



# Calderdale Trades Council Annual Report 2015-2016

## Introduction

Calderdale Trades Council has had a busy year, both organising events in our own right and contributing to local campaigns. We have continued to make steady progress in encouraging union branches to affiliate and have been able to support a number of local groups, events and fellow trade unionists taking industrial action. The years ahead are going to be important for all trade unionists in our fight to defend rights at work as well as essential services for our members, and we look forward to playing our part.

## Campaigning

During Heart Unions Week in February, we organised leafletting at Bus and Train Stations and a Street Stall in Halifax Town Centre as part of the campaign against the **Trade Union Bill**.

We have worked alongside **NHS** campaigns such as the Calderdale 38 Degrees NHS Group, Hands off Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and Calderdale and Kirklees 999 Call for the NHS in opposing the Clinical Commissioning Groups' proposals

to reconfigure Hospital and Community Services in Calderdale and Huddersfield. We submitted a motion supporting the NHS Reinstatement Bill to both the National Trades Union Councils conference via the West Yorkshire County Association of Trades Council and to the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional TUC AGM. We attended and made a donation to the 'Stand By our Health workers: Stand Up for the NHS' demonstration organised by Leeds Keep Our NHS Public in April.

We were represented at the **Midlands TUC/People's Assembly demonstration in Birmingham** in October to coincide with the Tory Party conference and worked with Calderdale People's Assembly to publicise this demonstration in order to maximise attendance from our area.

In September we held a public meeting - **Hands Off Our Schools**. This was organised in conjunction with Calderdale NUT and Hebden Bridge Trades Club. Since then, we have promoted the NUT and ATL **School Cuts campaign**.

In conjunction with Calderdale People's Assembly and Orange Box Young People's Centre in Halifax, we organised a screening of anti-austerity film '**The Divide**' in September along with an exhibition on the History of the Welfare State from the Working Class Movement Library in Salford.

Calderdale has had little in the way of celebrations of **May Day** - International Workers' Day - for many years and the Trades Council has established an Organising Group which is developing a programme of events in the Borough for 2017.

We maintained our website - [www.calderdaletuc.org.uk](http://www.calderdaletuc.org.uk), our Twitter account and our Facebook page which we use to promote our own and other events.

# Affiliations and Solidarity

We are registered with the TUC as a Trades Union Council.

We sent a message of support to the **Save Our Steel** Rally in Sheffield in November 2015.



We have supported **strike action** including joining pickets and demonstrations by **Junior Hospital Doctors**, **UCU University lecturers** and the **National Union of Teachers**. We have urged **Samworth Brothers** in Leicestershire to **recognise BFAWU and reinstate union activist Kumaran Bose**.

We have made donations to **Durham Teaching Assistants** and to the striking **School Cleaners at Kinsley Academy** near Wakefield.

During the year, we also made donations to Community Foundation for **Calderdale's Flood Appeal**; for transport costs to the **No to Trident** Demonstration in February; **Life for African Mothers**; **Friends of Durham Miners Gala**; **The Oaks Colliery Disaster memorial**, Barnsley; **Tolpuddle Radical Film Festival**; **Grunwick Strike 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events**; **Leeds Workers' Memorial Day memorial** and **Yorkshire Youth Fight for Jobs**.

We reiterated our call for a full public inquiry into the actions of the police at the **Orgreave** coking plant on 18 June 1984.

We worked with UNISON Calderdale to commemorate **Workers' Memorial Day** in April including leafletting in Halifax Town

Centre. We would like to preserve the plaque to a past Halifax Trades Council activist on the bench outside Northgate House and establish a permanent Workers' Memorial Day monument in the future.

We renewed our **affiliations** to the People's Assembly, Yorkshire and the Humber Pensioners' Convention and to Cuba Solidarity Campaign. We voted to support ending the USA's blockade of Cuba and made a donation to support the **Miami 5 Freedom Tour**. During the year, we also affiliated to **Venezuela Solidarity Campaign** and **War on Want**.

## Meetings

In addition to our Hands Off Our Schools public meeting, we have had 6 meetings of the Trades Council over the year. Of these, two were particularly well attended and two were poorly attended. We have hosted speakers and discussions on: the Tory Onslaught on Housing (which led the Trades Council to submit two motions to the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional TUC AGM); The threat to the NHS; A debate on the EU prior to the Referendum; Supporting progressive social movements in Latin America and at the 2015 AGM, Racism and how can we combat it. During the year, the Trades Council also supported the People's Declaration Motion against **Fracking** and the **TUC Welfare Charter**, calling on the TUC to develop a programme of action to secure the implementation of the Charter.

## Looking ahead

We hope that the 2016 Annual General Meeting will elect a strong team of officers to take the Trades Council forward in the

struggles ahead. We need every trade union branch with members living or working in Calderdale to affiliate to Calderdale Trades Council. We need to continue to find more effective ways of relating to local union branches and encouraging greater participation in shaping our work so as to strengthen our movement and our campaigning.

We will continue to support workers in struggle, local campaigns against austerity, cuts to jobs and services and to keep our NHS public.

*Pete Keal, Secretary*

## **Officers and Committee 2015-2016**

Chair: Phil Downsborough, BFAWU Suma (until Feb '16)  
Neil Brearley, UNISON Calderdale (from May '16)

Vice-Chair: John Mooney, Bradford Halifax and Huddersfield  
Unite Community

Secretary: Pete Keal, Equity Yorkshire Ridings General

Treasurer: Neil Brearley, UNISON Calderdale (from July '16)

E-mail: [info@calderdaletuc.org.uk](mailto:info@calderdaletuc.org.uk)

Web: <http://calderdaletuc.org.uk>

Twitter: @calderdaletuc

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/calderdaletuc>

Calderdale Trades Council

Accounts for Year 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016

	£
RECEIPTS	
TUC Grants	750.00
Affiliation fees	180.00
Donations	561.76
Bank Interest	13.57
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TOTAL RECEIPTS	£1,505.33
PAYMENTS	
Campaign Support	1,322.00
Publicity and Advertising	220.90
Affiliation Fees etc.	129.00
Travel	109.79
Conference Expenses	55.00
Room hire	54.60
Postage, Print and Stationery	22.85
Bank Charges	12.25
Other	11.18
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TOTAL PAYMENTS	£1,937.57
	-----
EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS	(£432.24)
	=====

## Statement of Balances at 30 September 2016

	£
Brought forward 01.10.15	6,049.64
Add surplus / deduct deficit for year	(432.24)
	=====
Net Funds 30.9.15	<b>£5617.40</b>
	=====
Bank and cash balances 30.9.15	
Current account	5,614.14
Petty cash	3.26
	=====
Bank and cash	<b>£5617.40</b>
	=====

*Pete Keal, Secretary*

*Neil Brearley, Treasurer*

## Auditor's Report

We have examined the Accounts, Cashbooks, Cheque and Paying in books, Bank Statements, Invoices, Receipts and other financial documents of Calderdale Trades Council. In our opinion the Accounts and Statement of Balances give a true and fair view of Calderdale Trades Council's finances as at 30 September 2016 and of the excess of Payments over Receipts for the year then ended.

*Russell Dawson and Jane Rendle, Auditors*

# Treasurer's Report

Calderdale Trades Council's Accounts to 30 September 2016 show that we spent £432.24 more than we received in income. The accounts reflect an increased level of activity during the year for the various campaigns, increased number of meetings, donations and the Hands Off Our Schools public meeting.

We are fortunate that the Trades Council has assets that it can use to support the campaigns and struggles our workplaces and communities face in these times of Austerity, Government cutbacks and attacks on workers' rights. However, this financial situation will not last for ever. We will need to raise additional funds so that we can maintain our activities. We will maximise the TUC grants we are entitled to, redouble our efforts to increase the number of Union Branches affiliated to Calderdale Trades Council and seek donations from larger branches over and above the basic Trades Council affiliation fee.

*Neil Brearley, Treasurer*

## Affiliated Union Branches 2015-16

BFAWU Suma  
Bradford Halifax and  
Huddersfield Unite Community  
Brighouse General GMB  
Calderdale NUJ  
Calderdale NUT  
CWU Bradford & District  
Amalgamated  
CWU Manchester Combined  
  
CWU West Yorkshire

Equity Yorkshire Ridings  
General FBU Calderdale  
Division  
PCS MoJ Greater Manchester  
UCU University of Huddersfield  
UNISON Calderdale  
UNISON South West  
Yorkshire Partnership Health  
Unite Nestlé  
USDAW Leeds Private Trade