



Calderdale Trades Council

Annual Report 2020-2021

Introduction

The last year has seen much change: a new team of officers, Covid and its vast upheavals and challenges and all without a secretary. Many thanks to Pete Keal for his help with

many of the secretarial roles, including creating beautiful and regular email newsletters and to Loretta Self and Daniel Whittall for helping with meeting minutes.

Campaigns and activities

The theme for International Workers' Memorial Day 28 April 2021 was ***Health and Safety is a fundamental workers' right.*** Calderdale Trades Council in conjunction with Calderdale Unison organised a socially distanced wreath laying at the Workers' Memorial Day stone outside Halifax Central Library as well as an online vigil.

One of our major activities has been around commemorating the **Halifax 1842 Great Strike**, which has seen us fundraise for and commission a plaque. As Covid restrictions eased a successful in-person public meeting was held at the Maurice Jagger Centre in September. It was decided to postpone the events around the unveiling of the plaque until 2022, which will be the 180th anniversary year.

A successful public meeting discussed the experience of **fighting racism** in Burnley with Mike Makin-Waite, author of *On Burnley Road*, at the Hebden Bridge Trades Club in October.

A total of £170 was collected at these two public meetings towards the **St Augustine Centre's work in helping refugees.**

We have developed a good relationship with **Calderdale Green New Deal**, providing an all-important trades union perspective to several of their meetings and events. We helped arrange for Bakers Union (BAFU) general

secretary Sarah Woolley to speak at their online ***Building a Better Future for Calderdale*** event in February and arranged for Dave Semple, PCS Climate and Environment Committee and National Executive, to speak remotely at the ***Green Jobs for All in Calderdale*** event outside Craig Whittaker MP's office in Brighouse in April. Kevin Stannard as chair of Calderdale Trades Council spoke at October's ***Rescuing The Green New Deal*** event with Alan Simpson. We plan to approach employers who have worked with Calderdale Green New Deal, to positively encourage their employees and workers to be trade union members and work towards Living Wage Foundation registration.

Calderdale Trades Council was amongst 24 community groups and businesses that wrote to all candidates standing for Calderdale Council in the local elections on May 6th urging them to **pledge support for Climate action.**

The Trades Council passed the COP26 coalition's model motion and played a key role in co-organising, with South Pennine COP26, a coach to the **COP 26 national demonstration in Glasgow.**

Trades Council members took our banner to the **Batley and Spen by-election anti-fascist protest in June**, the **NHS Day of Action at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary** in July, to a rally organised by Halifax Friends of Palestine in

August and to lobbies in support of Paul Holmes of Kirklees Unison. We also took part in the People's Assembly's ***Protest the Tory Party Conference*** demonstration in Manchester in October. Two leading members of the PCS Samba Band are delegates to Calderdale Trades Council and the band has often played at protests supported by the Trades Council. PCS Samba band led both the People's Assembly protest against the Tory Conference in Manchester in October and the Manchester COP26 march on 6 November. The band played at a record 25 protests in 2021, including 5 Free Palestine protests.

Calderdale Trades Council offered some financial support towards travel costs to the People's Assembly national demonstration in London in June to people who were unwaged or low waged.

Calderdale Trades Council supported the successful campaign to get **victimised union rep Louise Lewis reinstated by North Huddersfield Trust School**.

We urged West Yorkshire Combined Authority to proceed with **bus franchising** as quickly as possible and supported our local Unite Community branch's **Better Buses day of action** at Halifax Bus Station in June.

The Trades Council signed an open letter to Rishi Sunak organised by Unite Community asking him to **cancel the cut to Universal Credit**.

The Trades Council **opposed plans to privatise Channel 4** in response to the

Government's consultation. We also worked with **Artists Union England** to encourage visual artists living in Calderdale to join the union.

Pete Keal spoke at a meeting organised by Calder Valley Labour Party in July to discuss the **Sheffield Needs a Pay Rise** initiative offering a trade union perspective on the situation here in Calderdale. We hope to build a stronger relationship between the Labour Party and the local trades union movement in our area.

Our own Daniel Whittall from Calderdale NEU and Anne Magee from Unison South West Yorkshire Partnership Health have spoken at Trades Council meetings about **how Covid has affected schools and social care**.

An important role for Trades Councils is to offer solidarity and support to workers in dispute. In February, GMB official Jake O'Malley spoke about the **British Gas Fire and Rehire dispute**. In May, the Trades Council passed a motion supporting **UCU members in various disputes**. Joe Wheatley from GMB spoke about their **dispute with Airedale Hospital's wholly owned subsidiary AGH Solutions Ltd** in July. This was successfully resolved shortly afterwards. Unite official Ross Quinn updated our September meeting about ongoing issues at **Rolls Royce, Barnoldswick**. In October, Imran Akram told us about **Unite's 21 biomedical scientist members at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust** striking to press management to implement a regrading agreement.

Solidarity and affiliations

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

During the year, we made donations to Hands off HRI, Hebden Bridge Tradespace building appeal, GMB British Gas strike fund, Go North West Strike Fund, People's Assembly, UCU Fighting Fund, Calderdale Green New Deal, Unite NW 46 branch - East Lancashire Hospitals Trust strike fund and to the Clarks Fire and Rehire strike fund.

We have affiliated to Calderdale Valley of Sanctuary, CND, Cuba Solidarity Campaign, Friends of Durham Miners' Gala, Health Campaigns Together, National Shop Stewards Network, People's Assembly, Shrewsbury 24 Campaign, Stand Up to Racism, Yorkshire and the Humber Pensioners' Convention and Yorkshire Youth Fight for Jobs.

Looking ahead

It is essential that we elect a full complement of officers including a secretary at our 2021 AGM. We need to encourage more TU branch affiliations and greater participation in the Trades Council's activities. We need to establish a better dialogue between the Trades Council's officers

and our affiliated branches. Being able to carry out more outreach work is very much what is needed to build the Trades Council further.

Covid has meant there have been no May Day activities in Calderdale for the last two years. It is hoped to run a May Day programme in 2022.

Kevin Stannard, chair

Officers 2020-2021

Chair: Kevin Stannard, Unite Not4Profit E403/15

Vice-Chair: Anne Magee, Unison South West Yorkshire Partnership Health

Secretary: vacant

Assistant Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Pete Keal, Equity Leeds & Region General

E-mail: info@calderdaletuc.org.uk

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

Twitter: @calderdaletuc

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

Affiliated branches 2020-2021

BFAWU Suma
CWU Bradford & District Amalgamated
CWU Manchester Combined
CWU North West No. 1
CWU West Yorkshire
Equity Leeds & Region General
FBU Calderdale Division
GMB B05 Organising (formerly Brighthouse General)
NASUWT Calderdale
NEU Calderdale
NUJ Leeds & Wakefield
PCS ARMS Yorks and Humber
UCU University of Huddersfield

UNISON Bradford Calderdale and Huddersfield Health
UNISON Calderdale
UNISON South West Yorkshire Partnership Health
Unite Community Halifax & Calder Valley
Unite Leeds Geographic NE/GEO/12
Unite Marshalls NE/404/8
Unite Nestlé
Unite Not4Profit NE403/15
Unite W Yorks Retired Members
USDAW South and West Yorks Coop F007
USDAW West Yorks Private Trade F031

Calderdale Trades Council

Accounts for year 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021

£

RECEIPTS

Affiliation fees	567.36
Donations	2,540.00
TUC grants	0.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS	£3,107.36

PAYMENTS

Great Strike plaque	447.60
Campaign support	444.00
Publicity and advertising	86.99
Affiliation fees, etc.	450.00
Zoom subscription	172.68
Room hire	35.00
Postage, print and stationery	3.61
Travel and subsistence	0.00
Bank charges	29.50

TOTAL PAYMENTS	£1,669.38

EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	£1,437.98
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Statement of balances at 30 September 2021

£

Balance brought forward 01.10.20	£4,315.26
Add surplus / deduct deficit for year	£1,437.98
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Net funds 30.9.18	£5,753.24
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Bank and cash balances 30.9.21	
Current account	£5,753.24
Petty cash	£0.00
	=====
Bank and cash	£5,753.24
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Kevin Stannard, chair

Pete Keal, treasurer

Auditors' Report

We have examined the Accounts, Cashbooks, 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 2021 and of the excess of Receipts over Payments for the year then ended.

Jane Rendle and Jackie Wood, auditors

Treasurer's Report

Unusually, Calderdale Trades Council's accounts for 2020-2021 show a surplus of £1,437.98. This is due to the success of the Trades Council's Great Strike Plaque appeal in response to which we received donations of £2,385.00. If we had not received this income, the accounts would show a deficit approaching £400, taking into account the amount already spent on manufacturing the plaque and the expenses for the September public meeting.

Calderdale Trades Council is fortunate in having a reasonable balance from which we can fund our campaigning and solidarity activities.

Pete Keal, treasurer

Calderdale Trades Council wishes to thank the following for their generous donations to the Great Strike Plaque appeal: BFAWU Suma branch, CWU Bradford Amalgamated Branch, CWU West Yorkshire branch, FBU West Yorkshire, GMB B05 Organising branch, J Harvey, NEU Calderdale District, RMT Leeds City branch, TSSA North East General branch, Unite NEYH Regional Committee, Unite Nestle NE/100/10, Unite NE Sec 2 branch, Unite NE/Geo/1 (Sheffield East) branch, Unite NE/Geo/22 Huddersfield, Unite NE/5 Leeds, Unite NE/209/1, Unite NE/302/11 Arriva Yorkshire Tiger branch, UNITE NE/401/14 branch, Unite NE/403/15 Not for profit branch, UNITE NE/Y/H407/6.