and their rights."**

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# The Activist

## FOSTER CARERS ON TOUR

Calling all foster carers...come along to one of our coffee mornings and meet with GMB Organisers and other foster carers already campaigning for improvements in fostering.

There will be updates on GMB Campaigns, including:

- Education Committee Inquiry into Fostering
- National Fostering Stocktake
- Foster carers to access 30 hours free childcare
- Foster carers to access paid bereavement leave
- Have your say on the GMB National Foster Carers' Pledge.



GMB, Britain's General Union presents... **Foster Carers ON TOUR** Making The Most Of Your GMB Membership

**Monday 19 March (10am - 12 noon)**  
Wakefield Office: Grove Hall, 60 College Grove Road, Wakefield, WF1 3RN  
Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2094686127383176/>

**Tuesday 20 March (10am - 12 noon)**  
Brighouse Office: Clifton House, Clifton Rd, Brighouse, HD6 1SL  
Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1446322953827276/>

**Thursday 22 March (10am - 12 noon)**  
Sheffield Office: 188-190 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 1SY  
Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1870554523082376/>

**Coffee Mornings**  
Come along to one of our coffee mornings and meet with GMB Organisers and other foster carers already campaigning for improvements in fostering. There will be updates on GMB Campaigns:

- Education Committee Inquiry into Fostering
- National Fostering Stocktake
- Foster carers to access 30 hours free childcare
- Foster carers to access paid bereavement leave

Have your say on the GMB National Foster Carers' Pledge.  
Open to all foster carers. Non-union members can get information and details about the benefits of joining the GMB. Other updates for foster carers include access to legal services and free training and education.

Confirm your attendance on our Facebook events page or on:  
tel: 0345 337 7777 email: [rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk](mailto:rachel.harrison@gmb.org.uk)

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 **GMB - The Union For Foster Carers**  
 **@RHarrisonGMB**



## TUC NATIONAL MARCH & RALLY SATURDAY 12 MAY 2018

### A New Deal For Working People

The TUC is holding a rally in central London on Saturday 12 May and will be joined by unions and supporters from all over the country. Together we will be calling for more and better jobs and a more equal and prosperous country. We want GMB members to join in and let their voices be heard. Speakers at the rally will include TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady, union leaders and frontline workers. The family-friendly event is part of the TUC Great Jobs Agenda campaign #TUCnewdeal.

The march will assemble on the Embankment between Hungerford Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge from 11am. It will move off at 12pm and march to Hyde Park. The rally will take place in Hyde Park, finishing at 4pm. GMB has a limited number of train tickets available leaving from Leeds and Sheffield station which will be available to activists on a first come first served basis. Please contact Trudy Frampton on tel: 0345 337 7777 email: [trudy.frampton@gmb.org.uk](mailto:trudy.frampton@gmb.org.uk)

# UNIONLINE

**YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM**

**0300 333 0303**  
**www.unionline.co.uk**

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# The Activist



L to R: Regional Secretary Neil Derrick, GMB Reps Pete Warren, Jill Barker, Sharon Hughes and GMB Organiser Jon Smith

## EXTRA STRONG LINKS

Neil Derrick, Regional Secretary, visited the Trebor Bassett plant in Sheffield in January as part of his programme of workplace visits throughout the region, to link up with our activists and their employers to discuss the challenges facing working people and our members. If you would like a visit to your workplace and Neil hasn't already been then contact his PA, Maria Ford on **tel:** 0345 337 7777.

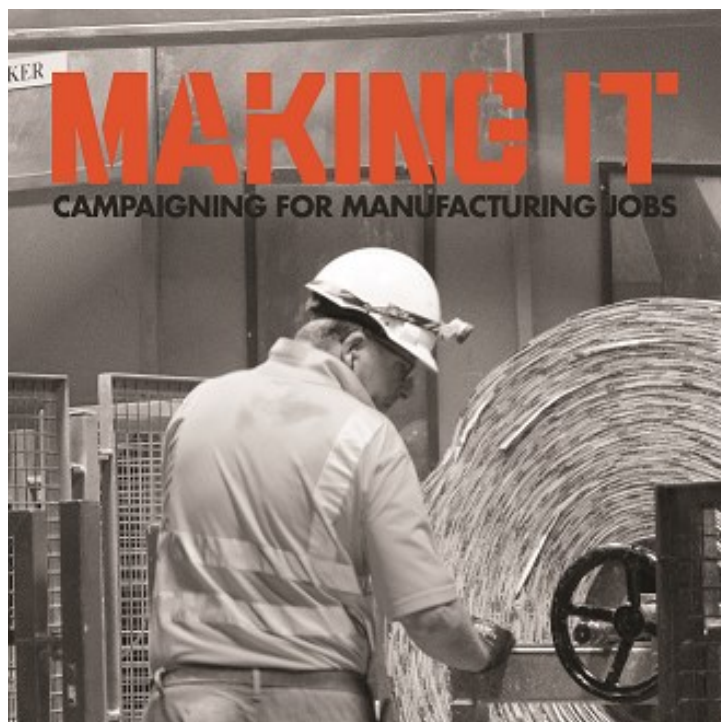


L to R: GMB's Garreth Carvell, Pete Davies and Steve Jennings pictured with members from the team

## GMB SUPPORTING WOMEN'S RUGBY IN CASTLEFORD

Castleford RUFC and Castleford Tigers Women are joining forces in a ground breaking rugby partnership that shows the commitment of both clubs to provide opportunities for women and girls to play rugby, whether it is league or union. As part of the partnership the women's Super League side will train and play games at the Whitwood-based Castleford RU. Castleford Tigers Women start their 2018 campaign on 15th April and have been recruiting well for their first team squad and their new U19 development squad for 16 to 19 year olds. The successful Castleford RUFC team are looking to establish a women's squad to train and then play matches. The club already has squads at U13, U15 and U18s and will continue to train on Thursday evenings.

Tigers Women head coach, Lindsay Anfield, said: **"A big thank you to GMB for our sponsorship for the 2018 season and for the second year of support. The women look forward to having you on board."**



## MANUFACTURING FORUM

### (WE'RE MAKING IT – PHASE 2)

We will be hosting a Regional Manufacturing Forum on Friday, 13th April at the GMB office in Wakefield from 10.30am to 2.30pm.

The forum will look at developing further our manufacturing strategy and is open to all manufacturing representatives and also any GMB members that representatives believe would be interested in getting involved.

Please let us know if you will be attending so that we can plan for catering. Contact Carina Coenen on email: [carina.coenen@gmb.org.uk](mailto:carina.coenen@gmb.org.uk) or direct line: 01484 475977 or 0345 337 7777.

**Visit:** <https://www.making-it.org.uk/> for further details about our campaign.



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L to R: Jon Stanway (project worker) is pictured handing over the equipment to Amey Senior Steward Jake O'Mally

## AMEY LEARNING CENTRE

The Productive Learning Project 2 (PLP2) is delighted to have supplied IT equipment to Amey workers so they can open and facilitate a pop-up learning centre at its Sheffield site.

Amey operates facility services across Sheffield including improving our roads and environment, however like many other businesses, has suffered from lack of training and development for its manual workers, many of whom are GMB members.

The learning centre will attempt to offer functional skills such as ICT, English and maths, and a variety of distance learning courses to its workers. The aim is to provide new opportunities and up-skilling to help every GMB member to discover and develop their talents, both on a personal and occupational basis.

As well as increasing opportunities for individual members and developing a learning culture at the workplace, it is hoped that the union learning centre will strengthen both union activism and voice, and sustain learning activity. Hopefully, Amey will see the benefits of an educated workforce and continue to work with the union in developing a learning culture.

Chris Murphy, Project Manager for the Regional Learning Project, said: **"Jake and his reps have worked hard with Jon on this initiative and the iPads and laptops will support their efforts."**

## Latest Inflation - January 2018

Consumer Price Index (CPI) - 3%

Headline Inflation Rate (RPI All items) - 4%



GMB Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Region



@GMBCampaigns



L to R: The late President, Mary Turner, with Beccie Ions (receiving the President's Leadership Award in 2017) and General Secretary, Tim Roache

## PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AWARDS for Equality 2017/18

The nominations process is now open for the President's Leadership Awards. We are again asking for nominations to recognise and celebrate the contribution of GMB members and employees in progressing equality in the workplace and in the union.

We are seeking nominations for the categories below:

- **Most inspirational individual on equality**
- **Most inspirational Regional Equality Forum (REF)**
- **Most inspirational equality project for organising**
- **Most inspirational project for making a difference at work.**

There are two ways that nominations can be made:

### • Online

<https://gmbcomms.typeform.com/to/xNJYWP>

### • Paper copy

[http://www.gmb.org.uk/PLAE\\_Application\\_Form\\_2018.pdf](http://www.gmb.org.uk/PLAE_Application_Form_2018.pdf)

For detailed information about the criteria visit:

[http://www.gmb.org.uk/PLAE2018\\_criteria.pdf](http://www.gmb.org.uk/PLAE2018_criteria.pdf)

A panel of judges, including GMB acting President Malcolm Sage and the National Equality Forum, will meet to select the winners for the awards. The awards for the winners in each of the four categories will be presented at **Congress 2018** in Brighton.

**Closing date is the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**

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# The Activist

## RunForJo 2018

As part of the many events that took place last year to remember murdered MP, Jo Cox, the GMB joined forces with More In Common (Batley & Spen) to stage a fun run and family day in Jo's memory. The event was organised by a group of local volunteers, many of whom are GMB members. It was a sell-out success coloured with the sound of brass, samba, rock and folk music. Post-race attendees enjoyed a carnival of food, drink and laughter, with a mascot race providing hilarious entertainment for all.



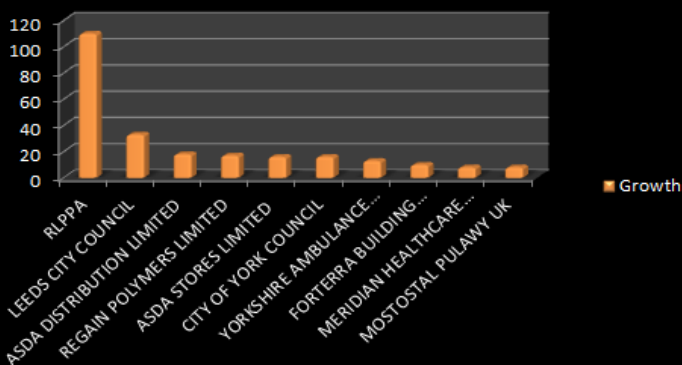
The second 'Run for Jo' takes place at Oakwell Hall again, on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018**, in celebration of the life of Jo Cox, on the weekend of what would have been her 44<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The run will be a key event during the national celebration 'The Great Get Together'.

This year, organisers of the run are hoping to have even more people from across the region come together for running, fun and friendship based around Jo's belief that **'We are far more united and have more in common than that which divides us'**.

If you fancy taking part and joining **TeamGMB** for the run then simply register using the links below. If you don't want to run but would like to help out on the day contact Caroline Jones on **email: [caroline.jones@gmb.org.uk](mailto:caroline.jones@gmb.org.uk)**

To see footage from last year's event visit: <https://vimeo.com/225558884> - To enter the 6.5k race: [click here](#) or to enter the 2.5k race: [click here](#)

## January 2018 Membership Growth



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

A TV star, an acclaimed novelist and a writer who has penned some of the country's best-loved programmes will be joining inspirational local women for Tracy Brabin MP's free one-day festival to mark International Women's Day and Vote 100.

A day of inspiring speeches, workshops, performances and historical displays will also see talented local women offer their takes on a variety of subjects ranging from writing your first novel and screenwriting to entrepreneurship and the argument for votes for 16-year-olds.

The packed day will culminate in the screening of an award-winning film which brings to life some of the defining historical moments in the battle for votes for women, Suffragette.

Batley & Spen MP Tracy Brabin said: **"This year marks one of the most significant milestones in British history as we mark 100 years of women's suffrage. With this in mind, we want to celebrate inspirational women - local and national and from the past and present."**

**"There will be International Women's Day events held the world over celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women and it only seems right and proper that we have something here in Batley & Spen - a place where there's so much to celebrate."**

**"All are welcome so please come and join us for what promises to be a fascinating, fun and inspiring day."**

The event will be held at Batley Older People's Centre on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March between 10am - 8pm and food and drink will be available. If anyone wants to get involved in the event, please contact Tracy's office on **tel: 01924 900036** or **email: [tracy.brabin.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tracy.brabin.mp@parliament.uk)**

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# GMB Credit Union

Simpler, fairer savings and loans for GMB members and their families

## It's your Credit Union

GMB Credit Union is 100% member owned, democratic and exclusively focused on improving the financial health of GMB members. Take advantage of our market leading offers and make sure your money works for you and the wider GMB community.

### £ Member Loans

Be a wise borrower. We will save you money with market leading interest rates on fast, fair, flexible member loans. **Why not swop your existing bank loan and drop your borrowing costs.**

### £ Member Savings

Get the savings habit. Saving is good for your financial health. Choose our easy access savings accounts. Are your savings earning 2%? **If not switch to an ethical investment with a market leading interest rate.**

### £ Use your Noddle

Know the score financially. Your credit score has a direct impact on your financial wellbeing. Through a partnership with Noddle we offer all GMB members free for life access to their Credit Report. **Empower yourself... register today at [www.noddle.co.uk/partners/gmbcu](http://www.noddle.co.uk/partners/gmbcu)**

#### Member Loans

Loans from  
**£100 to  
£15,000**



Very competitive interest rates on small and larger loans. Rates from as low as 3% APR.

#### Member Savings

**2.0%**  
annual dividend  
(2017)



Easy Access Savings fully protected by the FSCS to £85,000 with a market leading interest rate.

### noddle

- ✓ Free for Life Credit Report
- ✓ Unlimited access to report
- ✓ Leave no footprint when you check your report
- ✓ Tools to make changes and understand your report
- ✓ Support from Noddle customer support



For more information and to apply go to [www.gmbcreditunion.com](http://www.gmbcreditunion.com)

0161 486 1777 | [www.gmbcreditunion.com](http://www.gmbcreditunion.com) | [info@gmbcreditunion.com](mailto:info@gmbcreditunion.com)

GMB Credit Union, Sinclair House, 11 Station Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire SK8 5AF