



Calderdale Trades Council Annual Report 2019-2020

Overview

The Covid 19 pandemic has claimed 53,000 lives across Britain to date and we are, in November, back in lockdown. The trade union movement has responsibly cancelled their May Day marches, their Conferences, their protests whilst local TUCs and other bodies have had to move to the zoom facility to hold their monthly meetings.

Jeremy Corbyn continues to face an unremittingly hostile establishment and mass media – from his initial candidature through two elections and then their defeats.

Trade unionists have always had a hostile press! The BLM and climate change movements have enjoyed significant support from young people that the TU movement, largely invisible on our streets and in National strikes has missed.

The working class - largely ignored by politicians , the TUC, and the Labour Party— 93% of whose MPs now come from middle class backgrounds, and of whom a Blairite leader is now in place, may turn to the right if the left cannot get its act together and start putting class interests and unity of those interests above the competing claims based on identity.

Our Chair Rowena Fehilly is about to retire, our Secretary David Vincent has been retired since November 2018, both have run Calderdale TUC for two years. Both will continue activity in PCS retired members section and the PCS Union samba band for the many post lockdown protests to come.

Our Treasurer Russell Dawson is also stepping down and we thank him for looking after our accounts and payments.

It is time for younger activists based in the workplace, to now step up and take Calderdale TUC into 2021 and beyond - and for the TU movement to start attracting youth into the movement – not watching the recent social movements from the sidelines.

Protests advertised and attended—and those held online or cancelled

We are lucky to have two members of the **PCS Samba Band** in Calderdale TUC (Secretary and 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 many protests and demonstrations, a record we should be rightly proud of!

Youth Strike4Climate Manchester Friday 14th February 2020

A noon day gathering of mainly young school students with placards marching from Peter's Square with the Chair and



Secretary playing in the PCS Samba band in support.

International Women's Day Event Saturday 7th March 2020 Manchester City Centre

A women's walk/march (men who support women were welcome) commenced from Cathedral Gardens Victoria Street and marched to St Peter's Square for

the rally, speakers and other events. The Secretary and Chair played with the PCS Union Samba band on this. Organised by Manchester City Council



UN Anti Racism Day Saturday 21st March 2020 London. The PCS Samba band (over 19 players were ready for this) had booked train tickets down to London to play on this annual event as usual but it was cancelled due to Covid-19.

International Workers Memorial Day 28th April 2020. Due to Covid-19 our annual event for IWMD was hosted online. Speakers included John Dunn from Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign, Rob Williams from the National Shops Stewards Network and Tracy Edwards from the PCS union. We observed the national one minute silence at 11am for the 21,678 people who had died to April of Covid-19 a good number of those being NHS workers and Doctors and Care Workers whose daily job put them in the frontline at high risk. To the date of the report 18.11.20 there are now over 53,000

deaths attributed to Covid 19. We feel that commemorating these deaths should become a regular part of Workers Memorial Day in future as a massive example of how complacent or incompetent actions by Government and employers cause needless deaths.

May Day

The Chair and Secretary, as part of the PCS Samba band were invited to play on Chesterfield's May Day event again but this was cancelled due to Covid-19. CTUC had been asked to promote a screening of the film **Solidarity** in Elland, organized by the **BFAWU** on Friday 1st May but this was cancelled due to Covid-19

With Banners Held High Saturday 16th May 2020. Chair and Secretary were due to play on this again with the PCS Samba Band but it was cancelled due to Covid-19

Virtual Orgreave Rally Saturday 20th June. Due to Covid-19 the annual Orgreave Rally was hosted online and Chair and Secretary were honoured to be invited to send our solidarity from the PCS Samba Band with a short video clip shown during the online Rally

Save our NHS March Leeds Saturday 27th June 2020. The PCS Samba band (including Chair and Secretary) once again were asked to lead the march - but it was cancelled due to Covid-19

Refugees Lives Matter Protest Saturday 19th September

This was held outside Halifax Town Hall. Pete Keal had the agreement of the September CTUC to take the CTUC banner there. Pete and Jackie had attended, about 30 people there.



CTUC Meetings

The January CTUC held a one minute silence for former Chair **Mark O'Neill** whose funeral was held on 4 January 2020 in Skipton. Chair Rowena and Secretary David attended.

Due to Lockdown our monthly in person meetings were cancelled from March to date, with the last in person meeting taking place in February 2020.

Our first zoom meeting was held on Thurs 14th May then Thursday 28th May , 11th June, 18th June, 23rd July - these were mainly to discuss the impact of covid19, but the July meeting also had speakers Hazel and Graham from the **Calderdale Green New Deal Hub**. We then widened the issues and started keeping minutes again for our monthly meetings held on 17th September 20th with speaker Ann Brown on **Domestic Violence**, 22nd October with speakers Rashida Islam from **Calderdale Stand Up to Racism** and Joelle McNichol from **Calderdale Against Racism** and our AGM held 19th Nov with a speaker from **Yorkshire Youth Fight For Jobs**.

Campaigns and solidarity

Our Chair promoted **Heart Unions Week** with a stall at her **PCS MOJ Greater Manchester Branch AGM** in February 2020.

Stop the War Public Meeting ‘US UK and China – into a dangerous new cold war’. Held on 15th August 2020 by zoom. Secretary attended, wrote up his report back of the discussions and sent it to CTUC recipients. Event was advertised by Manchester TUC.

Covid 19 Impact - Redundancies in the Retail Sector

In October 2020 we agreed a motion from Unite NE/403/15 Branch the main points being that:-

Retail is one of the sectors hit worst by the current crisis, with a huge increase in redundancies across the sector.

Around 20,000 retail workers had lost their jobs prior to the Covid lockdown measures being put in place, whilst around 40,000 have lost jobs since,

Many retail workers are already very insecure prior to this crisis, with widespread use of short hour contracts, with many working for or just above minimum wage levels.

Calling on the CTUC to:-

-Oppose retail redundancies and support campaigns organised by retail workers and their unions to protect jobs.

-Fight for secure jobs, with a minimum wage of at least £12 an hour and guaranteed minimum contracts of at least 16 hours a week, with full time employment for those who want it.

-For a long-term industrial strategy for the retail sector.

COVID ACTIONS BY THE NEU

We had a report from our NEU delegate of the heavy workload union reps now have as the NEU have moved from a policy of opposing the re-opening of schools to then working to ensure they are safe enough to work in. NEU reps worked flat out during the summer holidays conducting risk assessments. With the return to schools some are already being closed again due to covid infections.

Covid Self Isolation Payments – BBC Newsnight Appeal

Late November 2020 the BBC Newsnight producer based in Salford Quays got in touch wishing to know of anyone we know who had to self isolate who applied for 500 pounds and didn't get it, or who did get it and finds it is not enough to manage on. We sent her contact details to our 70 recipients in the hope some contacts were affected themselves by this or know someone who was.

Media North Conference Saturday 8th February 2020

Leeds Art Gallery 11am – 5pm 'It's the Media, Stupid!

There were a lot of Labour commentators blaming the media for the public antipathy towards Jeremy Corbyn. This conference had a number of guest speakers and sessions covering media reform. Our Secretary attended and did a written report back circulated to contacts.

UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME LEEDS CIVIC HALL THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY 2020

The Secretary attended and did a written report back. Copies circulated to contacts. The main point is that trade unions were not referred to at all by any of the speakers – a point made by the Secretary to that audience.

This raised the question of who sets the amount of UBI, the impact of it on the existence of trade unions (people not working, paid UBI will not need to be in a union) and which organisations, if any, will organise atomised isolated individuals to protest if it is later cut due to claimed economic necessity?

1842 Great Strike Plaque Halifax

During the year, Listed Building Consent was obtained from Calderdale Council for erecting the Great Strike plaque on North Bridge, Halifax. Pete Keal led a fund raising campaign to cover the costs of making and installing the plaque and for holding a plaque unveiling event. At the time of this Annual Report, over £1,900 had been pledged and further donations were expected. The plaque has now been ordered from the manufacturer. We intend to put the plaque up in Spring 2021 and (Covid-19 permitting) wish to organise a physical unveiling involving trades union activists and school students.

Calderdale Trades Council would like to thank BFAWU Suma branch, CWU Bradford Amalgamated branch, CWU West Yorkshire branch, FBU West Yorkshire, GMB B05 Organising branch, Halifax Constituency Labour Party, J Harvey, RMT Leeds City branch, TSSA North East General branch, Unite NEYH Regional Committee, Unite NE Sec 2 branch, Unite NE/Geo/1 (Sheffield East) branch, 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 branch for their generous donations towards our financial appeal.



PCS Tate Gallery strike against redundancies.

September CTUC meeting agreed to donate 50 pounds towards their strike hardship fund.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Saturday 14th March 2020 in Leeds 'How Can Trade Unions Meet The Challenge Of Climate Emergency?

Leeds TUC were to host a planning meeting of the national organisation Campaign Against Climate Change Trade Union Group (CACC TU) but then we had the Covid lockdown restrictions.

Calderdale Green New Deal Hub

After their address to our July zoom meeting our Secretary sent their contact and Facebook details to all recipients

Queensbury Tunnel – Campaign to object to the proposal to fill it in

On 24th August 2020 we sent in our 9 page list of objections to the proposal to fill it in to Bradford Council citing parts of their own stated green policies of their commitments to incorporate green considerations into planning matters.

Campaigning Against Racism

Stand Up to Racism's on line event '**Unite for a Better World**' was held on Saturday 31st October, by facebook with a number of guest speakers. The Secretary e-mailed the advert to CTUC contacts.

Black Lives Matter

We carried a motion from [Unite NE/403/15 Branch](#) calling on Calderdale TUC to "affirm its full support of the Black Lives Matter movement in opposing police brutality, racism and discrimination and in particular in drawing attention to institutional racism and inequality in society". It called on us to organise addresses from:-

Calderdale Stand Up to Racism and **Calderdale Against Racism** both new organisations in Calderdale.

Calderdale Stand Up to Racism (**Rashida Islam**) and Calderdale Against Racism (**Joelle McNichol**) addressed our October 2020 meeting. Both organisations were set up this year in the wake of the BLM movement. CAR sees its role as mainly educational, CSUTR have a wider remit but both organisations will work together where they can on protests and other common actions.

The CTUC signed up to Calderdale SUTRs founding statement.

Looking ahead

Electoral Reform

There remains an offer from Labour4PR to address a future CTUC public meeting.

Former CWU General Secretary Billy Hayes addressed our November 2019 AGM and given the Brexit General Election 2019 more people than ever will campaign for PR. At the same time many are still against PR.

Our CTUC February 2020 meeting suggested we invite Labour4PR again (with John Dunn to speak against PR to be approached for a balanced discussion).

We had agreed to make this a public meeting in June 2020 at a weekend afternoon event, ideally at the Trades Club – but then Covid lockdown came in prohibiting public meetings which is still in place now – November 2020, and likely to continue into 2021.

Despite a huge increase in the workforce in recent years trade union membership continues to decline. Zero hours contracts and the gig economy are major factors as is the push to encourage millions of workers to be classed as self employed. PCS has continued to try and get united action by unions across the public sector against austerity cuts, against constant public sector pay freezes to no avail despite successive TUC Congresses agreeing policies of united action. The Labour Party has now chosen a Blairite as leader. Many unions are affiliated to the Labour Party and continue to place Labour's electoral prospects above organising the unionised working class to fight now.

Nigel Farage is aiming to rename and re-invigorate the Brexit Party and if unions and the left continue to fail to organise and unite the working class to fight to improve their lives and to resist the Tories attempts to make workers pay for the furlough measures—then support for the far right will grow very quickly. Regarding Brexit, workers face attacks in or out of the EU and the TUC should have recognised that and stayed neutral, as PCS were.

Trade Union Movement March Through Halifax

We wanted to organise unions and campaigning groups to have a march across Halifax to show a rare trade union presence on a suitable issue. Covid lockdown from March to date—and set to continue to March 2021, prevented this being organised. We should pursue such a march when public gatherings are allowed again.

E-mail: info@calderdaletuc.org.uk

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

Twitter: [@calderdaletuc](https://twitter.com/calderdaletuc)

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

David Vincent, Secretary

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2019 – 2020

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 for the year ending 30 September 2020

For the first time in many years this financial year experienced a slight surplus of income over expenditure. Unsurprisingly, both income and expenditure were considerably lower than in previous years due to the Covid pandemic. Calderdale Trades Council continued to meet via Zoom but for most of the year there was no campaigning and far fewer requests for donations as other labour and trade union bodies were less active. This is beginning to change as there is a flurry of industrial action and so I would expect expenditure to increase in the coming months. Consequently, we will need to increase fundraising if we are to maintain a healthy balance sheet.

Russell Dawson, treasurer 2019-20

Calderdale Trades Council

Accounts for year 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020

Affiliation fees	230.00
Donations	385.00
TUC grants	300.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS	£615.00
PAYMENTS	
Postage, print & stationery	55.47
Travel and subsistence	27.25
Room hire	132.00
Zoom subscription	57.56
Publicity and advertising	65.98
Campaign support	50.00
Affiliation fees etc.	40.00
Bank charges	28.30

TOTAL PAYMENTS	£456.56
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	£158.44
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Statement of balances at 30 September 2020

£

Brought forward 01.10.19	£4,156.82
Add surplus / deduct deficit for year	£158.44
	=====
Net funds 30.09.20	£4,315.26
	=====

Bank and cash balances 30.09.20

Current account	£4,307.00
Petty cash	£8.26
	=====
Bank and cash	£4,315.26
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Dave Vincent, secretary

Russell Dawson, treasurer

Auditors' report 2020-

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 2020 and of the excess of Receipts over Payments for the year then ended.

Jane Rendle and Jackie Wood, Auditors

AFFILIATED UNION BRANCHES 2019-2020

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 Brighouse General
NEU Calderdale NUT section
NUJ Leeds & Wakefield
PCS ARMS Yorks and Humber
PCS MOJ Greater Manchester
UCU University of Huddersfield

UNISON Bradford Health
UNISON Calderdale
UNISON Kirklees
UNISON South West Yorkshire Partnership Health
Unite Community Halifax & Calder Valley
Unite Marshalls NE/404/8
Unite Nestle NE/100/10
Unite NE/GEO/10
Unite Not4Profit NE403/15
Unite W Yorks Retired Members
USDAW Leeds Private Trade