



Calderdale Trades Council Annual Report 2018-2019

Overview

Once again **Calderdale Trades Council** has had a busy year, hosting another successful May Day programme, which included our highly successful **May Day rally on the urgent issue of the Climate change emergency**, plus two additional well attended public meetings throughout the year. With the knowledge that a General Election was never far away we held a public meeting with Chris **Williamson MP on 'Will the next Labour Government really repeal all the anti union laws and implement their public sector pay rise pledge?'** To mark the 35th anniversary of the miners strike we also called a public meeting on **'What would Britain look like today had they won?'** addressed by **John Dunn** ex-miner and member of the **Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign**. We have supported industrial action, protests and campaigns both local, regional and around the country. This has been on top of our regular monthly meetings.

We have been deeply saddened by the ill health, then death at just 58 on 13th December 2019, of our Chair **Mark O'Neill**, after battling cancer (extraordinarily bravely) for the second time in two years. Understandably this had taken him out of trade union activity for the past 11 months. At the same time, Deirdre O'Neill, his wife and fellow CTUC delegate, has been battling her own health problems. The Chair and Secretary (elected at our AGM in November) were at his well attended funeral in Skipton on 4th January. There was a full page obituary to Mark in the Morning Star on 20.12.19. Mark's death will leave a huge void in the lives of those who were honoured to be considered friends and comrades. He will be greatly missed. We have passed on our deepest condolences to his wife Deirdre, sons Cormac and Daragh.

The shock result of the **Brexit General Election December 2019** will, we hope, now lead to the trade union movement seriously organising mass protests against the attacks that will come, that activists will get far more involved in their local trades council work and meetings helping re-build this unity.

Protests advertised and attended

We are lucky to have two members of the **PCS Samba Band** in Calderdale TUC (Secretary and Vice Chair). The band is highly regarded within the trade union movement as the sole 'protest only' not for corporate hire Samba Band in Britain. Because of this, combined with the high level of political activity of other delegates and observers, CTUC is represented at far more protests and demonstrations than probably any other trades union council, a record we should be rightly proud of!

Saturday 12th January 2019 RMT anti fascist solidarity picket. Vice Chair and Secretary via the PCS samba band attended this and played until 9.30 am. 200 – 300 were there against previous fascist intimidation of the RMT picket at Manchester Victoria rail station. Pete Lazenby was also there.

UN Anti Racism Day Saturday 16th March 2019 London. Pete Keal had taken our CTUC Banner and found someone to help carry it. The PCS Samba band played on this annual event as usual.

Save our NHS March LEEDS Saturday 30th March 2019. Pete and Helen Roberts had taken our CTUC Banner. The PCS Samba band (incl Vice Chair and Secretary) once again were asked to lead the march - which made ITV Calender news.

May Day March

Vice Chair and Secretary, as part of the PCS Samba band were invited to play on **Chesterfield's** May Day Monday 6th May. Amongst the speakers were PCS General Secretary Mark Serwotka and Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell. Also the rally was addressed by the UCUs first black Vice President and Julia Felmanus Brazilian Workers Party.

March for Palestine Saturday 11th May London

The Friends of Palestine Halifax provided a mini bus taking 14 people down and appealed for donations. Agreed we donate £25.. They were present with their banner. The PCS Samba band went on this and were the only samba band there and were very well received by the marchers. CTUC was also represented by Kevin Stannard and Jenny Lynn. Trade union banners seemed absent with the possibility this might have been due to fears of being accused of anti Semitism. Some Labour Party branches were present with their banners. Estimates of 10,000 would make this bigger than expected.

With Banners Held High – Wakefield Saturday 18th May

The CTUC banner wasn't able to be taken there. The PCS Samba band was there (includes Vice Chair and Secretary) and 3 other CTUC delegates/observers were also present (John Dunn of Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, Jackie Woods and Kevin Stannard).

Protest against President Trump's State Visit London 3-5 June (Manchester Monday 3rd June)

Protests were being organised on what were working days for most people. CTUC Vice Chair and Secretary attended the Manchester event 6pm Cathedral Gardens via the PCS Samba band.

Saturday 15th June Miners' Strike - 35th Anniversary Annual Orgreave Rally

Organised by Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign.

Speakers included **John Dunn** *Former Miner and Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign*.

CTUC were also represented by the PCS Samba band, Chris Preston and David McGarry.

WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY CALDERDALE ROYAL HOSPITAL NHS Rally

Addressed by **John Dunn** and organised by members of Halifax Labour Party. Rally outside with speakers. **Secretary D Vincent** present with PCS flag and 2 other CTUC members.

25 present, lots of cars tooting their support.

Peterloo 200th Anniversary 1819 – 2019 Sunday 18th August 2019

The PCS Samba band led the largest leg of 10 (Oxford Road march Whitworth park). Vice Chair and Secretary were in the PCS Samba band and 2 other CTUC members were present.

TV Licences over 75s Friday 6th September in Leeds

Pete Keal reported that the **NUJ and Equity** had submitted a motion opposing the imposition of fees on over 75s to the TUC YH Executive. Pete had attended the protest. There were about 100 attendees present.

TORY CONFERENCE PROTEST SUNDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER MCR

Organised by the People's Assembly. The PCS samba band led the whole march. There were pre and post march speeches/entertainment. A coach was going from Halifax via Hebden Bridge. Secretary advertised out and offered up to £100 to the organiser towards the cost of tickets. 3 CTUC members also attended.

CLIMATE STRIKE LEEDS. FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER There was a rally then a march through the city centre at 12 noon. The TUC called on trade union members who could attend to do so showing solidarity with school students. Vice Chair, Secretary and Rowena and a new member of the PCS Samba band were there with their drums and went down really well for just 3 drummers – marching in the PCS contingent.

Another CTUC member reported attending a rally in Hebden Bridge that saw about 70 adults and schoolchildren there who then did a march to the railway station with their own hand made placards.

GMB ASDA DISPUTE RALLY AND MARCH WED 16 OCTOBER LEEDS

The Vice Chair and Secretary attended this as members of the PCS Samba band who played to the crowd before the speeches then on the march. This was a National GMB mobilisation with attendees from Edinburgh down to London. This made national and local TV news coverage.



CALDERDALE MAY DAY 2019



Calderdale Trades Council hosted its third week long May Day programme. There were **film showings** organised by Pete Keal:-

Complicit Square Chapel Halifax.

Peterloo 1819 HB Picture House with approx. 50 in attendance. A three person panel were there to answer questions about the film and it's theme.

Square Chapel 'Britain on Film Protest!'

We held a highly successful **May Day Rally** at **Hebden Bridge Trades Club** on **'Climate Change Emergency'** with

about 35 in attendance. The panel were **Jackie Green**, Chair of the PCS NEC Climate Change and Environment Committee speaking on the solutions that trade unions are advocating to the climate crisis and the PCS 'Just Transition' campaign for good, unionised, sustainable jobs for current and future workers; **Helen Chuntso**, local climate change and anti fracking campaigner plus an **Extinction Rebellion** speaker and 2 school students who had participated in the **Youth Strike for Climate** walkouts. There were reports of a tension between the accountability and funding of Extinction Rebellion and the range of direct action being taken which can be problematic -and whether



any party can be trusted to deliver their pledges on tackling this subject. The contributions from the speakers and audience alike were both engaging and inspiring. The afternoon rally was followed in the evening by a well attended and energetic **Love Music Hate Racism—Revolution Reggae music night with DJ Sambaman** – (our very own CTUC Secretary, Dave Vincent).

Meetings

PCS National Pay Ballot (full council meeting April 2019)

Tony Walsh PCS Y&H office was present, as invited to report on the PCS National Ballot on pay which closed on 29.4.19 and explained why PCS were claiming a 10% pay rise and a return to National Collective Pay Bargaining.

Hands off Huddersfield Royal Infirmary CTUC (full council meeting May 2019)

Mike Forster from Hands Off HRI (Huddersfield Royal Infirmary) Campaign – addressed the meeting Their campaign group regularly sees 40 – 50 people at meetings and they have 48k followers on facebook. It takes an immense amount of work to take on bodies who get public funding for their stances.

The June full council meeting saw two separate speakers: **Catherine Holden from the Bradford College UCU dispute** updated us on their latest situation. There were 131 planned redundancies, lots of staff are applying for VR, they have taken 10 days strike action so far their ballot saw a 59% turnout and over 80% for strike action. We've previously donated to this dispute.

Tony Pearson – addressed the meeting on the **strike action being taken by Unison Bradford Health Branch** concerning proposed privatisations by Bradford Teaching Hospital NHS Trust. Membership has risen substantially and two weeks of action being taken. The meeting agreed we make a donation of £50 to their strike fund.

CTUC Public meeting ‘35 years since the miners strike – what would Britain look like today had they won?’ Wednesday 5th June, Maurice Jagger Centre Halifax.

Speakers: **John Dunn** ex-miner and Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, **Joan Heath** - involved locally with Women Against Pit Closures, **Pete Lazenby** then of the Yorkshire Post. 20 attendees, superb inspirational meeting.



Chris Williamson MP SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER HEBDEN BRIDGE TRADES CLUB

Chris Williamson MP addressed the CTUC public meeting on ‘Will the next Labour Government really repeal the anti union laws and implement their public sector pay rise pledge?’ Over 35 attendees with a group photo afterwards expressing solidarity with Chris Williamson.



Campaigns and solidarity

Our Vice Chair promoted **Heart Unions Week** with a stall at her **PCS MOJ Greater Manchester Branch AGM**.

Halifax Labour Party Public meeting ‘Trade Unions Who Needs Them?’ held on Wed 13th March Queens Rd Neighbourhood centre. CTUC attendance and stall.

‘Rouse Ye Women’ production Women Chainmaker’s Strike another showing at The Square Chapel Halifax Saturday 23rd March. CTUC attendance and stall.

1842 Great Strike Plaque Halifax

There has now been a design agreed by CTUC who had liaised with Mark Metcalf over our preferred design. It was also subsequently agreed to revise the wording to the effect that not all those killed were residents of Halifax. The quote for the plaque was £390 incl vat and £195 for installation. Listed building consent will be required and funds will need to now be raised.

FILM SHOWING 'SOLIDARITY' SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER HEBDEN BRIDGE PICTURE HOUSE

The Q&A panel comprised Pete Lazenby NUJ and CTUC, the producer and director and a blacklisted worker. Four other CTUC delegates attended and two contributed to the discussion.

HANDS OFF HRI PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING Tuesday 15th October about Huddersfield Vascular Services currently provided by Leeds General Infirmary, Bradford Royal Infirmary and HRI with the proposal they no longer be delivered by HRI. This was well attended.

Film ' Under the Knife' NHS, Halifax 16.10.19

Shown at the Square Chapel Arts Centre Halifax.

There were between 25 – 40 present. Colin Hutchinson and Jenny Shepherd were the panel for the Q&A session after the 90 min film. CTUC attended with a stall.

International Workers Memorial Day Sunday 28th April 2019

A leaflet had been produced which was also in our May Day Programme. The event in Halifax featured a commemoration, a wreath laying and a reading at 1pm outside Halifax Central Library. Advertised to contacts. 10 attended. Also film 'Complicit' shown later at another venue.

The Morning Star Fund Raiser Sunday 16th June 2019 Hebden Bridge Trades Club

The flyer for this was e-mailed to contacts on the 12th June. On the day, **Joe Solo** performer and a play about Peterloo 1819 were the main attractions.

Our CTUC had provided 6 attendees to this which was about 25% of those present.

Solidarity with striking Prospect and Unite, museums, galleries and Libraries workers

Unite planned action strikes on 21/22 October, 5- 7 November, 18 – 21 November, 2-6 December Bradford. Unite ballot 77% for strike action 94% for action short of strike.

Prospect strike 23 October Bradford and York museums. Pete attended.

McDonalds 'Solidarity with London Strikers' Day Tuesday 12th November Halifax

Secretary plus 2 CTUC delegates and a colleague from Rochdale set up a table, megaphone and handed out hundreds of leaflets explaining the strike action in London and what they are demanding. Good response from the public and petition being signed on a very cold day.

Affiliations

The People's Assembly 2019, Venezuela Solidarity Campaign,
Health Campaigns Together 2019, Y&H Pensioners Convention, Hands off HRI, Unite Against Fascism,
West Yorkshire County Association TUC

Donations

Bradford UCU £25, Unison Bradford Health £50, Tolpuddle Radical Film Festival £25, With Banners
Held High Wakefield £50, Unison Birmingham Care workers Hardship fund £50, RMT Northern Rail
strike fund £50, Wapping Film Appeal £25
March for Palestine 11.5.19 London £25 to Halifax Friends of Palestine towards coach seat.

Looking ahead

The Tories won the Brexit General Election 2019 with an 80 seat majority so there will be no let up now for Trades Councils continuing their work of campaigning and providing solidarity over the coming years. This was the Brexit Election regardless of some commentators trying to make it all about Corbyn. Mark Serwotka appeared on BBC Newsnight on Wednesday 18th December and agreed that the Labour Party, the TUC and the majority of trade unions had been wrong to backtrack on Labour's 2017 manifesto pledge to abide by the 2016 referendum decision and call for a second referendum. We have arranged a speaker from **Labour for PR** at this year's AGM and will be hosting a public meeting on this topic early in 2020. Calderdale is a hard area to promote our activities, with the decline of industries and lack of large unionised sites. We will concentrate on getting more union branches affiliated and more delegates attending our monthly full council meetings. There has been far more support for Labour Party activity than for union activity. This must change now. In order to strengthen our movement we have to grow our numbers. If you are a contact or observer to CTUC ask your union branch to affiliate to us and become a delegate. Keep an eye out for our activity and keep in touch with us and get in contact if you would like to get more involved.

E-mail: info@calderdaletuc.org.uk

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

Twitter: @calderdaletuc

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

David Vincent, Secretary

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2018 – 2019

Chair:	Mark O'Neill, Calderdale UNISON
Vice Chair:	Rowena Fehilly, PCS MOJ Greater Manchester Branch
Secretary:	David Vincent, Unite Community and PCS ARMs Y&H Region
Treasurer:	Russell Dawson, Calderdale NEU, NUT Section

Treasurer's report

Calderdale Trades Council Accounts to 30 September 2019 show that we spent £184.77 more than we received in income. This compares with a deficit of £1049.49 in the previous financial year.

We are fortunate that currently the Trades Council had assets that it can use to support campaigns and struggles and we have succeeded in reducing the rapid depletion of previous years. In the coming year we will address the issue of increasing our income then we will be in a position to increase our campaigning work and raise the profile of Calderdale Trades Council and the trade union movement in Calderdale.

Russell Dawson, treasurer

Calderdale Trades Council

Accounts for year 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019

Affiliation fees	189.44
Donations	480.74
TUC grants	300.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS	970.18
PAYMENTS	
Postage, print & stationery	0.00
Travel and subsistence	0.00
Room hire	104.50
Publicity and advertising	150.05
Campaign support	300.00
Affiliation fees etc.	245.00
May Day	328.30
Bank charges	27.10

TOTAL PAYMENTS	1,154.95
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS (184.77)	=====
Add Balances B/F	4,341.59

	4,156.82

Statement of balances at 30 September 2019

£

Brought forward 01.10.18	£4,341.59
Add surplus / deduct deficit for year	(£184.77)
	=====
Net funds 30.09.19	£4,156.82
	=====
Bank and cash balances 30.09.19	
Current account	£4,148.56
Petty cash	£8.26
	=====
Bank and cash	£4,156.82
	=====

Dave Vincent, secretary

Russell Dawson, treasurer

Auditors' report -

I have examined the accounts, cashbooks, cheque and paying in books, bank statements, invoices, receipts and other financial documents of Calderdale Trades Council. In my opinion the accounts and statement of balances give a true and fair view of Calderdale Trades Council's finances as at 30 September 2019 and of the excess of payments over receipts for the year then ended.

Kevin Stannard, auditor.

AFFILIATED UNION BRANCHES 2018-2019

BFAWU Suma	UNISON Bradford Health
CWU Bradford & District Amalgamated	UNISON Calderdale
CWU Manchester Combined	UNISON Kirklees
CWU North West No. 1	UNISON South West Yorkshire Partnership Health
CWU West Yorkshire	Unite Community Halifax & Calder Valley
Equity Leeds & Region General	Unite Marshalls NE/404/8
FBU Calderdale Division	Unite Nestle
GMB Brighouse General	Unite NE/209/1
NEU Calderdale NUT section	Unite W Yorks Retired Members
PCS ARMS Yorks and Humber	USDAW Leeds Private Trade
PCS MOJ Greater Manchester	
UCU University of Huddersfield	

Forthcoming events

Watch out for local details of the next Climate Strike day – Friday 29th November midday – school students and trade union solidarity!



Climate Jobs



UN Anti Racism Day Saturday 21st March 2020, London

With Banners Held High, Wakefield Saturday 16th May 2020



Yorks & Humber Regional TUC AGM Sat 4th & Sun 5th April 2020 Hull