

# Barnsley *matters*

## Annual General Meeting 2017

We are pleased to invite you to our AGM which will take place on **Thursday 16th February 2017** in the **Reception Room, Town Hall, Church Street, Barnsley**. There will be two aggregated meetings; one at lunchtime **12.15pm** (buffet lunch provided) and one after work at **5.15pm** (tea and coffee). Parking is readily available at County Way: for public transport users, the transport interchange is only a few minutes walk away. **Each attendee will receive a £5 Love to Shop Voucher and a promotional gift.**

Subject to the meetings being quorate, we will be holding prize draws at the 5.15pm meeting for members and lottery members. This has been a very busy year for the Branch and we are looking forward to welcoming members to the meeting. We hope the AGM will be an interesting and enjoyable event.

### Agenda

- 1) Welcome by Chair and introduction of Branch Officers
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Minutes of Annual General Meeting 18th February 2016
  - a) Accuracy
  - b) Matters arising
- 4) Election or confirmation of election of Branch Officers and Convenors
- 5) Ratification and/or election of Stewards
- 6) Financial Report
  - a) Audited accounts for previous year
  - b) Appointment of Auditors
- 7) Annual Reports from the Branch Committee
- 8) Address by Branch Secretary (outgoing) and Branch Secretary (elect)
- 9) Proposed Amendment(s) to Rules
- 10) Government's predicted spending review for Local Government
- 11) Ratification of annual Branch Sponsorship
- 11) Prize Draws (evening meeting; subject to meetings being quorate)
- 12) Any other urgent business (subject to the Chair's approval – must be notified by close of business Wednesday 15th February 2017)

A meeting of the members who subscribe to the Affiliated Political Fund will follow the close of the AGM.

### CONTACT US

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# Farewell from Brian



**Brian Steele**  
**Branch Secretary (2013 – 2017)**  
*briansteele@unisonbarnsleylg.org*

***After 30 years with BMBC, the time has come for me to retire and I'd like to place on record all my thanks to UNISON and other colleagues I have worked with. The trade union movement has been a big part of my life and I have made many sacrifices to support others. I met my second wife Rachel Hughes on a council trip to Manchester regarding possible outsourcing of admin services.***

I started employment with BMBC on 3 August 1987. I became a UNISON activist six months later when I became a steward under the former NUPE branch of UNISON.

I applied for the position of UNISON (NUPE) Convenor in 1992, this was a two weeks' secondment and I am still here. I spent 18 months in Human Resources as a Job Evaluator for the department and then was successful in becoming a convenor for a second time. I believe I am the only representative to manage this.

I have held many positions within the branch: Branch Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Joint President, International Officer, Convenor, Political Officer and Branch Secretary. I have always represented members to the best of my ability and have enjoyed every minute doing so. Because of UNISON giving me the confidence to represent people and their Return to Learn education courses, it enabled me to use those skills to become Secretary of Barnsley Trades Council and I was President of South Yorkshire Association of Trade Unions until stepping down earlier this month.

As Lead Officer for the branch I have seen many changes from the authority regarding restructures and terms and conditions during these difficult times of forced cuts. I believe that Barnsley has managed to protect these better than other authorities.

It is time for me now to move on and leave the branch in new guardianship. I am pleased to say that Ben Harvey will be taking over from me. Ben will face all the challenges I have faced with the Tory government's austerity cuts and outsourcing of services. I wish him well in the future in representing what is the most important thing in our movement, our members. This is not always easy and many challenges will be presented on the way.

Finally, I would like to thank all previous Branch Officers and current ones for the support they have given me over the last 30 years. Especially Robin Symonds, Regional Officer who became a close friend. Within the Branch Office: Ray Elvin, Kevin Swift, Ray Oldroyd, Malcolm Clements and Margaret Bruff and currently April Pepper, Ben Harvey, Michael Short and Andrea Palmer. I wish them all the best in the future and will always speak very highly of them.

I can assure you I will miss UNISON. As I said to my colleagues: I will have to improvise, adapt and move on.

Goodbye to you all and I hope to see you at the AGM.

# Branch Success Stories



**April Pepper**

**BMBC Convenor for Communities Directorate and Core Services**

*aprilpepper@unisonbarnsleylg.org*

## Darton College – Re-instatement of Living Wage

Last summer, UNISON was informed by the kitchen staff at Darton College they had had their pay reduced from the Living Wage to the National Living Wage (the new name for the National Minimum Wage) of £7.20 per hour. There was no consultation with the Unions and only one day's notice given to the staff who were informed the day before the reduction in salary happened. Darton College is a BMBC school and BMBC implemented the Living Wage in 2014. After investigation UNISON established the school had in fact been paying the catering staff the Living Wage since April 2014. However, the school response was that it had been a payroll error.

As a result of UNISON taking up the issue of the college ceasing to pay the Living Wage and pressure applied by UNISON, the Board of Governors at Darton College decided to continue to pay the Living Wage together with arrears. This was a good result for UNISON and the staff were very happy with UNISON's support. We will continue to campaign for the Living Wage to be paid by all employers covered by the branch.

## BMBC Management Support Officers – Job Profile amendments

Back in late summer the Council informed the unions about a proposal to change the job profiles of MSOs and place this group of staff on formal consultation from the end of September.

UNISON had concerns that the Council was not following its own Managing Change Policy for this group of staff. UNISON's strong objections were there were no proposals to reduce the number of MSOs but their job profiles were to be amended and the staff would have to apply for their own jobs via a competitive interview. UNISON objected strongly to the Council's way of dealing with this group of staff because there were no savings attached to the proposal, and the Council had confirmed the staff were not in a restructure. However, they had received a consultation letter and could potentially be at risk of redundancy if they didn't interview successfully for their existing posts.

UNISON argued that in effect the MSOs were being placed in a worse position than if they were in a restructure which can't be right. Due to pressure applied and UNISON's objections the Council had a change of heart and decided the staff could assimilate to the MSOs revised job profile. This meant the staff were slotted into the new posts and didn't have to be interviewed. UNISON had argued from the beginning if it wasn't a restructure, and there were sufficient posts for people the proposal was at odds the Managing Change policy. The MSOs were delighted at this result and UNISON's support.

This was a success for UNISON and the Branch feel the objections raised foiled additional plans we understand the Council may have had to roll out their plans in other services within the Council.

# Helping our Members when it Matters



**Michael Short**  
**Convenor for Private Sector and Academies**  
*michaelshort@unisonbarnsleylg.org*

UNISON member Stuart Booth, who worked as a teaching assistant in a school, suffered from mental ill health. Instead of offering support and following proper sickness or capability procedures, his employer instead pressured Stuart into resigning. I represented Stuart throughout the process and was a witness when we took the case to Tribunal last year.

Stuart won his case and the panel praised UNISON's evidence as vital to the ruling. Unfortunately Stuart passed away late November, he will be sadly missed by the Branch and his family. I am glad that UNISON were able to help him get justice for the unfair treatment he received and his family have told me how much Stuart appreciated our support at a difficult time.

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## Branch Equalities



**Ben Harvey**  
**BMBC Convenor for People and Place Directorates**  
*benharvey@unisonbarnsleylg.org*

Despite another busy year for the branch, we have kept equality campaigns and events at the heart of our work. As the Branch Officer for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender members (LGBT), I am also pleased to be representing our branch on the Barnsley LGBT Forum and the UNISON Regional LGBT group. If anyone is interested in becoming an Equalities Officer (or becoming more involved in the branch in general), please let me know, full training and support will be provided.

**International Women's Day March 2016:** Rhona Bywater, Alison Wood and Andrea Palmer attended an event at Barnsley Civic.

**International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia May 2016:** Myself, April, Brian, Michael Short and Alison Wood put on an event in Barnsley town centre to highlight the discrimination still faced by LGBT people in many parts of the world. Thanks to Barnsley Trades Council, the health branches of UNISON and Barnsley LGBT Forum for their support.

**Vigil for the Orlando Shootings Victims:** Barnsley Town Hall June 2016

**Hate Crime Awareness Event:** Barnsley Interchange October 2016

We also sent delegates to the UNISON National Women's Conference and National LGBT Conference, helping to represent the views of Barnsley members to the wider union.