

Branch Newsletter Summer 2018

Croydon UNISON

**Message from Yvonne Green,
Branch Secretary**



On the 22nd February the **Branch AGM** took place at the Croydon Conference Centre. Despite our request for members to attend as it was essential that we had a quorum to vote through issues arising, attendance was disappointingly low.

The **council elections** on the 3rd May resulted in an increased majority for the Labour Party in Croydon. There are now 41 Labour councillors, with Conservatives going down to 29.

On Saturday 12th May there was a **Step Up for Public Services March** organised by the TUC which a number of committee members attended including our Chairman Kai Pokawa and Sonia Miller.

With regard to the **Pay consultation** the 2% Pay offer was accepted by UNISON. However, lower paid workers under salary scale 21 would get increases up to 15%. Pay increases for most council staff were processed in May with a back payment for April. There had been a postal vote to local members by the branch costing £1,400 however only 62 forms were returned, 18 rejecting the offer and 44 accepting the offer. This was despite a stamp addressed envelope being provided as well.

Due to increasing postal charges it is important that the branch has up to date email addresses for all its members as such ballots can be done by email. If you received a letter in the post but have an email address please send details to branchoffice@croydonunison.co.uk

I have been busy attending conferences - these included in January the Black Members Conference, followed in February by the Women's Conference where the 100th Anniversary of women getting the vote was celebrated. Dr Helen Pankurst, great-gran daughter of Emmeline Pankhurst attended.

In June the **Local Government Conference** took place followed by the **National Delegates Conference** at Brighton Conference Centre. At the **National Delegates Conference** it was agreed by delegates that UNISON must fight for a "**workers Brexit**" to ensure that hard-won human and worker's rights are not lost when the UK leaves Europe. The young members forum chair Kendal Bromley-Bowes told delegates that according to research that if a person doesn't join a union by the time they are 25, they are much less likely to join one later in life. She introduced a motion to make 2019 the year of the young workers.

**25th Anniversary of
UNISON.**

In 1993 UNISON was formed when NALGO and two other public sector unions NUPE and COHSE combined together. UNISON celebrated its 25th Anniversary this year.



In January, the libraries came back in-house after the collapse of Carillion who had been running them since October 2013. Various department organisations have taken place since the beginning of the year including Housing and Finance.

In May, Isa Makumbi retired after working over 20 years for the council. He was a UNISON Rep and will be missed by fellow members for all his enthusiastic support and his valued contribution to the branch over the years. More recently he had been involved with dealing with changes in the Housing section. With his departure **we are in urgent need of new Reps so please contact us if you are interested, full training will be provided.**

On the 13th July I attended an **anti-Trump Demonstration** in London with fellow UNISON members.

A large baby Trump balloon was launched at Parliament Square. Nearly 250,000 people marched against Trump's visit.

Later, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn addressed crowds at a rally in Trafalgar Square and was received with enthusiasm. While activists were making their feelings known in central London, the President was meeting with Theresa May at Chequers for talks on trade, Brexit and Nato. He later took tea with the Queen at Windsor Castle.



Memorial to Malcolm Campbell



In July there was a presentation of a plaque at Ruskin House in memory of Malcolm Campbell. He was a previous Branch Secretary of Croydon UNISON and also President of the Croydon TUC. He was Branch Secretary for ten years until his death in 2009.

Malcolm joined Croydon Council as a social worker and worked for the council for 27 years and had always been an active trade unionist in the branch, starting out as a NALGO Steward in Social Services. UNISON being formed in 1993 when NALGO and two other public sector unions NUPE and COHSE combined together. UNISON celebrated its 25th Anniversary this year.

The presentation was organised by Laurie Pocock, the previous Branch Secretary (3rd from left). Yvonne Green, the current Branch Secretary also attended. (Pictured centre below) They were also joined by a number of Malcolm's colleagues in particular Karen Eades and Glenda Burgess, former branch officers who joined everyone in paying a warm tribute to Malcolm who is very much missed by all.



Recruitment

There has been an on-going recruitment drive during the year to enrol new members. The branch is also needing new Stewards. Events have been held at the Croydon Clocktower and at the BWH Deli. We have reps covering People, Places and Resources in BWH. It is important to have union representation when restructures and possible redundancies occur in the workplace. However, please give us as much notice as possible when requesting help to give us time to respond especially if you need someone to attend with you at a meeting.



70th Anniversary of the NHS



Croydon Unison ran a stall in Queens Gardens on the 5th July, **the 70th Anniversary of the NHS**. There was a steel band. The borough of Croydon has a number of UNISON NHS members including those at Croydon University Hospital. The NHS was born on the 5th July 1948 after Labour came to power in 1945. When health secretary, **Aneurin Bevan**, launched the NHS at Park Hospital, it was the climax of a hugely ambitious plan to bring good healthcare to all.

A recent quote made by Dave Prentis, UNISON General Secretary “our union is so proud of our NHS, not just because we’re the largest health union in the country, but also because the National Health Service embodies our union’s values. A universal public service. Free at the point of use. With health and care as priorities – not profit”.

The Regional Council AGM took place on the 7th February 2018 at the UNISON Centre, Euston. Yvonne Green was re-elected as Convenor. The AGM was attended by the Mayor, Sadiq Khan a member of UNISON. Beverley Swain (pictured left) one of our stewards from Resources also attended.



Changes to the branch office

Due to staffing changes in the Branch Office, there will be times when it will not be possible to answer your calls or respond to your email straight away.

However, Lauren Dell is available from 10 to 2pm Monday to Friday to answer telephone or email enquiries at the branch office.

If you need advice in the workplace please contact your local Representative in the first instance. You can find a list of all our representatives and their contact numbers and their email addresses listed on our local Branch website www.croydonunison.co.uk

The Branch office does have a voice mail and this will be checked on a regular basis, so please leave a message and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.



Don't get angry - get active!

Have you ever thought about being a steward? We are always looking to welcome new Reps into the branch and this could be a role you might be interested in pursuing.

The Branch will organise full training for you, both from UNISON and the TUC as a Rep you are entitled to come off to train. We would not expect you to carry out any representations or to support your colleagues until you have carried out training.

Our most experienced Stewards and officers are also on hand to support you. Whether you work in the public or private Sector we need you! If you would like to find out more about the role, please contact the Branch Office on 020 8760 5435



Are you receiving?

If you are not receiving emails that our sent out from time to time from UNISON and the branch, please contact the Branch Office by phone or email branchoffice@croydonunison.co.uk and your details will be updated.

The UNISON Year 2018/19

August 2018

Retired Members Re-Union and AGM – Thu 30th August at 12.30pm for 1pm start in Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon.

October 2018

Retired Member's Conference: Tue 9th – Wed 10th October Bournemouth

Disabled Member's Conference: Sat 27th – Mon 29th October Brighton

November 2018

LGBT Conference: Fri 16th – Sun 18th November Harrowgate

January 2019

Black Members Conference: Fri 18th – Sun 20th January Cymru, Llandudno

February 2019

Branch AGM

Women's Conference: Thu 14th – Sat 16th February Bournemouth

June 2019

Local Government Conference:

National Delegate Conference:

Dates to be confirmed.

