

# SERTUC annual report 2014



# About the region

SERTUC, the Southern & Eastern Region of the TUC, is the largest of the TUC's regions and covers three European parliamentary constituencies: London, the South East, and East of England. Two million trades unionists live and work within the region.

The Regional Council is appointed annually by affiliates and county associations of trades councils and meets four times a year to discuss both how to achieve policy determined at the national Trades Union Congress and to make specific policies on regional issues. At its Annual General Meeting it elects officers and an Executive Committee that meets monthly.

Affiliated trade unions and county associations also nominate to SERTUC's industrial and equality subgroups who use their workplace and life experience to inform the activities of the Regional Council.

SERTUC staff administer the Regional Council, deliver services to affiliates, represent the TUC in relations with public bodies, campaign for Congress policies, and deliver learning and education to workers in the Region.

There are 11 members of staff and a full list with contact details is on page 39



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# President's foreword

David Cameron is a liar, or stupid, or both. He said that a government led by him would not fix the deficit in a way that made the poor poorer, that harmed public services, or divided Britain. Witness hundreds of thousands more people living in poverty, punishing benefit cuts, and riots on our streets. Witness the attempts to drive a wedge between benefit recipients and the rest of society, and the scape-goating of migrant workers. He said that any minister in his government who wanted to cut front line services would have to come and see him at his office. Well, there must be a long queue outside Dave's office on most days. He said that the NHS was safe in his hands and there would be no top down re-organisation. Witness the massive attack on the NHS and rampant privatisation of its services. He said that spending on health would be protected in real terms, but the UK Statistics Authority rebuked him when spending on the NHS went down. Meanwhile, the 'whole truth' is that this government plans health spending to be 9.2 per cent lower per head in 2018-19 than it was in 2010-11. Cameron said that his government has spent more on flood

defences each year, and that wasn't true either. Well, what should we expect, he used to work in PR.

Is Osborne a hero or a villain? Did his 'Plan A' save Britain? The truth is that the British economy is growing, albeit slowly, despite Osborne's austerity programme, and not because of it. Remember the growth targets missed in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13, remember that Britain's national debt is now hundreds of billions of pounds higher than he projected in 2010 and remember that the deficit will not be eliminated by 2015, as he promised. Remember that the economy is still smaller than it was in 2008, which is evidence of three (plus) wasted and painful years. And note that the growth we have is driven by increasing house prices and debt-fuelled consumer spending, not the increase in private sector investment and export drive that Osborne predicted. On the contrary, private sector investment is down and our import/export balance is a shambles. Cable and Carney agree: we have the wrong sort of growth.

Think on these facts about Cameron's Britain. We have had the biggest fall in real wages for a hundred years and a cost of living crisis. We have more than a million people on zero hours contracts. We have had ruthless cuts in the benefits paid to the most vulnerable people in our society. We now have more children who are living in poverty, resident in households where at least one person works, than in workless

households. And we have the national shame of the use of food banks increasing by 50 per cent per year, such that more than half a million people were dependent upon them last year. And contrast those facts with this: during the recession the richest 1,000 people in Britain increased their wealth by £190bn. Austerity economics are working, transferring wealth from the poorest to the wealthy, and that was always its core objective.

Should we be surprised? Are Cameron and Osborne fools? No, this is government for the rich, by the rich. Cameron and Osborne speak platitudes and nonsense, but they practice naked class politics.

We watched a world dominated by capitalism, casino banking, markets, privatisation and greed, fail. Then we were forced to pay for its redemption. And now we are told that our future depends upon even more rapacious capitalism, suppressed pay, worse employment rights and savage cuts to public services.

This is a crucial moment in history. Can the Tories persuade enough of the public to fall for their scam and bluster? Now they have the audacity to call the Conservative Party a workers' party. Well not from where I am standing it aint, and it never has been. It is the party of privilege, greed and inequality, run by posh boys who famously 'do not know the price of a bottle of milk'.

The government has inflicted defeats on us in the last year, not least the privatisation of the Royal Mail, and the massive rip-off, as the shares were sold at half their true value. And savage cuts to the fire service despite overwhelming opposition from the public.

But it is our task as trade unionists to understand where we are and how we got here, to explain to others and to educate the many, to describe an alternative world and to convince the many that it is possible to build it, and to give hope. The year that passed was tough, this year will probably be

tougher, but at this moment politics in this country are febrile and in the balance. The next general election, which will be in June 2015 at the latest, will be the most important since 1979. We have a chance to build a stronger fairer Britain, and we must have vaulting ambition, unity and a clear programme.

It is often said that politics is far too important to be left to politicians. It is true. The choice offered at the next general election must not be between austerity economics and austerity-lite economics. We need a 'can do' government with a bold programme; growth, an industrial strategy, massive infrastructure investment, fair pay, full employment, a youth jobs guarantee, tax justice and decent welfare standards, a million new low cost public sector homes, public services, stronger employment rights, an active commitment to an equalities strategy and a recognition that unions are a force for good and a force for progressive change in society. I recommend the People's Charter to all trade unionists.

Sadly, Nelson Mandela died this year, but his work was done. He was not perfect but he was a revolutionary, the father of a nation, the liberator of the South African people, black and white, and he remains a politician who is an inspiration to people across the planet. Compared to him, Cameron and Osborne are pin-pricks on history.

We should follow Mandela's example: be confident that we are right, express a clear programme based on fundamental principles, build alliances with progressive forces, educate all who will listen, organise, campaign and struggle. Above all we must have hope and we must give hope to others.

Trade unionism remains the hope of the world and it is our duty to make our future a socialist one, with trade unionism at its core.

**Martin Gould**  
*SERTUC President*

# Secretary's introduction



It's been an interesting year. "Interesting" in the nature of the (alleged, but probably untrue) Chinese curse. Certainly we are cursed by a ConDem government, but more of that elsewhere. This annual report will give you a flavour of the activities of SERTUC, affiliates and trades councils in the Region, but I begin with thanks.

Thanks firstly to our officers, **Martin Gould**, **Tony Lennon**, **Linda Perks** and **Carolyn Simpson**. Their support and contribution over the year has been invaluable.

Secondly to the thousands of trade union officers and activists in the Region who do the work that exposes the wider population to the policies developed, through our democratic structures, by the TUC and SERTUC. In the face of a largely hostile media, without them we would be a close-kept secret hidden from the public.

Thirdly to the many volunteers who have contributed to our work, making generous offers or responding to our calls for help. I must mention **John Ball** who continues to support our economic development work in the south east of the Region as well as assisting our South East Trade Union Network, our involvement in the Work and Well-being agenda, and by representing the TUC on the HSE Estates Excellence national board. **Suha Din-Abdul** who made a major administrative input in ensuring that our Reps' database was brought up to date.

**Alice Dupont** who is carrying out a number of mapping projects for us, including of food banks in the Region. **Joel Kosminsky** who

contributes his expertise on transport issues on a weekly basis, including this year preparing a briefing paper on the complexities of funding for the CrossRail project for our Canadian brothers and sisters in Toronto and by joining the TUC's Action for Rail steering group. **Dick Muskett** who has given invaluable support to our Pensioners Network at the same time as being the motor for the London Unemployed Strategies project and acting as the secretary to its management committee. **Peta Steel**, journalist and writer, who researched and wrote our publication on the Spithead and Nore mutinies. These voluntary additions to our capacity have made an enormous difference and we thank them all.

And finally, I thank the SERTUC staff. We have had a difficult year with cuts to unionlearn funding leading to loss of jobs. And this, of course, doesn't affect only those who leave us, but has a major impact on those that remain. Their commitment and (almost) continuous good humour has made all the difference in these very challenging times. In addition, Regional Council staff have also moved office within Congress House this year; an event ranked next only to divorce for stress creation!

With a general election in May 2015, the next year is vital for our two million members and we will continue to fight for a victory for working class interests.

**Megan Dobney**  
*Regional Secretary*

# SERTUC campaigns and events

## For a future that works...

In May 2013 the TUC General Council agreed a Campaign Plan, which signalled a refocusing of national and regional TUC resources towards campaigning activities. It also formalised the campaign work into five pillars, which have provided a structure for SERTUC's campaign work. These pillars are:

- Growth and quality jobs
- Fair pay for all
- Quality public services and decent welfare for all who need it
- A stronger voice in the workplace for trade unions
- Stronger unions

SERTUC publicised and attended the launch of the People's Assembly in London in June. The unity of purpose and sense of hope at the event was impressive. SERTUC actively supported the many local People's Assembly meetings subsequently organised in our region and we were a joint organiser of the Women's Assembly Against Austerity (below) in February 2014.

To provide a context for the government's austerity programme and a stimulus for hope, SERTUC organised a showing of Ken Loach's film *Spirit of '45*. The 512 seats for this event were booked within 24 hours demonstrating the hunger for inspiration and the belief in a socialist alternative.

SERTUC maintained our unity with real people on the streets and in their community. We were at the launch of the Unite Austerity bus tour in June and took our own Austerity Uncovered bus to Luton and to Reading, where we interviewed hundreds of members of the public, as well as visiting workplaces, such as GM Vauxhall Motors, a Council Waste Depot in Luton, and an NHS hospital. We visited a TUC Unemployed Workers' Centre, a food bank, we met a pensioners' Action Group and the Reading Youth Cabinet, seeking different perspectives on the impact of austerity and government cuts. In addition to gaining excellent campaign assets and building new





Campaning against austerity, *right* Kelvin Hopkins, MP for Luton North, with George Osborne...

and stronger campaign relationships we were able to judge the degree to which our campaign agenda was known and supported. Most importantly through talking to victims of austerity we were able to learn new things, or new emphases. We met a huge number of people who had been affected by the government's 'fit for work' tests and the stress it had caused them. We met an enormous number of young people who had received a benefit suspension, many thought erroneously so. We met people in Luton who had had their tenancy agreement cancelled because greedy landlords wanted to take advantage of housing benefit recipients who had been displaced from London Boroughs by benefit cuts and ceilings. When talking about the cost of living and pay, low paid workers were far more concerned about the number of hours they could secure and regular employment, rather than an increase in the national minimum wage or their hourly rate, though better pay rates would of course be welcomed too. And we learned that the whole weight of austerity was bearing down on very young people as they were confronted by a dearth of work experience and Saturday jobs. This, plus the huge cost of going to university and massive unemployment rates, meant that they felt that their parents were putting even greater pressure on them, and becoming austerity's

unwitting accomplice. And we proved that the impact of austerity is ubiquitous, as right in the heart of Reading's uber shopping district, we found legions of low-paid retail assistants and cleaners suffering the curse of zero hours contracts, minimum wage, massive increases in their cost of living and loss of local services on which they depended.

SERTUC supported trade union and trades councils' campaign for assisted area status on the Isle of Wight. To build profile and collect evidence and case-studies, we will take a mini-austerity bus around the island whilst this report is being printed. We will visit four locations, workplaces, meet politicians and speak at a public meeting. The impact of austerity economics and cuts alongside geographical marginalisation, dependence on a tourism based economy and the profiteering cost of ferry fares to the mainland, give the Isle of Wight an almost unique set of problems, but the TUC's alternative economic strategy offers a way forward.

To document the impact of recession on communities SERTUC nominated Reading, Islington and Bedford as locations for in-depth research on the broad impact of the government's cuts programme, particularly the fierce and long-term cuts to local authority grants and to welfare benefits.



first NAPO in York  
second Unite Hunt for Hunt



above London FBU against fire station closures  
left Queuing up in Hastings to support CWU's campaign to retain the Crown Offices

SERTUC joined the Yorkshire & The Humber TUC region's noisy and colourful 'Better Way' demonstration in York at the Liberal Democrats' Spring Conference.

SERTUC supported the Unison and community campaign to save A&E services at Lewisham hospital and many other NHS campaigns during the year. We circulated information about Unite's very successful 'Hunt for Hunt' in his own constituency in June. And the SERTUC banner was carried the full length of the long march in Manchester past the Conservative Party conference, twice. Over 50,000 attended this national TUC demonstration in support of the NHS on a spectacular day of protest.

Not every campaign we supported to defend public services was equally successful. SERTUC supported CWU's principled campaign to stop the sell-off of the Royal Mail, but sadly the 'rip-off' privatisation went ahead. SERTUC analysed the proposed London Fire Safety Plan and wrote model answers for the public consultation, and we spoke at many rallies against the cuts to fire services in the Region. In London, two of the fire-stations were saved, including Clapham, where the SERTUC banner was prominent in an impromptu march which blocked Clapham High Street, but was popularly received. Sadly, 10 Fire Stations were closed and more than 550 firefighter posts deleted





in London. SERTUC was represented at events to mark the closure of many of those stations, including Belsize Park, Southwark, Clerkenwell, Kingsland and Downham on 9 January 2014.

SERTUC supported the Action for Rail campaign, fighting for the public ownership of rail services and putting people and quality services before profits. SERTUC participated in many days of action, including events at Euston Station and Oxford Circus.

The campaign against welfare reform and benefits cuts was largely organised at national level, and in London by London Unemployed Strategies, which is the outcome of a successful grant application. SERTUC continued to brief unions on the 'rolling car crash' that Universal Credit has become, fulfilling our predictions. SERTUC continued to support the campaign work of Disabled Person's Against the Cuts. Their commitment to dynamic campaign action is an example to all. SERTUC mapped the location of food banks in the SERTUC region, as a campaign tool for unions, trades councils and anti-cuts campaigns.

We continued to write short economic briefings for reps, published on the SERTUC Resources website, and the fall in real pay and the cost of living squeeze was a key issue. SERTUC is supporting Fair Pay Fortnight, urging trades councils and anti-cuts

campaigns to organise events and photo-opportunities to launch the campaign in their area. We will use the message 'Britain Needs a Pay Rise' throughout the fortnight, urging activists to localise the slogan to where they live or work. We attended a lobby organised by 'My Fair London' aimed at exposing pay inequality and corporate greed in London. We supported unions' campaigns for better pay at work, such as the rejection of a one per cent offer by unions that organise in local government. We supported union campaigns for a living wage, such as Unite's successful campaign at the Royal Opera House. And we continued to campaign for fair pay for women, jointly organising an event with the NUT, called 'Fighting For Fair Pay', at which Christine Blower, NUT general secretary, was the keynote speaker.

We were active in many ways to win a stronger voice at work and to build a stronger trade union movement.





Regional Council speakers have included Ann Field on the Pentonville Five battle, Ricky Tomlinson *left* on the Shrewsbury campaign, and Manuel Cortes TSSA gen sec on the unions' campaign against London ticket office closures



*first* Catherine West with Martin Gould at the SERTUC trades councils' conference. Key note speaker was chair of the TUC's trades councils committee Bob Crow *second* BFAWU in Oxford Street campaigning for rights for fast food workers

We supported unions in struggle, including the NUT and NASUWT regional strike days in October, speaking at their rallies; UCU, Unite and Unison in their 'United for Education' campaigns in universities and colleges; FBU in its pension disputes; RMT and TSSA in their industrial action against ticket office closures and redundancies on London Underground; and PCS action against the closure of HMRC Tax Enquiry Centres. We supported the NUJ's campaign to win better terms and conditions for journalists on local and regional newspapers.

Trade union reps are the magic dust of our movement, but sadly, they are often victimised. We did what we could to offer support to Jon Bigger, PCS rep at the Home Office, and officer of the SERTUC International Committee, in the campaign to resist his compulsory redundancy.

We supported campaigns to win trade union and employment rights for workers in companies that do not presently recognise unions, including a campaign against Amazon and a 'Fast Food Rights' campaign led by BFAWU, which has targeted Macdonalds.

Building stronger links between unions, and between unions and communities, remains a priority. We spoke at many branch meetings, such as Unison County Branch AGM, at numerous trades council meetings including Lewes trades council's Festival of Socialism. We organised a trades councils conference to explore how we might build stronger trades councils, we organised a reception at TUC Congress for trade unionists, with Richard Howitt MEP, and we continued to support the East of England and South East Trade Union Networks. We mapped all the anti-cuts campaigns that we

# Burston Strike School Sharpen the sickle!

The 2013 Burston Strike School Rally took place under dry skies and was delighted to welcome as speakers TUC President 2012-13 Lesley Mercer *right*, Steve Turner from Unite, Richard Howitt MEP and Bob Crow RMT. The Rally was jointly chaired by Megan Dobney SERTUC regional secretary, and Pilgrim Tucker from Unite Community. Music was provided by Leon Rosselson, Red Flags and the RMT Brass Band.

But the real challenge and pleasure is that 2014 is the centenary of the children's strike and the Rally Committee has organised additional events around the 1 April anniversary.

As well as a re-enaction of the children's "candlestick" march round Burston by about 80 children from the local school, followed by a celebration on the Green, there will be a play in the evening at Diss High School, written and performed by *Stuff of Dreams*.

The Rally on Sunday 7 September will welcome Owen Jones as one of the speakers and we look forward to seeing you there.

As part of the celebration SERTUC has developed and produced three short films (about 15 minutes in total) intended for use on trade union Reps' courses.

The films cover: *The Rural Condition, The Strike, and Solidarity*, and are accompanied by tutors' notes to support discussion and learning.

After the launch in early April they will be freely available on our resources website <http://sertucresources.wordpress.com/>



Thankyou **Bob Crow** for your consistent and innovative support for the Burston Strike School Rally. You were due to speak at the 2014 Rally and we will celebrate your past contribution in September.



# Blacklisting



Blacklisting was a curse and it remains a curse. It has ruined the lives of thousands of workers, and had massive consequences for their families. It should be unimaginable that working lives could be ruined just because a construction worker joined a union, or had the temerity to raise a health and safety issue at work. For years major construction companies promised that blacklisting was a myth, but it was true, and a brutal fact of life for activists in the construction industry.

The sinister practice is not a thing of the past; it is very much a real and present danger. We need a full inquiry into its scope. The TUC demands that the inquiry must have the legal power to call witnesses, seize records and put employers on the spot. Companies guilty of blacklisting should be barred from public contracts until they can demonstrate that they understand the basics

of human rights and good industrial relations. And victims of blacklisting need justice, and proper compensation.

SERTUC joined the anti-blacklisting rally outside the Houses of Parliament in November 2013. SERTUC President, Martin Gould, pictured left, holding a SERTUC flag, was once a heating and ventilation engineer on major construction contracts, and a leading trade union activist in the construction industry. He suffered decades of victimisation by building contractors.

Workers who think that they might have been blacklisted should contact their union.

A real campaign success during the year was the 'anti-blacklisting' campaign, which gained real traction in the media and with politicians.



At TUC Congress 2013, SERTUC worked with East of England MEP Richard Howitt to organise an informal discussion and reception for Congress delegates from that region. Pictured is Richard second left with USDAW delegates and SERTUC Regional Secretary

The 2013 Levellers' Day parade through Burford



could find in the SERTUC region and sought to give them inspiration and campaign materials to organise local campaign actions against austerity and for the alternative.

SERTUC was pleased to support May Day events, including London, Bedford, Ipswich, Norwich, Croydon and Oxford. We supported another superb Burston Strike School Rally and we made preparations for centenary events in 2014.

SERTUC joined in the organisation of Levellers' Day events in Burford, Oxfordshire, including a march through the town centre. And SERTUC researched,

published and launched a history of the Spithead and Nore rebellions at events in Portsmouth and Leigh on Sea, supported by RMT and Nautilus International.

SERTUC contributed to the inaugural Centre for Labour and Social Studies conference and we worked with academics from the LSE on 'governance and democracy' and from UCL on 'diversity'.

We began to publish regular information and campaign bulletins about migration and migrant working, began working with Hope not Hate and Migrant Voice on a project in Southampton and hosted an event for

# Spithead and Nore

In October SERTUC published this small booklet about these important marine events in 1797. Sponsored by RMT and Nautilus International, and written by Peta Steel, it was launched at both Leigh on Sea and Southsea.

The Spithead and Nore mutinies of 1797 didn't happen in a vacuum. They took place in the context of desperate poverty, corrupt use of state power, and the advent of new enlightened philosophies. The booklet outlines the revolt and rebellion that marked the late 18th century, much of it in our Region.

Spithead is an area of the Solent between Gosport on the mainland and Ryde on the Isle of Wight; the Nore is a sandbank at the mouth of the Thames Estuary between Shoeburyness in Essex and Sheerness in Kent, and they were the sites of the important working class actions known as the Spithead and Nore Mutinies.

The mutinies were in fact strikes against seamen's wages that had remained static for over 100 years, but which became increasingly unreasonable as high inflation in the last period of the 18th century eroded their value even further, and also against the increasingly brutalised working conditions in the fleet.

Today, when contact between workers by

Carolyn Simpson  
Peta Steel and  
Jonathan Havard  
in Leigh



## THE SPITHEAD AND NORE MUTINIES OF 1797

AN ACCOUNT OF REBELLIOUS ACTIVITIES IN  
LONDON, THE SOUTH EAST, AND EAST OF  
ENGLAND IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Including THE LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY,  
TOM PAINE, and MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT



PUBLISHED BY SERTUC

email, telephone and social media is accessible and simple, we can only wonder at the organisation that led to the disciplined action of the sailors. Indeed it is worth noting that the 18th century equivalent, ships' flags, led to the red flag being raised in what was probably its first use as a rallying cry for workers.

The mutinies took place in an a political environment that followed the gradual shift in thinking expressed in the 'Age of Enlightenment' that challenged established ideas on faith, societal structure and the rights of working people. In SERTUC we are committed to both celebrating our past and learning from it, so this booklet also provides a number of context pieces that demonstrate the changes and influences of the time.

Hence it includes chapters on thinkers and activists William Blake, Edmund Burke, Robert Burns, Tom Paine, Wolfe Tone, and Mary Wollstonecraft, as well as a description of the American, French and Haitian revolutions, the activities of the London Corresponding Society; and a note on the British Parliamentary system and the role of the monarchy.

Spanish and Portuguese migrant workers. And we are publishing a myth busting booklet called 'Truth, Lies and Migrants', based on the excellent booklet first published by our colleagues in the South West Regional TUC.

We continued to oppose racist and fascist parties and race hatred on a national, local and regional level, such as at the Searchlight conference in November, the Stand Up Against Racism march and rally in London in March, and the community mobilisation against the BNP in Croydon in October.

We sought to maintain links with affiliates and sister campaign organisations in innovative ways, for example, sponsoring an exhibition of art by PCS members at Congress House, called 'Art Against the Cuts', speaking at and publicising National Pensioners' Convention events and sponsoring an exhibition commemorating the Anti Apartheid Movement Campaign.

SERTUC has a deep commitment to internationalism and a few examples of our activity this year include supporting the Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, supporting the Miami 5 Campaign, protesting alongside the ITF outside the South Korean Embassy against the dismissal of 8,000 trade unionists for taking strike action to oppose the privatisation of railways and joining a lobby of FIFA demanding proper employment



rights and health and safety standards for construction workers building the 2022 World Cup stadia. SERTUC attended the European Capital Cities trade union assembly and contributed to research and communication projects with numerous European regional trade union confederations including CGIL, CSIL UGT, CC.OO, DGB, FO, CGT and CFDT, on matters such as strengthening European Works Councils and building collective bargaining links.

SERTUC produces an almost-weekly e-newsletter containing links to events of relevance in the Region. Register to receive it by emailing [mdobney@tuc.org.uk](mailto:mdobney@tuc.org.uk)

**Laurie Heselden**  
*Regional Campaigns & Policy Officer*



Rommel Abellar and Mark Serwotka

# SERTUC unionlearn and TU education

## Annual Conference 2013

The 8th annual SERTUC unionlearn regional conference, held at the Toynbee Hall in November, was chaired by Megan Dobney, regional secretary, and was attended by 73 delegates. Speakers included Kay Carberry, TUC assistant general secretary, Mike Ellicock, chief executive of the National Numeracy Campaign, and Alan Fraser, GMB regional education officer.

Kay presented certificates to Lee Foster, Unite, as the Regional Union Learning Representative of the year. Jane Collier, Unison; Lloyd Collier, Prospect; Maura Winchester, USDAW; Nerbel Singh, Unite, and Wes Lee Emond, GMB were all highly commended. Learner of the Year Certificate was won by Summer Hunter, POA, and Dave Robinson, Unite; Martin Vince, GMB; Lucy White, POA; Mike White, Unite and Tina Thompson, USDAW were highly commended learners.

## Network meetings

The team also held successful events around the region including workshops on Functional Skills and Equalities.

At the Kent network meeting Jane Gaffney from the University of Kent community participation team was invited to give a presentation on the access courses and taster sessions that the University delivers.

## BMW and POA

We have also led on what promises to be a

very exciting initiative between Unite and the Prison Officers' Association. We brokered meetings between Unite, the POA and the lead ULR at BMW in Oxford that led to a series of learning open days on the BMW site which employs between 4,000 and 5,000 people. These took place over three days in three different locations and included Exercise, Nutrition and Health, Mental Health Awareness, and Diabetes Awareness. Alongside these accredited courses we also promoted the free Massive Online Open Courses found on the Futurelearn website [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)

The first day we were on site in one of the canteens from 8am until 5.30pm and it was the most successful open day they have had on site. We spoke to over 100 people and took a further 30 learning surveys. We signed people up there and then carried out five inductions on site.

## PCS Defence Sector and HMRC ULR conference

We spoke at the conference and promoted the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)/Nexus website and Futurelearn courses. There were 60 ULRs attending and they requested the flyers and promotional posters that signpost reps and their learners to wide variety of free learning websites.

## Employer Ownership of Skills

The Employer Ownership of Skills Energy efficiency partnership has now received a





grant offer letter for learning/training, of which we are part, and includes the partners of the Green Skills partnership.

### **Community activity**

We have brokered a successful partnership with providers and a community group at the Redmond community centre in Hackney for delivery to 27 unemployed members of the community to take their PTLLS qualifications (free to residents who met the criteria).

We have also brokered a successful partnership with Unite and providers to deliver work skills and short vocational programs for the unemployed using Unite's learning centres. 40 people went through the programme with 27 of them going on to take short vocational courses, including Food Hygiene and Health and Safety.

This has led to another programme being piloted for young people 16-18 year olds (NEETS) to be offered a study course including functional skills, ICT and Workskills to be delivered at the Herts Trade Union Learning centre. This could be expanded to other Unite learning centres if successful.

### **Apprenticeships**

We continue to be members of the London Councils' Apprenticeship Task Group.

We have also been raising the awareness of ULRs in some of the Local Authorities with regard to the Apprentice Mentoring Course offered by unionlearn.

### **Trade union education**

*Partners:* There are 14 partnerships with Colleges of Further Education and the London Workers' Education Association to provide TUC education programmes for union reps. From the end of April Central Bedfordshire College will cease providing TUC programmes due to the college's concentration on 14-19 vocational pathways.

*TUC qualifications:* All TUC education courses are accredited by the National Open College Network (NOCN). This allows union representatives to gain trade union qualifications at Award, Certificate and Diploma levels. Discussions on the level of funding for qualifications in the academic year 2014-2015 are ongoing.

*TUC Reps' training programme:* Latest figures (2012) show we provided training for 13,460 union representatives, Health & Safety reps, and Union Learning Representatives. The 2013 figure will be confirmed in May. Given the economic situation and the pressures being placed on time off, it is a superb achievement to maintain this level of training. Thanks are due to the tutors, the providing colleges and the WEA, and for the support of affiliates (and in particular Reps) for encouraging peers to attend courses.

*Developments in the Reps' Programme:* New materials have been produced for the Stage 1 Union Representatives, Employment Law Certificate and the Occupational Health Diploma.



The 2013 Women Officers' Summer School at the House of Commons. They commented on how the course had given them the energy, motivation and confidence to progress issues and themselves further in the union movement

The TUC Stage I course for union reps is regularly updated. The focus of the course is the workplace, and the skills and knowledge needed by new union reps.

The latest edition of the Stage I materials places a greater emphasis on the use of electronic resources and also embeds key elements of the ULR role that is so important for union teams at all levels.

The TUC Employment Law Certificate is designed for union representatives who have already completed the TUC Stage I course and its principal concern is how knowledge of and confidence in using employment law can improve workplace bargaining.

The Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety's fourth edition was published in December 2013. This year-long diploma continues to be essential for the development of the higher level skills needed by TUC health and safety representatives to deal with challenges emanating from deregulation proposals.

*Key resources and e-notes:* National TUC Education have developed new editions of *Working Women* and the *TUC Workplace Manual*.

A key development is also the production of the hugely popular e-notes (online, short, interactive briefings) which are an essential resource for all trade union representatives. See [www.tuclearning.net](http://www.tuclearning.net)

*Union Professionals:* In 2012, 210 staff employed by affiliates were trained.

*Women Officers' Summer School:* In July 2013, the Region again had the privilege of hosting the Women Officers' Summer School. Fifteen women union officers from a range of unions and roles attended. The 2014 Summer School will be held from 7 to 11 July, contact Jaspal Ghtoray [jghtoray@tuc.org.uk](mailto:jghtoray@tuc.org.uk) for more information.

### Community & TU Learning Centre

The Community & Trade Union learning Centre (CTU) was established to assist workers on the Olympic site, workers employed in the local area, and members of the local community, develop their skills and knowledge. It closed in February 2014.

CTU registered 528 learners since opening in January 2010 and delivered 2,137 learning opportunities. It engaged with 15 trade unions, 39 employers and 21 community organisations. The learning offered has been wide ranging and included communications, literacy, the application of numbers, ICT, French and Spanish. Working with Job Centre Plus, CTU has helped local people become job-ready and was awarded the Inspire Mark in recognition of the Centre's achievements.

**Many thanks for the work done by our unionlearn team over 2014. This has not been an easy year with funding cuts leading to loss of jobs and service. Goodbye and best wishes to Sonia Dawson, Johanna Garcia, Mick Hadgraft, Angela King, Joanna Lucyszyn, Tanya Nelson, Phil Spry, and Jon Tennison, all of whom have left us.**

# London unemployed strategies (LUS)

The London Unemployed Strategies project is sponsored jointly by Trust for London and SERTUC. Our main slogan is 'A Voice for London's Unemployed'. During the first six months I have been trying to give that phrase meaning in as many ways as possible.

A major obstacle to this process has been fear of a backlash as a 'punishment' for speaking out. This has been even more of a problem since the Channel 4 *Benefits Street* debacle. Stories of people being bullied and ridiculed for daring to speak up for themselves and others suffering from poverty and unemployment have abounded since then.

A key method we have developed to counteract this approach is the Claimants' Survey. This is a document which is fairly quick and easy to fill in but which nevertheless gives quite an in-depth reflection of people's specific experiences of support (or lack of) at Jobcentres, and the general impact of unemployment on their finances, health and well-being. I am doing face-to-face work using the Survey as an engagement tool, and other organisations such as community centres and FE Colleges are giving me access to their unemployed users to gather this information.

It is a shame that many training providers who could give us access to their unemployed users are themselves scared to do so, as they are often dependent on Jobcentre and DWP funding so do not want to be seen to bite the hand that feeds them.

Nevertheless some projects have cooperated with us and we have gone on to run discussion groups with unemployed people to explore results arising from the surveys further, and these have worked well. The aim is to aggregate all this evidence towards the end of my first year and produce what should be a revealing insight into the contemporary experience of unemployed people in London from all walks of life. This can be used as a lever for change, hopefully in policies, but certainly in attitudes towards claimants who deserve better treatment and support than they receive at present.

It would be wrong to wait until we have built up the confidence of the majority of unemployed people to speak up for themselves before acting to help them. Thus, 'A Voice for London's Unemployed' can also be taken to mean representing their interests by whatever means possible. To this end, we have formed links with many trades councils throughout London, the major trades unions, local advice agencies, and the voluntary sector, to form a united front with and for unemployed people.

This is well demonstrated by – well, demonstrations! The photo shows our presence at Ealing JC+ which was part of a series of nationwide demonstrations in February against Atos, the company which has caused suffering to so many through its punitive methods of assessing sick and disabled people's rights to benefits.



LUS is always looking for more grassroots work to come out of these initiatives. For example, in Ealing, Waltham Forest, Islington and Southwark, we are now working with the local trades councils, advice agencies, and Unite Community to do joint community engagement exercises during the TUC's Fair Pay Fortnight. We will discuss with local people on low/no pay their experiences of unemployment, their benefits' entitlements, their rights if they are sanctioned, and the advantages of union membership. Where these councils have adopted the London Living Wage we shall also cooperate with them in promoting this more widely. The aim therefore is not just to provide information and advice but to encourage those suffering from both in and out of work poverty to get involved and get organised in tackling the issues that affect them.

Another dimension to our work has been around people with disabilities who, with the right support, would wish to get into or back to work. To this end we have been working to pull together the major disabilities organisations including DPAC, Inclusion London and Disability Rights UK to produce a beginner's guide to Access To Work. This

is a government scheme which gives financial support to disabled employees and employers who take on disabled people to provide a variety of resources and adaptations to make the work experience suitable. This money is underspent year after year, in part because of lack of awareness of its existence, so a guide, along with an awareness and takeup campaign, should be launched within the next few weeks.

This report is inevitably a combination of work in progress and in prospect, rather than a list of done deeds. The short time I have had in post has highlighted both the enormity of the task and the potential for achievement. 'Challenging' is certainly both an understatement and a positive way of looking at the time ahead. During that time I will continue to engage trades unions, groups and committed individuals in the cause of providing 'A Voice for London's Unemployed'. Whether you are employed, unemployed, or underemployed – as my old mum used to say (or was it Lenin?) - 'don't be backward in coming forward!'

**Nick Phillips**  
*Community & Volunteer Organiser*

# Disabled Workers' Network



Since the AGM we have had a full year on key issues such as the Bedroom Tax, and Disabled Living Allowance being replaced by Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

■ Disabled Living Allowance has been replaced by Personal Independence Payment. We made it clear that the Network does not have an issue with employees of ATOS that administer it. The issue is with the Personal Independence Payment itself. Successful appeals have been made against PIPs being stopped. There is the serious matter of disabled people not receiving benefits for several months while these appeals are being conducted.

■ The SERTUC Disabled Workers' Network has actively supported the work of DPAC (Disabled People Against the Cuts).

■ The Network has been working with the SERTUC Transport Industries Network on key issues such as access to disabled people for all types of transport. For instance underground and railway stations having lifts so that they are accessible to disabled people. As well as bus routes beyond London using vehicles that have ramps, so that they can be used by disabled people.

■ There has been the issue of reasonable adjustments in the workplace for people with visible and invisible disabilities. This covers the right to homeworking as well as physical equipment.

■ The serious issue of trigger points for warnings for sick leave from employers as well as concerns about employers restricting disability leave.

■ The issue of carers for disabled people being allowed flexible working patterns.

■ The Bedroom Tax disregarding the accommodation needs of disabled people, such as needing space for special equipment.

■ The terrible and very serious issue of Disability Hate Crime. For victims of it and a fear of it resulting in disabled people not doing everyday things such as using public transport. The perception that if I wait at the bus stop or the railway station Disability Hate Crime can happen. Or going round a shopping centre and it happening there.

■ There is a serious lack of caring services support from local councils for disabled people. For instance one hour or less of support either do some household cleaning or shopping for a disabled person. That can make a difference to whether or not a disabled person can go out to work.

■ The Care Homes whistleblowing issue. When workers in Care Homes do come forward very bravely and genuinely the law does not give them sufficient protection.

The SERTUC Disabled Workers' Network has been very active on a wide range of issues and campaigns over the past year and is very proud of the work that it has done on issues and campaigns for the Region.

**Damion Ibison, CWU, Chair**

**Fariborz Taherinia, PCS, Vice Chair**

**Christopher Miles, PCS, Secretary**

**Marsha De Cordova, Unite, Assistant Secretary**

*above* Paralympian Tara Flood, Roger Lewis from DPAC, and Megan Dobney at the seminar "Young Disabled People, employed and empowered?" organised jointly by the Disabled Workers' and Young Workers' Networks

# Women's Rights Committee

Another packed year for the WRC starting with the AGM in May when Carolyn Simpson and Dorothy Amos were re-elected as Chair and Secretary respectively – Marj Broughton was re-elected as Vice Chair in July. The 'action plan' for the year was debated and agreed and at the meeting in July we were delighted to have guest speakers from Breakthrough Cancer who explained their campaigning work to us, as well as Susan Murray (Unite Health and Safety officer) who spoke eloquently on the H&S implications and dangers to women in particular (eg. shift working) and what we should be looking out for in our own bodies. Sisters were able to take away handouts and information to share with their branches.

August saw us undertaking another Go London walk – a success, as always, and enjoyed by all the sisters who were able to join it. These walks have become a regular feature of our programme and our thanks to Rachel Kolsky whose knowledge and spirited delivery are both educational and entertaining in equal measures!

In September, we held an open meeting to discuss the appalling crime of Female Genital Mutilation and welcomed Hilary Burrage (author and sociologist), Kiri Tunks (NUT) and Rukayah Sarumi (Forward) as guest speakers. The meeting was well attended and a real eye opener to all of us. The number of girls at risk in the UK every year is in excess of 26,000 and we are now working with a number of organisations in campaigning to eliminate this disgusting practice. In support of this campaign, Regional Council passed a motion unanimously in January and the matter was

WRC FGM meeting speakers September 2013



debated again at an event to mark 'Zero Tolerance Day' in February, where Thompsons Solicitors informed those present about the rights of women not to be abused – whether at home or at work/play.

Our November meeting saw Phil Gowan (unionlearn) speak about the courses available to women and the work of unionlearn in the region.

Carolyn was invited to speak at two Unison events during the year on the work of SERTUC – specifically relating to women in the workplace and the effects of austerity together with building stronger unions for the future.

At the time of writing, the first SERTUC Women's Seminar is being planned for 29 March with guest speakers including Megan Dobney (SERTUC), Caroline Underhill (Thompsons Solicitors), Kat Banyard (UK Feminista), Anita Wright (National Assembly of Women), Susan Murray (Unite H&S officer), and Scarlet Harris (TUC Women's Officer). This event is open to all sisters in the Region and will be held at Unite, Moreland Street (details available from the SERTUC office).

Again, we have had a great year and all looking forward to 2014-15!!

**Carolyn Simpson, Unite, Chair**  
**Marjory Broughton, Unite, Vice Chair**  
**Dorothy Amos, NUT, Secretary**

# Construction Committee

The Committee has met regularly on a quarterly basis, and the meetings have been well attended with lively debates on the current state of the construction industry in London and the South East.

Various campaigns have been supported, most of which have been ongoing since the last period. Members attended the lobby of Parliament over blacklisting that was held on the 20 November. The thousands affected by blacklisting are still waiting for justice as employers continue to contest liability. Members attended the presentation of a petition at Downing Street demanding justice for the Shrewsbury 24.

Members also attended demonstrations outside two Laing O'Rourke sites in London, the "Cheesegrater" in Leadenhall Street and the Crick Laboratory in St Pancras.

There were also demonstrations against blacklisting and support was given to Unite's campaign against the employer BAM Nuttall on the Crossrail project. The Committee will be coordinating the organisation of events around International Workers' Memorial Day this year.

Other activities concerned the outlawing of bogus self-employment in the construction industry, a practice which is now creeping into other sectors, and campaigning for proper compensation for the victims of asbestos-related diseases. At the November meeting a report was given of a visit by Sister Gail Cartmail, Unite AGS, to Qatar to



inspect the construction of stadiums for the 2022 football World Cup. The committee decided to support the campaign to shame the Qatari government into protecting workers lives, wages and conditions on these stadiums. It also agreed to support the "Show FIFA the Red Card" campaign of the Building and Woodworkers International.

The good news is that London Hazards Centre trust was reconstituted in November. This organisation has always been at the forefront of all construction campaigning and the members look forward to a productive relationship with the new worker.

**Kieran Campbell, Unite, Chair**  
**Kevin Williamson, Unite, Secretary**

# Race Relations Committee

**“I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one’s head pointed toward the sun, one’s feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lays defeat and death.”**

*Nelson Mandela*

Metaphorically, this has been a long and dark winter, and it isn’t over yet. There are a lot of reasons to foster despair; poverty up, half a million people dependent upon food banks, real wages down, utility bills up, state pension squeezed, more than a million people trapped on zero hours contracts, welfare benefits cut savagely, Universal Credit a shambles, the bedroom tax imposed and benefit suspensions up, a shameful level of youth unemployment etc etc. Welcome to Cameron’s Britain! And if you are from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic community the odds are that your life is even tougher, since the unemployment rate for BAME workers is twice that of white European workers for each skill level. Discrimination is still an ever-present menace, life expectancy is 10 years shorter in many areas and housing standards typically worse.

So there are many reasons for despair, but we must reject them all. We have to get angry and we have to get organised. We must build our own future together, not wait for it to be gifted to us. We have a duty to inspire others, especially the young. These

are indeed grim times but they are no time for defeatism. This is our moment, trades unions were invented for tough times and for struggle. Trade unionism and socialism are the light and our way ahead.

Sadly, Nelson Mandela died this year, but his legacy lives on. If he could struggle and win, so can each of us, individually and collectively.

It is important to remember our past, especially our struggles and particularly our victories, and how they were achieved. The Committee was pleased to invite speakers, Christabel Gurney and Jeff Howarth, from the Anti-Apartheid Memorial Campaign, which is documenting the epic struggle to defeat apartheid and to free Nelson Mandela from jail. The Committee was keen to work with the Campaign, but it also took the opportunity to emphasise the importance of recognising the contribution of Black trade unionists and campaigners to the struggle, in both narrative and images.

The Committee was privileged to have Mohammad Taj, TUC President, as a speaker. Taj said that there were four things that he wanted to achieve in his year as TUC President: meet and support grass roots trade unionists and promote bottom up trade union growth and organisation; work to ensure that BNP and other far-right candidates do not get elected to the European Parliament in the European elections; help young people understand trade unionism and help them understand our movement’s great achievements, our





TUC President  
Mohammad Taj with  
SERTUC Race  
Relations Committee  
chair Claude James

legacy, our heroes and our values; and to argue for a Ministry of Labour to promote trade union rights, health and safety, equalities and productivity. The Committee was pleased to pledge its support to him.

And it is important to build strong community alliances to secure our future in a multicultural society, so the Committee was pleased to invite Paul Richards from the UpRise campaign, who reported on its current programme of activities and its plans for another UpRise anti-racist festival, this time in Peckham, South London. Of course, the Committee was keen to support, publicise and contribute UpRise's work.

Only a few, the rich and powerful, have prospered from austerity economics, whilst the many have been losers. But some losers have suffered worse than others, including women and migrant workers. March is home to both International Women's Day and St Patrick's Day and so we invited the London Irish Women's Network and the SERTUC Women's Rights Committee to speak at our March 2014 meeting. This is part of our deliberate effort to reach out and to build campaign alliances.

Defeating the far-right and hate politics is a priority for the Committee. In terms of elected politicians, the SERTUC region is now a fascist-free zone. The English Defence League continued to disintegrate this year, and the role of trade unionists in that collapse is to be celebrated, but the EDL remains a menace on our streets and in our

communities. Wherever the EDL attempted to organise a march the Committee was eager to support counter-demonstrations expressing communities' positive attitude to multiracialism and tolerance.

The Committee's perspectives were internationalist. It continued to support Unite's campaign to protect the rights of domestic service workers as a campaign theme, circulating campaign materials. And it co-sponsored a briefing for trade unionists on 'the danger of the far-right in Greece', with the SERTUC International Committee.

Officers of the Committee and its members made a commitment during the year to seek to increase the number of delegates and attendance at meetings. This was a partial success and will remain 'work in progress'. Sadly, the number of delegates was static, but the good news is that average attendance at meetings increased. Across the year, delegates from 10 unions and two County Associations attended meetings. I hope the efforts to strengthen the Committee will be renewed in 2014-15.

The email bulletin compiled and sent out by the SERTUC office following each quarterly Committee meeting has proven to be very popular and is particularly useful for delegates unable to get to a meeting.

**Claude James, TSSA, Chair**  
**Lorraine Eylet, NUT, and Judy L Richards, Unison, Vice Chairs**  
**Mark Benjamin, PCS, and Austin Harney, PCS, Joint Secretaries**

# International Committee

As ever this was a busy year for the Committee with three meetings and a further one to come in early April. We have heard from a variety of guest speakers and several Committee members have travelled abroad, and been involved in a variety of demonstrations and conferences in this country.

At our first meeting in June 2013 Adrian Weir from Unite spoke to the committee about his visit to Venezuela where he was part of a delegation observing the first presidential elections following the death of Hugo Chavez. He described the high level of scrutiny around, and the transparency of, the voting process and recounted his experiences of the influence of the United States government with its support for the defeated right wing opposition party and refusal to recognise the outcome of the election. Adrian's report was circulated to the committee.

The committee also heard a report from Jim Kelly of Unite, who had been part of a Unite/TSSA delegation to the West Bank. Jim outlined the key issues including: the ongoing illegal Israeli settlement building, the ongoing violence and intimidation of local Palestinians, as well as the Israelis' use of natural resources such as water as a political weapon against the local Palestinian population. Jim's delegation met a number of organisations including the Arab Workers Union, the Palestinian teachers union and the Palestinian TU federation. Jim's report was also circulated to the committee.

At the September meeting one of our guest speakers was Sam Gurney from the TUC

International Department who updated us on the Playfair Campaign. He reminded us of the progress resulting from the campaign in the run up to London 2012, in particular the improvements in working conditions in some of the factories where Olympic merchandise is produced. Sam also updated us on the campaign's liaison with Brazilian Trades Unions in the run up to both the World Cup and the 2016 Olympics. The Brazilians are focussing on the health and safety of the construction sector and the rights of garment workers. The Playfair Campaign is also hoping to focus upon the plight of migrant workers in the run up 2022 World Cup in Qatar where many deaths have already been reported. We also had a talk from Angie Hsu from Kav LaOved, an NGO based in Tel Aviv working with the Palestinian General Federation of Trades Unions in furtherance of the rights of Palestinian workers in the private sector. Angie outlined some of the issues being tackled by Kav LaOved – Palestinian workers who are 'bound' to their employer, the existence of an informal blacklist if workers raise queries issues and the failure of some employers to pay the minimum wage as they exploit workers through a complex system of sub-contracting.

The Committee followed up on the Palestinian issue at our December meeting when it received reports from Kiri Tunks and Bernard Regan (Committee Chair) of the NUT, and Gordon Lean from Unite, on their recent visits as part of various delegations to Palestine.

Kiri reported that the Palestinians are very

# SETUN

appreciative of the support of the UK public and very clear about the failures of the UK Government to translate this support into effective action/deeds. She also outlined the future priority of the NUT in looking to build pressure on the UK Government to act in relation to the indignities and cruelty suffered by the Palestinian people, in particular the existence and treatment of child prisoners. She reported that to date 31 MPs have signed pledges of support for this campaign.

Gordon expressed his shock and disgust at the 'apartheid' barriers which have been created in the Palestinian territories, but found a tremendous spirit existing amongst the Palestinian people. The Committee also nominated him to attend the Palestinian Solidarity AGM on its behalf.

Outside of its regular meetings, the Committee was also involved, along with the SERTUC Race Relations Committee in the organisation of an anti-fascist, anti-racism meeting relating to the rise of the Far Right in Greece which took place at Congress House. Additionally, the committee supported the Vigil for the Miami 5, was represented at the Gaza memorial demonstration in January 2014, participated in the Miami 5 International Commission of Inquiry and had attendees at the highly successful Latin America 2013 Conference at Congress House.

**Bernard Regan, NUT, Chair**

**Jayne Fisher, Unite, Vice Chair**

**Martin Andrews, PCS, Secretary**

The South East Trade Union Network has met five times since SERTUC AGM 2013. We have met twice with Labour MP Caroline Flint and other Labour Party MPs and council leaders.

Regarding public services SETUN has continued to keep attacks on service cuts, jobs and conditions under review and discussion. We have taken every opportunity to raise issues with Labour MPs and council leaders when we have met and have constantly raised the issue of a living wage for all workers and will continue to do so.

Through SERTUC we continue to be involved in the HSE South East Estates Excellence programme covering high risk industrial estates from Kent to Oxfordshire. SETUN has also had involvement in the Healthy Workplace programme regionally.

The Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in our region are now starting to involve us and SETUN members have represented the Region at a number of consultation events.

SETUN has also been active in encouraging activities in our local trades councils and will continue to improve communications to and from local trades councils in order to co-ordinate SERTUC campaigns.

Other issues we have been involved with include BAe job losses and other redundancy issues in the region, public transport including rail franchises and SE7 which covers proposed plans for county councils to share services and procurement tenders.

**Brian Walter, Unison, Chair**

**Alan Durrant, GMB, Convenor**

**John Ball, SERTUC office support**

# Young Workers' Network

Our Young Workers' Network has continued to flourish and build active young trade unionism in the UK. Through ground-breaking initiatives like Young Workers Month and networking leading lights in young trade unionism, SERTUC Young Workers' Network is making an impact in this great movement of ours.

By maintaining activity and limiting talking shops, we've been able to engage young activists and develop their communication, organising and campaigning skills whilst delivering credible outputs.

## Young Workers' Month

Launched by SERTUC Young Workers Network in 2012, Young Workers' Month is a festival organised to motivate trade unions to deliver active democratic regional young members' participation with activity taking place throughout November. Our vision is to create activity where inactivity exists by asking unions to put together young members' events whilst we reach out to young people who are not members and run campaigns on key issues that affect us.

The 2013 Programme consisted of 14 events across the UK, 11 blogs written by young people and 800 participants in our online actions.

Having heavily lobbied TUC Young Workers Conference and Forum we won the national

rollout of Young Workers Month, however, the rollout was moved from November 2013 to March 2014. SERTUC Young Workers' Network believes March is International Women's Month and should stay that way. We have been given full assurances that the festival will be annualised from November 2014.

## The Great Youth Unemployment Lockout – key event

2013 marked the centennial of the Dublin Lockout and to pay homage to Jim Larkin we decided to utilise this theme with our Youth Unemployment seminar during Young Workers Month.

The event was well attended, with a mix of both union and non-union members. Speakers included TUC Senior Policy Officer, Richard Exell and special guest Ignacio Doreste from the European Trade Union Congress (ETUC) who gave a perspective and explained the proposals laid out in the European Union's 'Youth Guarantee' programme. Network Secretary Hazel Nolan led the section on the Dublin Lockout, which included a detailed video documentary and presentation from the incredible Austin Hamey. Campaign group 'Youth Fight for Jobs' led a workshop on direct action as well as providing ideas and space for future campaigns.



Our biggest success of this event was the attendance of a group of Sixth Form students and their teacher from a local school who are currently involved in a project on youth unemployment. The group of six teenagers having known very little about trade unions before the event have asked to find out more about unions and we are organising a follow up visit to the TUC.

### **Under 25s welfare access**

Our online campaign to ask Prime Minister David Cameron to rescind his comments on the removal of Under 25s access to welfare payments attracted 600 signatures in just 48 hours. We have just relaunched this petition and would be grateful if you could support. Petition can be found on our website: [www.youngworkersmonth.org](http://www.youngworkersmonth.org)

With special thanks to David Braniff-Herbert, Lauren Usher and Joanne Adams for resourcing and developing the network. Special thanks also to those branches who helped fund our Young Workers Month activity.

**Alex Etches, Unite, Chair**  
**Fern McCaffrey, GMB, Vice Chair**  
**Gavin Sibthorpe, Unite, Secretary**  
**Hazel Nolan, GMB, Assistant Secretary**

# ETUN

The East of England Trade Union Network meets on a Saturday to enable the participation of lay delegates without access to paid time off for weekday meetings. The Regional Secretary attends the meetings to report from the Executive Committee.

In 2013 the EDL attempted to stage a further 'national mobilisation' in Cambridge. ETUN gave support to the local community mobilisation with Cambridge UAF, uniting the trades council, union delegations from neighbouring cities and towns, the Cambridge Muslim Council and other community activists in a peaceful march and demonstration through the main streets of Cambridge. The EDL were only able to muster a handful of supporters and were confined to a park.

ETUN continued to support the initiative of supporting the work of the Anne Frank Trust in our communities, and particularly with our schools. Unison funded an AFT project in a number of schools in the East of England. In Norwich the trades council and PCS Eastern sponsored a two week exhibition in the prestigious Forum centre, alongside presentations by Holocaust survivors and the showing of a Holocaust related film in the independent Cinema City on Holocaust Memorial Day.

ETUN discussed the trade union response to the attacks on the most vulnerable in our communities as a result of the imposition of the Bedroom Tax. It was agreed that we should ask the Labour Party affiliated unions to lobby the Party and at local council level not to support or instigate the eviction of tenants who were in arrears as a direct result of the cuts in Housing Benefit.

**Teresa MacKay, Suffolk CATC, Chair**  
**Richard Edwards, PCS, Convenor**



# Public Services Committee

Mark Campbell (PCS) continuing as Vice-Chair and Sasha Pearce (Unison) as Assistant Secretary. The Committee met in June (AGM), September, December and, at the time of writing, is due to meet again in March.

With the threats from this Government to our public services continuing to intensify across the SERTUC Region, the Public Services Committee has again sustained its work in publicising and support the campaigns and struggles being fought by our trade union affiliates.

At our AGM in June, Andy Thomas (PCS) was elected as the new Secretary of the committee. Martin Powell-Davies (NUT) continued to Chair the Committee with

We have continued to address priorities established in the previous year's Work Plan including encouraging attendance at committee meetings; supporting unions taking action against cuts and privatisation; and building support for TUC demonstrations and events. The work plan is being reviewed and updated to reflect TUC imperatives including those established in the *A Future That Works* document.

As well as receiving regular reports from affiliates on campaigns and disputes, the Committee has taken forward a wide range of issues including inviting guest speakers on the issues of the Living Wage; victimisation of trade union activists; and Universal Credit.

Our other initiatives have included building support for the demonstration at the Conservative Party conference on 29 September 2013.

**Martin Powell-Davies, NUT, Chair**  
**Mark Campbell, UCU, Vice-Chair**  
**Andy Thomas, PCS, Secretary**  
**Sasha Pearce, Unison, Assistant Secretary**



*left At the SERTUC PSC's 2013 conference Resisting Austerity in Europe and in the UK: Owen Jones, Alexis Tsipras and Paul Mackney*

# Transport Industries Network

TIN held four meetings in the year, keeping new and long-standing members updated on developments across the transport sectors. Speakers were invited in the year to cover key concerns such as the problems on the tube system in relation to ticket office closures and staff cuts, addressed at our December meeting with RMT speakers. There are a number of standing items that are examined regularly such as Rural & Small Urban Areas Transport Services; Government plans; Action for Rail; Water-borne transport; air transport; CrossRail and TfL. This year road freight transport issues have had a higher profile. A number of concerns raised by different unions have been supported and information provided; this has included:

- rural train level crossings,
- treatment of road traffic accidents under health & safety;
- staffing levels;
- closure of rail and Underground/Overground ticket offices;
- cuts in rural bus services;
- campaign on pay & conditions and the franchising regime on London buses;
- taxi issues;
- conditions for workers in shipping; and
- port developments.

TIN also follows up previous incidents that have not been fully resolved.

We welcomed several new members on to the TIN, including from non-transport unions and trades councils/county associations. Union members and their families as users of the transport system are a key part of the work we carry out. There are some areas not

represented at present which we want to get involved – for example, air transport. We also sought to strengthen the exchanges with the Pensioners Committee and the Disability Network, including a possible conference on issues of joint concern.

We have invited guest speakers during the year but pressures on those in the industry present challenges. Tommy Molloy of Nautilus/ITF who spoke to TIN in March 2013 year had such an important presentation on the union campaign to fight the horrific working conditions and virtual slavery of foreign-flagged ships round the world that he was invited to address the full Regional Council in July 2013. We are seeking a BALPA (British Air Line Pilots' Association) presentation for 2014 on flight time hours and safety/staffing issues.

TIN contributed toward a paper deposited with the House of Commons Transport Select Committee on passenger services to isolated communities.

Other areas of concern were cyclist deaths and injuries, the deceptions over the 'New Bus for London', rail refranchising for political dogma purposes which will cost the government (and hence the taxpayers) a loss of income, rail and bus fares rises, and air safety incidents.

Roger Sutton, GLATC, *Chair*  
Mark Steele, ASLEF, *Vice Chair*  
Joel Kosminsky, TSSA, *Secretary*  
Gwen Cook, GLATC, and Mike Hedges, Unite, *Assistant Secretaries*

# LGBT Network



Since the last reconstitution of SERTUC in April 2013 the SERTUC LGBT has this year: In May we held our AGM where we elected a new Co-Chair – Gerard McGrath from Unison and a new Secretary, David Sharkey (Unite). We have held our regular meetings, the last one being in January 2014.

In July David Sharkey was the SERTUC observer to the TUC LGBT Conference, where we also held a Fringe Meeting on topic of *Next Wave Activism* which David spoke at along with an activist from NUS LGBT Campaign and a member of the London Queer Social Centre. The meeting looked at getting new LGBTQ activists involved and take the lead.

In July our meeting was addressed by a London Queer Social Centre activist and community artist Jacob V Joyce who talked about how art can be used to take a message into the community.

The plight of LGBT communities in various countries, such as Russia, Nigeria, India and Uganda has been at the fore of our minds this past year. In August there were large demonstrations outside Downing Street about the situation in Russia for LGBT communities, we were pleased to see a strong trade union presence at the second demonstration.

In October the Network held a well-attended public meeting at Congress House on *Homophobia in Russia* which was addressed by a LGBTQ activist from

St Petersburg – Ira Rukki, who herself had fled Russia earlier in the year. Ira gave an excellent presentation, which was followed by questions and discussion. The meeting was chaired by Dorothy Amos (NUT), Co-Chair of the SERTUC LGBT Network. The flyer for the meeting was designed by Timothy Wang, who has also designed the flyer for our fringe meeting at the TUC LGBT Conference and the flyer for our LGBT History Month event of 2012. Our thanks to Unite LE/1148 Workers in Social Inclusion & Care Branch for sponsoring the meeting, which allowed food to be provided. In December Ira faced fast-track deportation. The Network, along with other LGBTQ bodies, were involved in successfully lobbying for Ira to be taken out of the fast-track line and released from detention. At time of writing this report Ira is still working through the legal process to remain in the UK for asylum as she will be at risk if returns to Russia.

In December our Secretary represented us at the London Pride public consultation meeting, which was held at Congress House, hosted by the TUC LGBT Committee.

In January 2014 we hosted an informal presentation of work by a Portuguese artist and activist who was visiting London, Antonio Onio, in Congress House. Antonio's topic was using your vulnerability as resistance to capitalism and the current austerity in Portugal and the rest of Europe. The presentation was opened by Maria Exall





Speakers and chair at the Network's fringe meeting "Next Wave Activism" at TUC LGBT conference 2013

– TUC LGBT Committee Chair. Again this was well attended and people found it a very positive event, especially what Antonio had to say. The feedback was that this type of event and format be done again. There is a video of the presentation, which we believe would be good to screen and allow more people the opportunity to see Antonio's presentation.

February 2014 saw LGBT History Month. This year the Network held a joint event with the TUC LGBT Committee. The event was to showcase what unions have and continue to do for LGBT rights; this was done by having stalls in the Marble Hall from trade unions and the *Morning Star*, with a welcome from Frances O'Grady, TUC General Secretary. Our Secretary, David Sharkey also spoke on behalf of the Network. Along with the stalls there was a screening of a short film about the Brixton Fairies and the South London Gay Centre in Brixton of the 1970s. The film was made up of interviews of people who were involved with the Brixton Fairies. The screening was opened by Patrick Cash – *QX* magazine Assistant Editor and was followed by a Q&A with the film maker Taha Hassan (London Queer Social Centre) and chaired by David Sharkey. The film prompted a lively discussion looking at alternatives for LGBTQ people in a commercially-driven scene. There was an interview with Taha in that week's online edition of *QX*. The demand to see the film was high and people had to be

turned away, so thanks to our friends at Unite London & Eastern Region LGBT Committee for hosting a further screening at Unite House. The film was made with support from Unite LE/1148 Branch. Thanks, to Timothy Wang who designed the flyer for the event.

David Sharkey has been representing the Network at the planning meetings for the LGBTQ People's Assembly against austerity. As part of getting the message out about austerity and what it means for LGBTQ communities, Anton Johnson (SERTUC EC member) and Peter Purton, TUC Disability & LGBT Policy Officer, met *QX* magazine. Following that meeting our Secretary had a piece in the magazine attached to a feature on austerity and the X-press Yourself Against Austerity exhibition, which was shown from January to March 2014 at the White Rabbit, with an opening hosted by Unite London & Eastern Region LGBT Committee.

Our thanks to the SERTUC office, *Morning Star* and Unite London & Eastern Region for assistance in our work this past year.

**Dorothy Amos, NUT, Co-Chair**  
**Gerard McGrath, Unison, Co-Chair**  
**David Sharkey, Unite, Secretary**

**Anton Johnson, Unite, SERTUC EC LGBT seat**

# Trades union councils

Campaigning against the bedroom tax at the Andover carnival. *left to right* Tandy Davies, Jo Colby and Pete Millward

Throughout the year, and all around the Region, trades councils have been carrying out their historic role as the voice of workers and their families in our Region's communities. Here's a snapshot of activity.

**Andover** The TUC conducted four lively campaigns during 2013. Not put off by very cold weather we began the year delivering postcards to hard-pressed commuters as part of the national *Action for Rail* campaign. This was very well received and saw us leaflet a few stations in the surrounding area too. Our May public meeting was on the theme *It's time to take over the banks*. The main speaker was Matt Wrack, FBU general secretary, who put forward the case for public ownership of the finance industry to enable planning, investment and job creation. We used the opportunity of publicising the meeting for other activities in Andover town centre, both to make ourselves more widely known and to encourage discussion on a socialist alternative to the cuts agenda. In July we commenced our *Let's Axe the Bedroom Tax* petition. This saw us again in the town centre but also talking to people at the local carnival and going door to door on the most affected housing estates. Finally, we rounded off the year with a quick leafleting campaign to *Save Our Royal Mail*. In addition to our campaign activity, we have also sent representatives to support various national trade union demonstrations, to the People's



Assembly meeting in London, and also to the Tower Hamlets anti-fascist mobilisation. We look forward to supporting the TUC mass demonstration *Britain Needs A Pay Rise* on 18 October .

**Bedford** You would think a top Tory star turning up in a marginal seat would arrive with all the glitz and fanfare of a James Bond premiere.



# TUCJCC south east region



The Trades Union Councils Joint Consultative Committee report for the South East Region: It goes without saying that with an unholy coalition currently holding power in Westminster, life has been none too easy for many people, especially those facing cuts on the front line – and there are far too many of them. However, it is also true to say that the actions of this government have seen a resurgence in trade union council activity and a coming together of communities that we haven't seen in a very long time. The popularity of the People's Assembly at Westminster Methodist Hall showed how angry people were with what is happening to their services, their jobs and the rise in unemployment, and their willingness to take action to fight back.

In London and the South East, many trade union councils have been involved in activity on a practically week to week basis organising marches, public meetings and street stalls highlighting the attacks on the very basics we all rely on, namely the NHS and public services.

There have been too many events for me to name them all but I will highlight a few.

May saw a flurry of activity which was to be expected with many trade union councils rallying around May Day. The annual march from Clerkenwell Green to Trafalgar Square highlighted the cuts as did the march by Croydon TUC through the centre of Croydon. Battersea & Wandsworth held a May Day party in the Bread and Roses Club to prove we would not be subdued and a demonstration took place in London in support of the NHS. At the end of May, Camden TUC set off the proceedings for

the TUC's Annual Trades Council Conference by holding a rally in Camden Town Hall. Their hospitality was much appreciated.

Greenwich & Bexley hosted the Banner Theatre's *Fighting the Cuts* production and, in July, East Kent Coast Trades Council launched. Later on in the year, GLATUC held a commemoration of the Pentonville 5 and Medway held a public meeting entitled *Unity is Strength*.

At the end of September, a lot of trade union councils' work came together nationally with a march and rally at the Tory Party Conference in Manchester, the theme of which was Save Our NHS, Defend Jobs and Services, No To Austerity. Coaches came from all over the country including from our region, amongst them Ealing, Camden and Haringey. It was a great effort by everybody and it is just a shame that we have to wait a year to do it all over again! Meanwhile TUCs all across the region will still be holding public meetings, organising street stalls and protests because, sadly, the work goes on as this government still isn't listening. There is still work to be done and the Trade Unions and the Trade Union Councils are still best placed to rise to the challenges ahead. We ARE in this together. Solidarity comrades.

Linda Kietz, GLATUC president and South East TUCJCC representative

The picture above shows NUT general secretary Christine Blower at the London May Day rally 2013



*left* Cambridgeshire unions defending the NHS  
*below* Protest against the threat of closure of 23 Surestart children's centres led by Save Kent's children centres and supported by Dover, Canterbury, Medway TUCs and Kent association of trades councils and affiliated trade unions and community activists

Instead Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education, slipped into Bedford on Friday like a thief in the night.

Mr Gove was invited to speak at a private Conservative Party bash at the Park Inn on Friday evening. Before that he visited Bedford Free School, in Cauldwell Street, Bedford. But, he did not turn up until the school had closed for the day and darkness had descended, and was thereby spared having to meet most of the children.

The visit was not announced by the Conservative Party or the school. The news had leaked out, rather than being trumpeted.

The teachers' unions had also heard their favourite hate figure was coming to Bedford, and a small demonstration gathered outside the Park Inn, to give him the traditional welcome!

**North Norfolk** Over the past year North Norfolk trades council has been involved in the following activities:

- Affiliated to Unite Against Fascism
- Supported King's Lynn trades council in a "pyjama protest" against the bedroom tax outside the Queen's palace in Sandringham
- Supported the Campaign to Defend Mental Health Services in Norfolk and Suffolk
- Lobbied the local health commissioning



group in opposition to privatisation of the NHS and cuts

- Lobbied Norman Lamb MP's office against privatisation of the NHS
- Supported the TUC day of civil disobedience in support of NHS which consisted of street theatre "Guy Fawkes" bank robbery with the money being then delivered to the local hospital
- Supported the TUC demonstration in Manchester to defend the NHS
- Saturday High Street stalls in Sheringham, Cromer and North Walsham
- Distributed leaflets criticising UKIP and exposing their racism
- Collected signatures for petitions around opposition to cuts, defence of the NHS, opposition to bedroom tax and for the renationalisation of fuel companies
- Supported anti-bedroom tax campaign including pushing for "no-evictions" policy
- Organised a public meeting about energy



*left* North Norfolk supporting the NHS with street theatre “Guy Fawkes” bank robbery with the money then delivered to the local hospital

*below* Norwich trades council TUC Silver Badge presentation: Peter Bartram, Treasurer; Teresa MacKay, TUCJCC Rep; Geraldine Murray, former Secretary (receiving her own badge and also a posthumous one for her partner, Sid Frisby); Sarah Lark, current President (not receiving a badge!); and Cid Gibbs, former President

prices with three speakers: Jo Rust, Alicia Hull and Mary Littlefield. Alicia’s emphasis was on investing for sustainable energy, Jo’s on the need to change the Labour Party and Mary’s on recent changes in public opinion in favour of nationalisation. The Libs and Tories, despite being invited, did not show. From the floor there were a variety of very intelligent contributions. The discussion moved away from fuel prices to wider issues like how investment could be controlled and whether a citizen’s income could be viable.

We were very pleased that all three speakers were women, and almost half the

audience. A local reporter was there.

**Southampton** trades council; the president reports: Following from an on-line petition about the NHS it was decided to hold a meeting with a view to setting up an NHS support group. Abelado Clariana-Piga agreed to take on the organisation of this and since then there has been the growth of Southampton Keep our NHS Public with Abelado still taking a leading role.

During March the Executive Committee started to meet to discuss the TUC’s new “Rules for TUCs”, a task which took up several months and will be confirmed at the





AGM. Also in March I attended a SERTUC conference in London; a PCS picket, and on the same day, the presentation of a petition on the NHS to the City Council.

In April the AGM of Hampshire County Association of TUCs was held, and I visited a picket line outside the HMRC offices and a meeting about the Bedroom Tax.

In May I attended a lobby of the Council on the Bedroom Tax at the Civic Centre.

June was largely taken up with organising the celebration for NHS day on 5th July supported by Hampshire Health Unison (my branch).

We hope that in five years time we can truly celebrate the 70th birthday in the knowledge that our NHS is still safe!

I also attended a meeting of the Hampshire County Association of TUCs with the Secretary and Minutes Secretary on the 6th July where our new banner designed by Steve Moore was much admired and it was agreed that a banner for HCATUCs would be produced.

On 11 September I attended an inaugural



meeting of Southampton People's Assembly and have subsequently attended Steering Committee meetings along with Tomasa Bullen and Steve Squibbs of our TUC. In September I went to Manchester on one of the coaches organised by Unite to demonstrate at the Conservative Party Conference. The march was extremely large and very noisy, I subsequently heard from a reporter inside the building, that the chants of the march could be heard clearly and seemed to go on for hours as we passed by.

In October I attended the HCATUC meeting and a People's Assembly Steering

Southampton & South West Hampshire TUC organised a highly successful 65th birthday celebration for the NHS with the assistance of Unison and Unite. The sun shone on the gathering as we sang, had speeches from local MP Alan Whitehead, and Labour councillors Sarah Bogel and Satvir Kaur and others, and handed out large quantities of birthday cakes, with the slogan "Cut the cake, not the NHS"



Committee meeting. Also in October I attended and spoke at a rally of NUT members in Hoglands Park.

In January I attended a meeting of HCATUC with our other delegates, and visited UCU pickets outside Solent University on their two strike days.

In February I attended a rally of Unite members outside the Civic Centre at 1pm protesting about their low pay; I also attended rallies of UCU, Unison and Unite outside both universities (in the pouring rain), despite the weather their mood was high; as well as attending a PA Steering Committee.

**Wisbech and March** trades council: "When Adam delved and Eve span who was then the Gentleman?"

In the early part of the year, we held a public meeting, to combat what turned out to be the activities of UKIP, who were using race and immigration to gain election support for the County Council Elections. Although we were successful in holding a Public meeting and setting up, the WE ARE WISBECH group, UKIP made gains on the CC.

The WE ARE WISBECH group became independent from the Trades Council, with Dean Reeves a member of the Labour Party becoming its Chair. Although the group did asked the TC to pay a £100 bill for leaflets

etc. we do not receive any minutes or information of its activities.

As delegates know, the trades council has a facebook page. Recently when I looked at the page, I was concerned to see, that the last 15 entries are by a member of the Labour Party promoting his activities in elections etc. This gives me cause to think, that there are elements who wish to use the trades council as a vehicle to promote the Labour Party. In my opinion this is not acceptable as the trades council is, and always will be, an independent trade union organisation, and one should have care that they do not find themselves in conflict with the Representation of the People's Act.

In the course of last year, seven of the meetings were inquorate or did not take place. We carried out a number of reviews in an effort to raise the interest level, but this did not come to any fruition, as it is not viable to organise public meetings, street activity or speakers for the council if no one turns up.

It is therefore up to you, the Delegates, to decide if you really want a Trades Council in Wisbech. Only you can make it happen.

# Inter-Regional TUC



SERTUC continues to play a major role in the Inter-Regional TUC with eight other trade union confederations (from Nord-Pas de Calais in France, and Hainaut and West Flanders in Belgium). The SERTUC regional secretary is the IRTUC vice-president until November 2014 when the UK assumes the presidency.

The Committee meetings are attended by a wide variety of EURES advisers, TU reps and officers, and over the year we have been able to give a number of colleagues from our Region the opportunity to meet and discuss with their mainland Europe partners. Pictured left is *Lauren Usher* from unionlearn addressing the meeting on the situation facing young workers.

Once again, many thanks are due to former SERTUC EURES adviser *Les Ford* for his unstinting linguistic and political support.





# SERTUC officers and staff

## **President**

## **Vice Presidents**

## **Treasurer**

Regional Secretary

Regional Campaigns and Policy Officer

Administrative Secretary

Administrative Assistants

Regional Education Officers

Senior Union Support Officer

Union Support Officers

**Martin Gould**

**Tony Lennon**

**Linda Perks**

**Carolyn Simpson**

Megan Dobney

Laurie Heselden

Darren Lewis

Joanne Adams

Jaspal Ghtoray

Alyx Jenkins

Rob Hancock

Phil Gowan

Stuart Barber

Oreleo du Cran

Adrian Ryan

020 7467 1291

020 7467 1292

020 7467 1220

020 7467 1218

020 7467 1248

020 7467 1237

020 7467 1369

020 7467 1238

020 7467 1385

020 7467 1368

020 7467 1339

all email addresses are first name initial followed by surname@tuc.org.uk

# Executive Committee attendance 2013-2014



## Trade union section

ASLEF	Mark Steele	7
BECTU	Tony Lennon	8
CWU	Jim Kirwan	3
CWU	Paul Moffat	4
FBU	Ian Leahair	4
GMB	Charles Harrity	3
NASUWT	Timothy Ramsden	9
Nautilus Int'l	Jonathan Havard	7
NUT	Alex Kenny	5
PCS	Richard Edwards	6
TSSA	Steve Leggett	8
Unison	Linda Perks	6
Unison	Phil Wood	6
Unite	Martin Gould	7
Unite	Peter Kavanagh	5
Unite	Jim Kelly	9
<b>Treasurer (ex officio)</b>		
Unite	Carolyn Simpson	9

## Women's seats

CWU	Linda Kietz	9
NUT	Dorothy Amos	8
Unite	Sithabile Tabi Mpala	3

## Young trade unionist

vacant

## Black trade unionists

GMB	Dotun Alade-Odumosu	3
PCS	Dil Joshi	4
Unison	Gloria Hanson	5

## Disabled trade unionist

vacant

## LGBT trade unionist

Unite	Anton Johnson	8
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## County Associations

Cambs CATC	Tony Carter	8
GLATC	Roger Sutton	8
Hants CATC	Louis Mac Donald	5
Oxon CATC	Sue Tibbles	7
Suffolk CATC	Teresa MacKay	8

Attendances are from a possible total of 9  
(the April 2014 meeting is not included)

# Delegate monitoring



## Attendance at meetings of the Regional Council 2013-2014

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Union delegates</i>	<i>Unions</i>	<i>CATC delegates</i>	<i>Observers</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>(2012-13)</i>
April	96	17	21	12	117	(121)
July	60	15	21	7	81	(66)
October	69	16	18	8	87	(87)
January	53	15	15	2	68	(45)

## Gender monitoring

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Regional Council (nominated)	161	109	50 (31%)
Executive Committee (elected)	29	21	8 (28%)

## Ethnic monitoring

	<i>White</i>	<i>Afro Caribbean</i>	<i>African</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>No response</i>
Regional Council (nominated)	120	8	3	4	3	23
Executive Committee (elected)	22	1	2	1	2	1

# Campaign account

## 1 January to 31 December 2013

### Receipts

Interest	19.33
<i>Campaign Fund donations</i>	
CWU (2012 & 2013)	4,800.00
FBU East Anglia	100.00
FBU London	1,000.00
NUJ	137.25
PCS	800.00
TSSA	50.00
Unison Eastern	1,000.00
Unison London	1,200.00
<i>Spithead &amp; Nore booklet sponsorship</i>	
Nautilus International	250.00
RMT	1,000.00
Sale of books to Tolpuddle Museum	50.00
<i>Young Workers Month donations</i>	
GMB NW London	25.00
GMB Islington	100.00
FBU Congress House fees	1,890.00
WRC walking tour fees	55.00

### Payments

<i>Advertisements</i>	
CSC Cuba Si	70.00
PPPS Austerity Conference	50.00
PPPS New Year	200.00
PPPS May Day	200.00
PPPS Vic Turner	200.00
VSC	125.00
<i>Affiliations</i>	
Abortion Rights	75.00
ACTSA	40.00
Baby Milk Action (2012 & 2013)	115.00
CND	75.00
Cuba Solidarity Campaign (2012 & 2013)	100.00
End Child Poverty	100.00
International Brigade Memorial Trust	125.00
National Assembly of Women	45.00
National Pensioners' Convention	30.00
Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign	75.00
Socialist Health Association	25.00
Unite Against Fascism	50.00
Venezuela Solidarity Campaign	80.00
Women's Resource Centre	54.00
<i>Donations</i>	
Abortion Rights centenary	100.00
ALLFIE	50.00
CND Bus Campaign	50.00
Construction Safety Campaign	75.00
George Tapp blacklisting	100.00
Health Emergency	100.00
IBMT	100.00
Latin America 2013	250.00
Leigh Folk Festival	100.00
Levellers' Day	250.00
Lewisham SOS NHS	100.00
London May Day Organising Committee	1,200.00
London Socialist Film Co-op	30.00
Medical Aid for Greece	120.00
Norwich Pride	100.00
Orgreave Truth & Justice Campaign	50.00
PCS Hardship Fund	200.00
York Disabled Workers Cooperative	100.00
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	
Bank charges	12.00

### Summary SERTUC Campaign Account

Balance in bank at 1 January 2013

Current account	1,000.00
Deposit account	19,749.79
Total 1 January 2013	20,749.79
Add Receipts	12,476.58
	33,226.37
Subtract payments	10,531.93
	22,694.44
<b>Credit balance at 31 December 2013</b>	<b>£22,694.44</b>

Delegates to Pensioners' Parliament	245.80
FBU Congress House fee	1,890.00
LGBT delegate fee to IER conference	80.00
PSC conference delegate fee	5.00
Taxi Claude James	4.00
WRC walking tour Rachel Kolsky	176.00
Xmas celebration (drinks)	56.74
Young Workers' Network media	411.42
<i>SERTUC Film Club</i>	
Licence for <i>Spirit of '45</i>	55.00
Panel travel expenses	181.50
<i>SERTUC Regional Council</i>	
Travel expenses Ricky Tomlinson	100.40
Travel expenses Tommy Sheridan	196.70
<i>SERTUC Trades Councils Conference travel</i>	
Brighton & Hove	12.90
Cambridge	18.85
Ipswich	54.25
Norwich	97.40
Peterborough	25.85
Southend	11.10
<i>Spithead &amp; Nore booklet</i>	
Expenses Peta Steel	32.00
Printing Upstream	1,956.00

## Sylvia Pankhurst account

### Summary Sylvia Pankhurst Memorial Committee

Balance in bank at 1 January 2013

Current account	1,000.00
Reserve account	19,623.04
Total 1 January 2013	20,623.04
Add Receipts	1,164.59
	21,787.63
Subtract payments	1,312.06
	20,475.57

**Credit balance at 31 December 2013 £20,475.57**

### Receipts

Interest	19.59
Donations	1,145.00

### Payments

Bank charges	12.06
Plinth Michael Benson	1,300.00





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