

SERTUC annual report 2013



About the region

SERTUC, the Southern & Eastern Region of the TUC, is the largest of the TUC's six English regions and covers three of the former government regions: London, the South East, and East of England. Over 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 industrial and life experience to inform the activities of the Regional Council.

The SERTUC office administers the Regional Council, delivers services to affiliates, represents the TUC in relations with public bodies, and campaigns for Congress policies.

There are four members of staff: Megan Dobney *regional secretary*, Darren Lewis *administrative secretary*, Laurie Heselden *campaigns and policy officer*, and Joanne Adams *administrative assistant*.



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President's foreword



This year will be critical for the labour and trade union movement and for our families and communities. The attacks from the Tory-led coalition continue. We are told time and again that we must all pay the price for the economic crisis, a crisis for which we have no responsibility. The government tells us that it is prepared to make the hard decisions; they certainly are hard, they are hard for working people and their families. What does austerity mean? It means pay freezes, welfare benefit caps, privatisation and unemployment. As far as this government is concerned the remedy to the outcome of the bankers' and speculators' gambling spree is an austerity programme aimed at cutting the living standards of ordinary people.

All sections of society, but particularly women and the disabled, are carrying the burden of the austerity programme. Everyone seems to be making a sacrifice except the financial and political elite. The latest examples are the pension reforms. Public service workers have already had their pensions attacked, having to work longer, pay more and get less. Now it is the turn of the state pension, with an increase in the number of years for which you have to pay national insurance contributions from 30 to 35 years, increases in the retirement age and a smaller pension at the end of it all. And now we see attacks on the fire services that we all depend upon with the proposed closure of stations, loss of fire tenders and many hundreds of firefighter and support staff jobs. This is a vicious cuts programme dressed up as modernisation.

The so-called pension reforms were preceded by the next phase of the government's supposedly 'tough but fair' strategy, a one per cent increase in all welfare benefits for years to come, hitting some of the most vulnerable and weakest in our society the hardest. This will take even more demand out of the economy.

Britain's industrial base continues to shrink because of the lack of investment and weakness or absence of support from government initiatives. Our high streets show the signs of recession with companies like Blockbuster, Comet and HMV folding, and empty shops as the economy stumbles

towards an unprecedented triple-dip recession.

More and more people are being pushed into poverty, and we are supposed to be jubilant that Goldman Sachs has backtracked on its intention to delay bonus payments in order to reduce its tax liability. That ruse would have avoided £50,000 tax on a £1m bonus. Of course, £50,000 is vastly more than most people earn in a year. Meanwhile, the super-rich will be comforted by the reduction in the top rate of tax from 50 per cent to 45 per cent.

The question that should be asked is 'why bankers are still getting a bonus at all', given the state they have left the economy in and the mess they have made. It seems to be that in boom times excessive executive salaries are justified because profits are high, and in tough times, excessive executive pay is justified because it is hard to lead companies in tough times. And who is it that funds the Tory Party? Why yes, it is the bankers, the captains of industry and the equity fund managers.

The Labour Party's response of cuts that are less deep and less fast is not the answer. Nor is talk of 'one nation' politics. Labour needs to generate a confidence and enthusiasm amongst its supporters to help build a fight-back. Let's be clear, unless we prosecute a dynamic campaign the Tories' relentless attacks on pensions, jobs, pay and services will continue. The most recent of numerous examples are the cut of £4,000 in the starting pay of police officers and the proposal to break the national pay scales for teachers.

We have to put forward an alternative strategy. The foundation of that strategy is to be found in the People's Charter. The Charter lays the blame for the economic crisis where it belongs, with the bankers, with big business, the City and the political elite. It does this not out of class spite, it does this because if we do not recognise the causes of the crisis in capitalism, we cannot envisage an

alternative economic and political strategy that is secure, credible and sustainable. Einstein famously said: 'a definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results'.

The austerity programmes set out by this government and others across Europe, are not inevitable, not necessary, and will be self-defeating. No economy like Britain's has ever cut its way out of a recession in all economic history. The government's austerity programme is a political response, naked class politics and slavish to right-wing neo-liberal ideology.

The consultation that the TUC General Council has launched within the TUC's family of unions on the potential for organising coordinated strike action needs to be brought to a swift result. And I believe, as President of this Regional Council, that that conclusion must be that unions should use all the weapons at our disposal including industry-wide sector by sector industrial action, coordinated action, designed to force this unelected coalition that has no policy mandate to stop, think and listen, and change course. The power of the trade union and labour movement can be harnessed, aligned and focussed in exactly the way that got the Pentonville 5 released from jail 40 years ago. If we hesitate, the government and the ruling class will advance.

2013 will be a critical year, let us make it our year. Let this year be the end of Cameron, Osborne and Clegg as we build our organisation and struggle to get rid of this anti-working class government.

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

This report attempts to give a flavour of the events of the past year covering work in the three sub-regions, campaigning activities, and the activities of our equality and industrial sub-groups, as well as of the trades councils and county associations of trades councils in our Region.

Again I begin by paying tribute to the officers and activists who have made it possible. Some are named but many are not. But without them this would be a short report indeed! Sincere thanks to all for the commitment, contribution and creativity you have shown, and thanks to your unions who have supported you; and our activity.

I want to say particular thanks to the volunteers who have made a regular or irregular commitment to give their skills. So, in alphabetical order: **John Ball** who continues to play an important role in the economic development of the south east sub-region, including supporting the South East Trade Union Network, the Workplace Wellbeing Project steering group, and representing the national TUC on the Health & Safety Executive's Estates Excellence National Board. **Anne Kane** who has supported our Disabled Workers Network with her years of experience and research skills. **Joel Kosminsky** who continues to bring clarity to the complex transport issues in the Region. **Dick Muskett** who has given

unstinting support to the SERTUC Pensioners' Network as well as using his years of experience in the not-for-profit sector on our Unemployed Workers Centres project. (I am delighted that we have been successful in our bid for funding from the Trust for London for this project – and will be able to report more at our Annual General Meeting). **Peta Steele**, with whom I am currently finalising our publication on the Spithead and Nore mutinies.

We have enjoyed having **David Braniff-Herbert** working from the SERTUC office on the TUC's local organiser project. This national project concluded in February but David continues to give valued support to our Young Members Network.

Of course, the coming year isn't going to be an easy one, but the SERTUC office staff (Joanne Adams, Laurie Heselden, Darren Lewis) will continue, with your help, to support unions, reps and members.

We will continue to oppose anti-union laws, cuts in public services and job losses, racism and fascism, and all actions that seek to undermine the working and living conditions of SERTUC's two million trade unionists and their families.

Megan Dobney
Regional Secretary

It's the economy stupid...

“There’s class warfare alright, but it’s my class, the rich class, that’s making war, and we’re winning.” Warren Buffett

Anyone who follows the travails of the British economy and the death spiral of the coalition government’s economic policy will not be surprised at the latest tranche of horrid economic data. The UK economy shrank 0.3 per cent in quarter 4 of 2012 and looks set to shrink again in Q1 2013, giving Britain its first ever triple dip recession. By the definitions used in the USA, Britain already has an unenviable triple dip recession. Retail sales fell in December 2012 and in January 2013. The government will blame the weather but the fact is that the real value of average earnings has fallen to a 10 year low, to levels last seen in 2003. This represents a real terms pay cut of 12 per cent. Consumers’ confidence has been smashed and their pockets are empty. Low and middle earners are being assaulted on at least three fronts, with pay freezes or very low pay increases, inflation at three per cent, and welfare benefit up-rating, including ‘in-work’ benefits, increasing by only one per cent.

For many in the SERTUC region there is a fourth cause of hardship, and that is housing costs, especially in London. The number of new homes being built in Britain in a year, about 100,000, is the smallest number for a century – and a fraction of those are affordable homes for social housing. Britain is short of at least a million homes, and most

of those need to be built in London, the South East and the East of England. Building those homes could be the spine of a job-led economic recovery package and the core of a new social justice policy.

Meanwhile there are more than 850,000 workers who are unemployed in the SERTUC region including 200,000 young workers under 25. This figure ignores the hundreds of thousands in the region who are under-employed, working in part-time work when they want full-time, or doing jobs massively below their skill levels. The paradox, or nonsense, is that we have millions of skilled workers who want to work but cannot find quality employment, and we have immense and immediate tangible needs, such as building housing, education, health and social care, but capitalism and this government cannot, or will not, reconcile the two.

East of England

The sub-region comprises Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

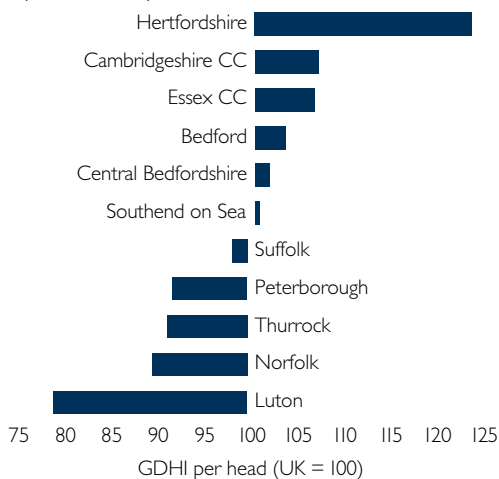
The East of England has the highest employment rate of any English region or country of the UK. The employment rate was 74.9 per cent in Q4 2012, compared with a UK average of 71.4 per cent. Sub-regional data (October 2010 to September 2011) show that South Cambridgeshire had the highest employment rate at 81.8 per cent and Fenland had the lowest at 61.3 per cent, demonstrating the differential in the region.

The unemployment rate was 6.7 per cent, one of the lowest rates among the regions in Q4 2012. Unemployment rates ranged from 3.8 per cent in South Cambridgeshire to 10.2 per cent in Great Yarmouth.

Gross disposable household income (GDHI) of residents in the East of England, at £16,400 per head in 2010, was the third highest of the English regions. Within the region it ranged from £19,440 in Herts to £12,340 in Luton.

In 2010 businesses in the region spent £4 billion on research and development. Including government and universities the total was £5 billion, almost 20 per cent of the UK total. This was equivalent to 4.5 per cent of the region's total Gross Value Added (GVA).

Gross disposable household income (GDHI) per head indices within the East of England, 2010 (NUTS 3 areas)



Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. GDHI is shown relative to the UK average, UK=100
2. NUTS 3 areas are local authorities or groups of local authorities

The East of England is responsible for nine per cent of the UK's GVA. The region's headline GVA was £110.8 billion in 2010. The latest sub-regional data (2009) show that within the region the largest contribution to GVA was from Hertfordshire at £25.3 billion.

London

Productivity, as measured by GVA per hour worked, was 98 per cent of the UK rate in 2010, the third highest of the English regions. Within the region in 2009 Luton had the highest productivity level, 110 per cent of the UK rate, followed by Hertfordshire at 108 per cent.

In 2009, 13 per cent of the East of England's GVA was derived from wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles, the second highest proportion of all regions. The region was responsible for 16 per cent of the UK's agriculture and fishing GVA. This was the highest proportion in the UK.

Within the East of England are significant geographically based variations in household income. Gross Disposable Household Income in Luton is 22 per cent below the UK average, whilst in Hertfordshire it is 23 per cent above UK average GDHI.

London comprises the 32 London boroughs and the City Corporation of London.

London is by far the largest contributor to the economy among the English regions and countries of the UK in terms of Gross Value Added. Within this, financial, banking and insurance activities still predominate. However the unemployment rate in London is one of the highest in the UK, the level of inequality is chronically high and 50 per cent of all children live in households officially regarded as impoverished after they have paid their housing costs. Much of this poverty is 'in work' poverty, caused by low pay.

In 2010 London's headline gross value added (GVA) was over £274 billion. It represented 22 per cent of the UK total, the largest regional share.

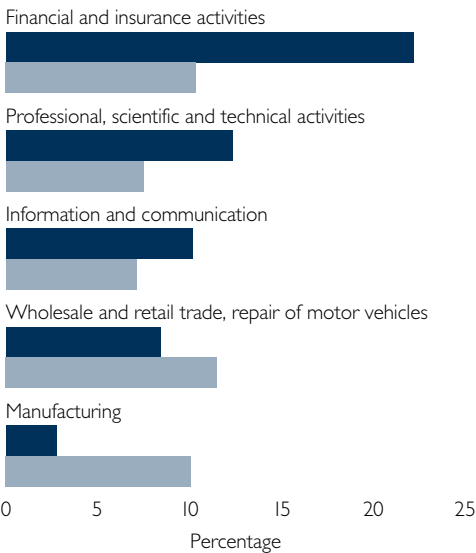
London was responsible for 46 per cent of the total UK GVA from the financial and insurance activities sector. The sector contributed the most to London's GVA, 22 per cent in 2009, followed by professional, scientific and technical activities, 12 per cent, and information and communication, 10 per cent. This compares with 10 per cent, seven per cent and six per cent, respectively, for the UK.

London still presents itself as a major world financial centre. It does attract global

In order to make the incomprehensible comprehensible SERTUC has established a website <http://sertucresources.wordpress.com> containing a series of 'plain guides' to the economy (and much more).

“An economist is a man who states the obvious in terms of the incomprehensible.” Alfred A Knopf

Industry distribution of GVA in London and the UK, 2009. Selected industries



Source: Office for National Statistics

London
UK

Notes:

1. Workplace based gross value added (GVA) headline estimates at current basic prices. Estimates of workplace based GVA allocate incomes to the region in which the economic activity takes place
2. Industries defined according to the Standard Industrial Classification 2007

businesses and a highly skilled workforce from across the UK and abroad. London residents, aged 16 to 64 and working, are more likely to be employed in managerial, professional or associate professional and technical occupations, compared with the UK, 54 and 43 per cent respectively in 2011.

London’s employment rate was 66.9 per cent in the period October to November 2012, below the average of 70.3 per cent for the UK. The unemployment rate was 8.3 per cent compared with 7.7 per cent for the UK. Within London the highest unemployment rate was in Newham.

London has a rapid turnover of businesses. In 2010 it had the highest business birth and death rates among UK regions at 13 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. This compares with the averages for the UK of 10 and 13 per cent respectively.

Productivity, as measured by GVA per hour worked, was 33 per cent above the England average in 2010, the highest for all the regions of England and countries of the UK.

Gross disposable household income (GDHI) per head of London residents was the highest of all regions. At £20,200 in 2010 it was 29 per cent higher than the UK average. GDHI per head in Outer London was £17,890 and in Inner London it was £23,850.

South East

The long term and chronic shortage of affordable housing remains an enduring obstacle to economic growth, social equity and quality of life.

London's economy remains heavily dependent on banking and financial services, and the manufacturing sector has been allowed to shrink, to the great detriment of the region's long term sustainability.

The sub-region comprises Kent, East and West Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

The South East is the second largest economic contributor among the regions of England and countries of the UK, after London. Unsurprisingly, the productivity rate in some parts of the region is the highest after London.

The South East is responsible for nearly 15 per cent of the UK's gross value added (GVA). The region's headline GVA was £186.9 billion in 2010. The level of economic development is not uniform; and Kent and the Isle of Wight are relatively weak or under-developed, partly due to geographical marginalisation.

The region's overall productivity, as measured by GVA per hour worked, was eight per cent above the UK average in 2010. Outside of London, Berkshire and Surrey had the highest productivity in 2009 with levels of 20 per cent or more above the UK average.

The employment rate for the region's residents was 74.8 per cent in Q4 2012 compared with the UK average of 71.4 per cent. The unemployment rate was 6.5 per cent for the same period, compared with 7.7 per cent for the UK. Sub-regional data show

that the employment rate ranged from 62.7 per cent in Thanet to 82.1 per cent in Reigate and Banstead.

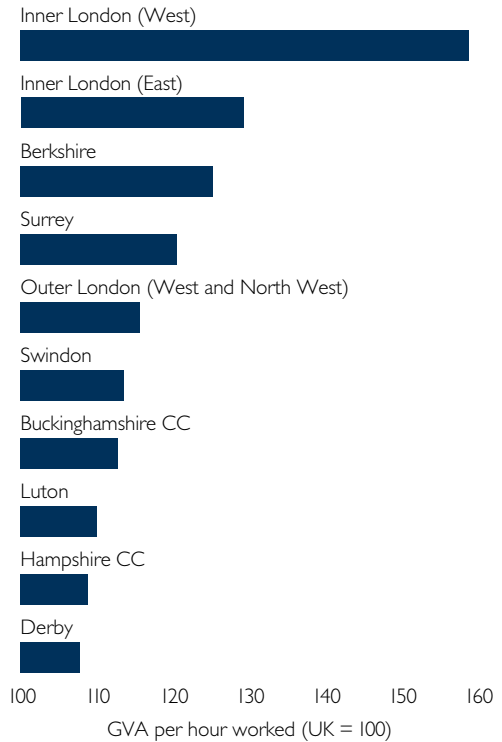
Gross disposable household income (GDHI) of South East residents was also the second highest after London, at £17,600 per head. There was a wide range within the region, with GDHI lowest in Portsmouth at £12,170 per head, compared with £21,500 in Surrey.

The South East generated the second largest contribution to the UK's GVA for the information and communication sector at 22 per cent in 2009. Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles activities accounted for 17 per cent of the UK total from this sector, also larger than the region's share of total GVA (15 per cent).

In 2010 businesses in the region spent £5.6 billion on research and development. This was 22 per cent of the UK total and the highest regional spend in the UK.

The rate of productivity of a worker can be calculated by dividing gross value added by the number of workers. The productivity rate in different areas varies hugely, the key determinant being the mix of sectors in the sub-region. Eight of the highest 10 productivity rates in the UK in 2010 were to be found in the SERTUC region.

Highest 10 NUTS 3 areas productivity levels in the UK, 2009



Source: Office for National Statistics

Note:

1. NUTS 3 areas are local authorities or groups of local authorities

Campaigns and events

The priority of the SERTUC office, volunteers and activists, remains our campaigning agenda.

Whether it's supporting affiliates or our communities, celebrating our past as defining our culture, or fighting for our rights in the future, the year has been full of action across all parts of the region.

The October Regional Council was moved to allow the mobilisation for the TUC's national demonstration (A Future that Works) on 20 October, and following the announcement of Brendan Barber's retirement as TUC general secretary we were delighted to welcome Frances O'Grady as our keynote speaker after her election at the 2012 Congress. Council was also addressed by Mbide Charles Kude from Cameroon FAWU, Adrian Weir from the LCDTU, and Brian Davis from Remploy.

In the run-up to the demonstration SERTUC's campaign fund financed thousands of flyers, distributed across the Region by union branches and trades councils, as well as re-printing three thousand of the TUC's excellent booklet *Austerity is Failing*. Laurie Heselden, SERTUC's campaigns and Policy officer, acted as the deputy chief steward responsible for Hyde Park.

The 2012 Regional Council AGM last April agreed motions on Pay Justice, Local Pay, the



attacks on the Equality & Human Rights Commission, Migrant Domestic Workers,

Burston Strike School Rally

Burston Strike School Trustees unveiled the gift of a bronze cast of one of the original chairs used at the Strike School. The sculpture by Louise Richardson, was donated by Aude Gotto, and was handed over to the Trustees by Anne May, daughter of Tom Potter, one of the original striking children in 1914.

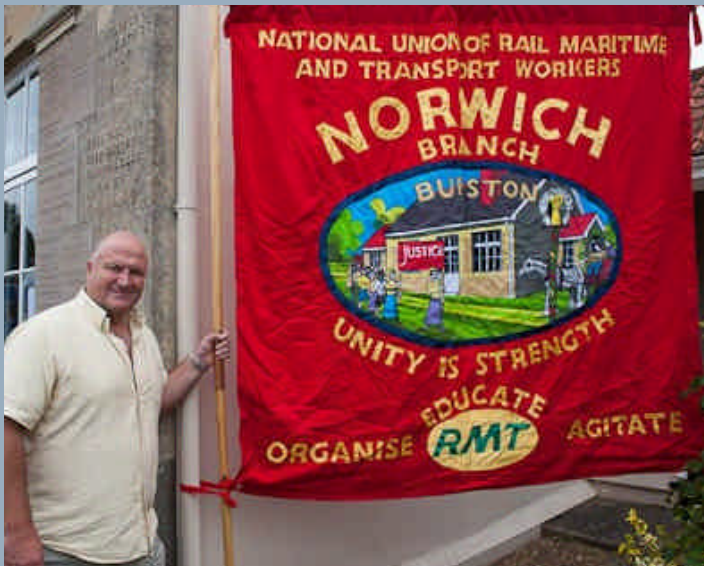
The 2012 rally on the first Sunday in September was again a fantastic day. Thousands flocked to the village green and enjoyed a relaxed day with the sharp edges of politics thrown in! The rally was jointly chaired by SERTUC regional secretary Megan Dobney and Teresa MacKay (Ipswich trades council) with Julie Bremner PCS, Clive Lewis Labour Party PPC, Bob Crow RMT, and Cath Speight Unite, with music from Red Flags, Maddy Carty, and Bleeding Hearts.

The Rally Committee is working on this year's event (confirmed speaker thus far Mark Serwotka PCS) as well as developing wide-ranging plans for 2014, the centenary of the beginning of the Strike.



pictures from the top:

On the left, Cath Speight (Unite), and on the right Megan Dobney (SERTUC) with Teresa MacKay (Ipswich trades council). Then, Julie Bremner (PCS) and Clive Lewis (Labour Party), plus We are Norwich building opposition to the English Defence League, and Bob Crow with the RMT Norwich branch banner.





and affiliation to the Greece Solidarity Campaign.

Following the success of the motions on pay SERTUC organised a seminar designed to deepen trade union understanding of the government's real economic agenda. The seminar *Ending the low pay culture*, was addressed by Duncan Weldon, TUC senior economist; Helen Kersley of the New Economics Foundation; Heather Wakefield of Unison; Enrico Tortolano, PCS; and Andrew Murray, Unite.

In 2012 we also established the website <http://sertucresources.wordpress.com> and are producing a series of "plain truth" guides to undermine the government's obfuscation of the nation's financial situation. Conference papers are also posted on the site, including the presentations from the *Ending the low pay culture* seminar:

Speakers at the July Regional Council were Heather Wakefield, Unison head of local government, and Richard Williams from Thompsons Solicitors updating Council on the latest government attacks on workers' rights. Motions were carried on the police harassment of prostitutes prior to and during the Olympic & Paralympic Games, and on Forced Academies and Free Schools – this work continues alongside the Anti Academies Alliance as well as by supporting the education unions' campaigns.

In January the Regional Council received senior TUC economist Richard Exell's always accessible account of government policy and its particular impact on the SERTUC Region.

SERTUC also organised lobbies at the surgeries of some of the Region's MPs (Chloe Smith, North Norwich; Simon Wright, South Norwich; and Richard Fuller, Bedford) explaining to them the reality of the outcome of government proposals on regional pay.

Unions' industrial action on pensions on 10 May was supported by SERTUC, union branches and trades councils across the Region.

SERTUC was one of the eight European regions involved with the ICARUS project. The project aimed to examine and provide tools for improvement in the relationship between workplace Reps, European Works Council Reps, and full-time officers charged with their support, and concluded in December – a full report and downloadable resources is available on the project website. www.icarusparticipation.eu

In the South East sub-region former policy officer and current volunteer John Ball worked with the Health, Work and Well-being project of the Department of Health South East to produce a signposting guide to trade unions and trades councils in the sub-

Megan Dobney with GMB Southern regional secretary demonstrating at Next in Brighton against their poverty wages

PCS and Unite workers and officials outside the British Museum striking against the outsourcing facilities jobs



region. Following Unison and Unite's long dispute with Southampton City Council over the issue of section 188 notices reducing terms and conditions, the council was won by Labour at the local elections in May and union ballots have now accepted a deal that will see pay cuts restored for all by 2015.

In the East of England the Executive Committee supported local trade unionists in their participation in the Leigh Folk Festival. Southend trades council ran a stall and the open air rally was addressed by PCS assistant general secretary Chris Baugh, and Megan Dobney, SERTUC regional secretary.

Some years ago the Great Yarmouth Port Authority changed from a Trust Port to a privatised one. At this time the new owners proposed moving from their articles the requirement to have trade union interests on their Board. SERTUC, along with other local organisations objected to this change and our objections have now resulted in a public enquiry at which our evidence will be considered and a decision made as to the future structure of governance.

Again we have worked with ACAS to organise conferences in both London and the East of England for officers and reps. Key themes were facility time and the law covering strike action, and both events benefited from in-depth briefings on the recent changes in employment law.



SERTUC produced a briefing document in July on the latest attack on Remploy colleagues, showing the threat to factories in Acton, North London, Barking, Norwich, Portsmouth and Southampton with the proposed loss of nearly 200 jobs. Trades councils around the Region showed their support at numerous picket lines and demonstrations.

A key piece of work at the time of writing is with regard to the cuts in the fire and rescue service. Although the attacks in London are most high profile, these cuts will affect services across the Region.

We have also supported workers at London Metropolitan University, Amnesty International, ASLEF in the East of England,



below Most of the SERTUC team on the London May Day march: Anita, Dick, Megan, Laurie and Joanne



GMB at Carillion and Next, and PCS and Unite at the British Museum their various disputes.

2012 was marked by the London Games. SERTUC and the TUC supported the bid for the Games largely because of the regeneration dimension. Of course this was before both the recession in 2008 and the change of London Mayor in the same year; and government subsequently. It is clear now that many of the promises, especially in respect of low-cost housing, will not be met. However we note that the project was completed on time and on budget with union labour, and exceptionally for such a large construction project, with no deaths or very serious accidents on the site.

SERTUC supported the march and rally to oppose the EDL in Luton in May. The Regional Council agreed the revisions to our Anti Racist Anti Fascist Action Plan, and we

are now working with Luton trades council and the local authority to establish some longer term approaches to the EDL's attempts to divide this community – which in some ways they see as their base.

We also supported the successful locally-organised activities against the EDL in Cambridge, Walthamstow and Norwich.

The Altamir Ali Foundation with the United Platform Against Racism and Fascism once again commemorated the death in 1978 of Bangladeshi garment worker Altamir Ali at the hands of the National Front. The regional secretary joined community leaders and activists from the 70s at a rally in Tower Hamlets' Altamir Ali Park.

The SERTUC Executive Committee has continued its support for the activities of UpRise, including of their anti-racism festival *A generation inspires* held in September.



Kelvin Hopkins MP
at Bedford trades
council's May Day
celebration

Former SERTUC
regional secretary Mick
Connolly with Dr Will
Kaufman and Megan
Dobney commemorating
the centenary of Woodie
Guthrie's birth



Local elections in May saw the re-election, by a narrow majority, of Boris Johnson as Mayor – turnout was only 38%. Positively, the BNP lost its seat on the Greater London Assembly.

SERTUC supported the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Kings Cross Fire, *Never Again*, with the regional secretary joining the general secretaries of the RMT and FBU, Andrew Dismore AM, and Frank Dobson MP speaking at the rally and laying a wreath by the remembrance plaque on the station.

The SERTUC banner went on the London May Day march and our president, Martin Gould, co-chaired the rally with Linda Kietz, president of GLATC. The regional secretary, along with Kelvin Hopkins MP and a number of others, spoke at the May Day event organised by Bedford trades council.

For the first time SERTUC is able to play a major role in organising the 2013 Levellers Day in Burford, Oxfordshire, in May. The Levellers were a broad alliance of radicals and freethinkers and the annual commemorative event has not had a substantial trade union impact although the messages of the Levellers: equality before the law, abolition of corruption within the parliamentary and judicial processes, parliament not monarchy, peace not war, representative democracy, chime well with

our trade union ethos.

In July *Hard times and hard travelling* was presented by professor of American Literature and Culture at the University of Central Lancashire Dr Will Kaufman on the centenary of Woodie Guthrie's birth in 1912. SERTUC again supported the British Urban Film Festival welcoming into Congress Hall hundreds of film fans celebrating this creative centre of urban film, predominantly (but not only) promoting young and black creatives.

200 people attended the showing of *The Battle of Orgreave*, a film by Mike Figgis recording the recreation by artist Jeremy Deller of the battle of Orgreave during the miners' strike in the 80s. A panel discussion with Jeremy Corbyn MP, John Hendy QC, Maggie Dunn, and Martin Shakeshaft NUJ, followed the film.

Outside of Congress House we collaborated with Mobius and Attic Theatre Company for a reduced-price showing of *1936* by Tom McNab about the Hitler Games with a post performance discussion with Gail Cartmail, Unite AGS, and Jeremy Corbyn MP.

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

unionlearn SERTUC

Unionlearn SERTUC has enjoyed another busy year offering support to unions around the learning and skills agenda and developing further areas of work for the benefit of members and the development of the influence of unions in wider society.

ULR training and support

The team has continued to work to put on network meetings and forums to support work with Union Learning Reps and enable them to better support their members. Subjects covered have included the replacement of basic skills with functional skills courses, briefings on changes in FE funding and how to use social media such as twitter. New on-line resources have also been developed to assist ULRs. In September we held a well attended event on *Understanding Higher Education* and in late January we held a supporting learners event covering developments around careers advice and guidance.

Green skills

We have continued our ground-breaking work with the Green Skills Partnership for London, which includes apprenticeship training in Battersea and Hackney. We have also supported the Skills for Climate Change project in London which has an on-line pilot course covering three aspects of climate change and related skills issues, with 255 learners undertaking this programme. We have taken steps to spread our activities

around green skills into the east of England and the south east, particularly in Kent.

Health, Work and Well-being

We have continued our support and engagement work in workplaces across the region after the launch of our toolkit and have continued to support Lambeth Walk Group Practice on learning activities. We have met with Macmillan Cancer support for preliminary discussions about running a cancer awareness session in Tesco Hastings with support of USDAW and delivered a presentation to PCS at HMRC Southend on HWW. As a result PCS are aiming to develop a ULR network and newsletter around HWW in the east of England.

Unionlearn SERTUC is a verifier on the London Well-Being Charter and has supported activities at Lowestoft Town hall with Unison last October, delivered a HWW presentation to Unite and Prospect members at AWE Aldermaston, with 70 attendees, and supported Unison ULRs at Waveney Council and their achievement of obtaining a Gold Award in Health Ambitions.

Community engagement

We have undertaken a great deal of community engagement work during the year, including giving assistance to TSSA in Hackney and we are working with Ascentis in Hackney on green skills environmental courses. We have assisted USDAW community engagement work alongside

Tescos at Shoreham, Eastbourne, Bognor, Hastings, Wembley, Ponders End, Aylesbury, Rainham and Dover – this involves running ‘sign up to learning’ days for staff and customers. Learners on the environmental discussion leaders course held in south east London by Lewisham college were briefed on the work of unionlearn SERTUC.

We have begun engagement with the Community Learning Pilots across the region in Kent, Luton and Bedfordshire, Brighton and Hove and West Sussex, with the aim of encouraging creation of local links with trade union learning activities. We have run two discussion leaders’ courses for Lakehouse in Downham with referrals coming from JCP, with positive feedback from Lakehouse. All the attendees received job interviews with Lakehouse.

We supported Herts Trade Union Learning Centre Community Forum and assisted them in developing a job club for unemployed people in partnership with Guide Posts. We attended the Sustainable Sheppey project meeting which is a project funded by the Big Lottery fund. The fund is for a number of community projects on the Isle of Sheppey – this has been promoted to the FBU and they are actively engaging.

Work with Higher Education institutions

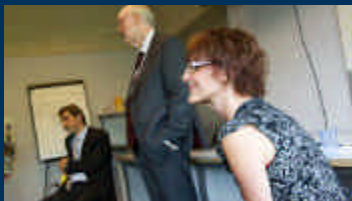
We have continued our very fruitful partnership with Birkbeck College, and are very happy to report that 752 trade union members took advantage of the 10 per cent

discount afforded to trade union members to sign up to courses with the college. These members were from a broad selection of unions and enrolled on a wide range of courses, illustrating a real demand for higher level learning amongst trade union members.

A new memorandum of understanding was signed with the University of Greenwich which has secured discounts on selected courses with both themselves and partner Further Education colleges, including a new Higher Apprenticeship in Business and Professional Administration.

Apprenticeships and skills competitions

Unionlearn SERTUC has supported the development of Group Training Association in logistics in west London and will take a place on the board. We have continued our engagement with London Councils to encourage local authorities in London to take on apprentices. We have instigated joint work with the National Apprenticeship Service in the south east of the region and have supported work with apprentices with Unison at St Edmundsbury borough council. During the paralympics we held an event at the Stephen Lawrence Centre entitled *The Paralympics – is there a legacy for skills, jobs and apprenticeships?* Paralympic Gold Medallist, Tara Flood who is now head of the Alliance for Inclusive Education, addressed the conference along with Tom Wilson, director of unionlearn.



Annual conference

This year's regional learning conference featured Tom Wilson, unionlearn director, Gail Cartmail, assistant general secretary of Unite, and Tricia Hartley, chief executive of Campaign for Learning, as keynote speakers.

New awards for ULR of the year, won by Fran Hunter from FDA, and Union Learner of the Year, won by Simon Cotton from Unite, were presented, and it is envisaged that a further new award for Higher Education Learner of the Year will be introduced in 2013. A memorandum of understanding was signed between unionlearn SERTUC and the University of Greenwich and between unionlearn SERTUC and Draughtbusters, which is a charity supporting work to improve the energy efficiency of homes. In the afternoon delegates participated in informal learning activities. Despite budget constraints limiting spaces available we were still able to host over 175 delegates on the day.

Community & TU Learning Centre (CTU)

The CTU came about to provide learning opportunities to both workers and the local community during the lead up to the Olympic & Paralympic Games. Premises were provided by the Olympic Delivery Authority and staffed by unionlearn SERTUC. Six weeks before the games commenced the site went into what was termed 'Lock-Down' and learning at the site was unable to continue. Furthermore, the

premises we had used were no longer available to us. Despite this, we have had a very successful year delivering learning to over 200 learners, and providing nearly 300 learning opportunities.

CTU now has new premises and in January we moved into the Stephen Lawrence Trust Centre in Deptford, south east London.

Courses delivered covered literacy, numeracy, ICT, and the centre is now working closely with the Green Skills Partnership and has delivered an Environment Awareness course. A further innovation is the development of a book club which has been warmly welcomed.

Trade Union education

Partners: We work in partnership with 14 Colleges of Further Education and the London Workers' Education Association. In 2012 we opened a new centre at K College, Kent, and in February 2013 Carshalton College offered TUC provision throughout Surrey for the first time. It is especially gratifying at a time of austerity and increasing pressures in Further Education to agree two new partnerships that give TU Education significant extra reach and capacity in the Region.

All TU Education courses are accredited by the National Open College Network (NOCN) and provided free of charge to all affiliates. Accreditation has been an essential part of our offer for 15 years now and is valued by the learners. It made the move



into the Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) relatively painless, and ensures that the programme is fundable by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA). The recent SFA announcement regarding funding arrangements for the 2013 to 2014 academic year, which confirmed that all course fees would continue to be met by the SFA and that TUC learning aims would be exempt from the Levels 2 and 3 loans for learners over 24 years of age, put TU Education in a unique position within FE, and allow us to plan for the future with confidence.

The Representatives' training programme: In 2011, together with our partner providers we trained 12,500 TU Reps, H&S Reps, and ULRs. The 2012 figure will not be known until May but the indications are that the final figure will be broadly equivalent, which given the economic situation and the pressures being placed on workers' time off is something Reps and trade unions should be proud of.

The resilience of the programme in the Region speaks volumes for the endless commitment of tutors; the support of providing colleges and the WEA; and the support of affiliates (and in particular Reps) for encouraging peers to attend courses. We sincerely thank you all.

Developments in the Representatives' training programme: One of the most resilient elements of the Reps' programme has been the Diploma courses. These year-long

qualifications are the most academically challenging courses offered by the national TUC Education programme and tend to be taken by senior and experienced Reps. They therefore indicate a qualitative enrichment of the movement as Reps deepen their understanding of employment law, equalities and health & safety, and their ability to improve conditions for their members in these areas. The Equalities Diploma was successfully piloted in three centres in the Region in 2011-2012. The Employment Law Diploma is currently being refreshed and rewritten and will be available from September.

The Union Reps Stage I course that has been the backbone of TU Education for over 30 years now is regularly updated. The latest version, currently being piloted in centres, places a greater emphasis on union learning and seeks to embed key elements of the ULR role so as to make the most of union strengths at a time when resources are at a premium.

National TUC Education have developed a number of key resources in the last year. These include *Disabled Workers a TUC Education Workbook*; *Work and Well-being a trade union resource*; *The TUC Workplace Manual* and numerous e-notes (online, short, interactive briefings) on paternity leave and equality law amongst many others.

Union Professional Development

The Union Professional Development

programme, designed to support the training needs of all union staff, has been delivered on a regional basis now for seven years. In that time it has become a significant part of the Region's work. As with the Reps' headcount above, the figure for Union Professionals trained in the Region will not be finalised until May. In 2011, 171 staff employed by affiliates were trained, but figures already available show that in 2012 that figure was surpassed. Changes to the Union Professional Development programme in 2013 will place an emphasis on short, sharp briefings on key issues with optional follow-up sessions for anyone wanting a more in-depth understanding. Some courses previously promoted will no longer be offered, but any affiliate wanting bespoke training courses for staff should contact the REOs as usual.

Union Women Professionals' Summer School 2012

In October the Region again had the privilege of hosting the Women Officers' Summer School. This was postponed from its usual summer slot due to the Olympics being held in London. Fourteen women union officers from a range of unions and roles attended. They commented on how the course had:

- helped them to update and expand their knowledge on current legal, equality and pensions developments
- given them insight into women in parliament and the parliamentary process
- provided them with the opportunity to receive professional coaching with their personal presentation and speaking skills
- given them the opportunity to discuss issues and develop organising strategies with other union women officers

■ helped them to refresh their approach to their union position, given them the energy, motivation and confidence to progress issues and themselves further in the union movement.

The course is a valuable opportunity to all women union officers who want to develop their career in the union movement. It gives a wider union perspective and enables women to build valuable networks across unions. The 2013 Summer School will be held from 8 to 12 July, contact Jaspal Ghtoray jghtoray@tuc.org.uk for more information.

Equality

At the time of writing there are 15 TUC Course Coordinator posts filled in the Region, with an additional one currently vacant. Nine of those posts are filled by women making the Region the only TUC Region where women form a majority at this level. Improved opportunities for women TUC tutors has been a key action point in our Education Regional Action Plan over a number of years now, and has clearly borne fruit. Similar actions to recruit and support new BME tutors are ongoing.

And finally...

...in the autumn Rossina Harris MBE retired from her role as TUC Course Coordinator at Lewisham College. Rossina's boundless energy and inspirational qualities will be missed by everyone associated with TU Education in the Region.

Theresa Daly will be retiring as Regional Education Officer at the end of March and will be replaced by Phil Gowan.

Disabled Workers' Network

The year started with the AGM at which Richard Riser gave a talk on Disability and Discrimination at Work. He held an informative presentation, and touched on the disgraceful treatment that disabled workers face at work by the employer, and sadly some fellow workers. He also spoke about ATOS, and their part in affecting disabled workers and their day to day existence.

Pat Atkinson represented the network at the TUC Disabled Workers' Conference held in May 2012.

Ian Lidbetter and Pat Atkinson represent the network on the SERTUC Transport Industries Network which discussed issues with CrossRail, and the effects that will be having on disabled people. The network also held discussions on the forthcoming Olympic Legacy; which sadly has fallen short of what was promised.

Tara addressed Islington's Branch of DEPAC (Disabled People against Cuts). She spoke on the work of trade unions and how useful it would be to build relations with groups like DEPAC. The Network members went on the TUC national march, representing their own unions, in support of the rights of disabled people.

As a follow up to government cuts, Damian Ibison attended the demonstration outside the corporate headquarters of ATOS. The demo was well attended by several unions. Several speeches were made and the most disturbing fact that came out of them was that over 1,200 disabled people have lost their lives as a result of ATOS interviews, which reduce the amount of people claiming

benefits. The delay in processing the appeal against decisions made, causing untold grief. 60 per cent of the appeals are overturned, the DWP finding ATOS decisions wrong.

It has now been announced that PIP (personal independence payment) is to replace DLA, sparking off another series of medicals and resulting in the inevitable fall out. The stigma of a disabled person being branded a benefit scrounger cuts deep; and the resultant escalation of disability hate crime by 85 per cent cannot be coincidence. Matt Dykes addressed the Network on the current problems facing disabled people trying to use transport in London, and the issues of the staff cuts impacting on safety for all users. Several days of action will be organised to fight the cuts and re-instate the safety aspects needed and protect jobs for the rail unions.

The Network in conjunction with SERTUC Young Members Network is holding a conference, focusing on the challenges facing youth especially those people with disabilities, both within employment and those out of employment.

The Network would like to thank the SERTUC office for their support and guidance throughout the year. I would like to thank all the members of the Network for their participation and continued fight for disabled workers across the region.

Tara Shah, Unite, Chair
Polly Smith, Unison, Deputy Chair
Richard Cook, Unite, Secretary
Damien Ibison, CWU, Assistant Secretary

Women's Rights Committee

This year we held another walking tour ably 'hosted' by Rachel Kolsky (our thanks again for her knowledge and lively presentation) which commemorated the centenary of the death of Octavia Hill, a tireless social reformer and leading pioneer of social housing. More than a dozen sisters attended and all felt that it was an excellent evening thoroughly enjoyed by those present.

Our July meeting was educational, teaching us much more about the Matchwomen's strike of 1888 at the Bryant & May factory in London. Louise Raw, author of *Striking a Light*, a well researched re-telling of the strike and the exploitative practices of the employers which led up to it, spoke eloquently of the appalling conditions in which the women worked and lived. The dangers from unguarded machines which cut off fingers, the use of white phosphorous instead of the safer red, that caused 'fossy jaw', which would start with toothache and a swollen jaw and led inexorably to open, stinking sores on the face and, ultimately, death. The employer was fully aware of the danger but did nothing until forced to do so by direct action. Any colleague who has not read this book should do so – very informative. It is the 125th anniversary of the strike this year and we will be celebrating on 6 July – details to follow.

It should be noted that the dockers who later went on strike acknowledged these women as being their inspiration!

At the September meeting, Anita Wright of the National Assembly of Women gave an account of her union involvement followed by a brief history of NAW, which grew out

WRC chair Carolyn Simpson at the Miami 5 vigil



pic: markthomasphotos@blueyonder.co.uk

of the post-WWII international peace movement. She gave an outline of its structure and its current campaigns and encouraged sisters to join the Assembly.

Anita distributed copies of the NAW journal *Sisters*; copies of *Sisters in Solidarity* – a history of NAW's first 60 years; bookmarks and some membership forms. She also mentioned the 'European Women's Lobby' which can be googled. As a direct result of Anita's excellent presentation, SERTUC now affiliates to the NAW.

The November meeting was somewhat controversial and raised lively discussion across the spectrum of opinion. Catherine Stevens from the International Union of Sex Workers opened with the statement "The sex industry is controversial and high profile in the women's movement". She feels that those in the industry: prostitutes, strippers, phone sex and porn, are not usually involved in the discussions on what affects them directly. Then she went into great detail on the results of a survey of sexworkers as well as quoting facts and figures from other surveys. The dangers of the work and the



Abortion Rights protest in London

legal situation regarding punters and prostitutes were explored.

The GMB has a section for sexworkers and the IUSW encourages joining as it gives some protection since many sex workers are often attacked and receive little sympathy. She gave examples of the police's duty and involvement and gave her opinion that prostitution should be de-criminalised.

Many women take on the job because it pays more than the minimum wage, has flexible hours and, with the state of today's economy, more women are likely to take it up to feed their children and they deserve protection.

A question and answer session followed where opposing views were expressed. Sisters were reminded about 'White Ribbon' day on 25 November which highlights violence against women and girls and of the 'Reclaim the Night' march on 24 November.

Our January meeting was more sedate as we didn't have a speaker. As a result sisters had more time than usual to discuss what is happening, both nationally and locally in their

own unions and what campaigns they are involved with.

At the time of writing, we are anticipating International Women's Day, where the Chair (Carolyn Simpson) will be speaking at the Southwark Legal Advice Network event on 'Gender on the Agenda' as well as celebrating IWD at the TUC following our normal March meeting.

Another successful year but we still want more sisters from more unions to attend the meetings – where you will be guaranteed a warm welcome and a challenging agenda!

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

Race Relations Committee

“Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom. A man can’t ride you unless your back is bent.” The words of Dr Martin Luther King Jr are as true now as they were 50 years ago.

This was a very tough year, and there is no doubt that despite the principle, action, commitment and solidarity that trade unionists have shown in the last 12 months, working people, their families and our communities, have suffered some massive setbacks and Black and minority ethnic workers and communities have suffered particularly heavily.

The coalition government's cuts are biting and the combination of its austerity programme and its failed economic policy caused record levels of youth unemployment and the most rapid fall in household incomes for nearly a century. The increase in unemployment has disproportionately impacted on Black and minority ethnic workers. Youth unemployment is still in excess of 20 per cent, and the level in poorer communities is far higher. In London, the unemployment rate for young Black men under 25 is nearer 50 per cent. The Committee reached out to the SERTUC Youth Network, seeking ideas for joint work. The Committee supported an event for young workers in North London, organised by the Youth Network, at which Kate Osamor spoke, and it welcomed Hazel Nolan as a speaker to a Race Relations

Committee meeting. Her core message was that we should make every effort to ensure that a young person's first contact with the union movement is an inspirational one, not defeatist, negative or bureaucratic.

The loss of public sector jobs has, and will continue, to disproportionately impact on Black workers, especially Black women. Committee members were keen to support the TUC's 'A Future that Works' demonstration in London, 20 October 2012.

In parallel to the cuts to services and to jobs the Committee noted the attack on equalities at work as a 'luxury we can no longer afford'. The Committee condemned the vicious cuts at the Equality and Human Rights Commission and its loss of capacity, range of services and public profile. The Committee resolved, during the year, to organise a conference seeking to explore the way forward.

The Committee continued to reflect and discuss the root causes of the civil disturbances in the summer of 2011. It supported the family campaigns seeking justice for those who died in custody, such as 'Justice for Christopher Alder Campaign'. As an exemplar of high quality community work the Committee sought to support the work of the Stephen Lawrence family Trust and Wilf Sullivan, TUC Race Equality Officer, was welcomed to a Committee meeting to discuss how unions could support the Trust practically and financially. The Committee wishes to commend Doreen and Neville

Lawrence's tireless campaigning and their infinite dignity.

Defeating the far-right and hate politics is a priority for the Committee. The continued collapse of the British National Party was welcome and the Committee members were active to ensure that the BNP did not win, as it did in 2008, an Assembly seat in the GLA elections in May 2012. In terms of elected politicians, the SERTUC region is a fascist-free zone for the first time for several years. Meanwhile, the English Defence League has remained a menace on our streets and in our communities, including the major march it sought to organise in Luton in May 2012. Wherever the EDL organised a march the Committee was eager to support counter-demonstrations expressing communities' positive attitude to multi-racialism and tolerance.

Despite the challenging back-drop for the Committee's activities there has been much during the year to enjoy and to provide inspiration. Not least, the Committee supported the organisation of the UpRise Festival in Hackney in Autumn 2012. The SERTUC Film Club continued its programme of screenings and hosted the opening night of the second British Urban Film festival to be held at Congress House. The Committee has plans in development for a memorial to Jayaben Desai to be part of SERTUC's Black History celebrations in 2013. The Committee is determined that Black history should have a greater not

lesser prominence in mainstream education so it was pleased to support the campaign to stop Mary Seacole being dropped from the mainstream curriculum and it was good that this campaign was won, partly because we need victories to boost morale.

The Committee's perspectives were internationalist. It chose to support Unite's campaign to protect the rights of domestic service workers as a campaign theme for the year, circulating campaign materials and facilitating a letter writing campaign. And it invited a speaker on Refugee Week to its September meeting.

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 and this was a partial success. Sadly, the number of delegates fell, but the good news is that the number of active members increased and average attendance at meetings was 18 delegates. Those efforts to strengthen the Committee will be renewed in 2013-2014.

During this year the SERTUC Office instigated an email bulletin following each quarterly Committee meeting. This initiative has been widely welcomed and applauded.

Claude James, TSSA, Chair
Lorraine Eyle, NUT, and Dil Joshi, PCS,
Vice Chairs
Mark Benjamin, PCS, and Austin Harney, PCS,
Joint Secretaries

International Committee

This has been a busy year for the International Committee. The committee has had four meetings with a variety of guest speakers and has also been involved in the planning of a major anti-austerity conference.

At our first meeting in June 2012 Paul Mackney spoke to the committee about his recent visit to Greece and the problems that austerity policies were causing there. Paul talked about the rise of the Syriza Party on the left and the fact that the general election polls were on a knife edge. We also discussed the rise of fascism in Greece and the way that austerity had been used to introduce Thatcherite policies including those that directly attack trade unions.

At this meeting we also discussed the issue of Red Card Israeli Apartheid. Jeff Lee talked to the committee about plans for UEFA to hold the 2013 Under 21 football competition in Israel. Jeff also provided us with information on how Israel goes to great lengths to disrupt Palestinian football including allowing Palestinian players to leave the country but not return to their homeland. The committee was also aware of the hunger strike by Palestinian football player Mahmoud al-Sarsak.

At the committee meeting in September 2012 one of our guest speakers was Phil Lenton who gave a talk on Palestinian refugee camps in Syria. Phil provided a brief history on how and why the camps were set up before detailing some of the problems that Palestinian refugees have faced in Syria since the start of the civil war.



Vigil for the Miami 5

pic: markthomasphotos@blueyonder.co.uk

We also had a talk from Francisco Dominguez from the Venezuela Solidarity Campaign. Francisco provided an update on the run-up to the presidential elections in the country focusing partly on the campaign by the right to unseat Hugo Chavez but also on the successes and reforms of the Chavez government.

The talk by Francisco in September was followed up after the election at our meeting in December by Carlos Lopez the President of the Federation of University Workers and General Coordinator of the CBST (Bolivarian Workers Trade Union Organisation). Carlos built on the previous discussion by describing how trade unions had been at the forefront of creating new Labour laws in Venezuela. This has enabled the trade union movement in the country to play a role in government and influence outcomes for millions of people.

As we come to the end of the reporting year the International Committee is also

SETUN

involved with preparations for an anti-austerity conference with friends in the SERTUC Public Services Committee. This conference will see trade union activists convene at Congress House for a day's discussion and debate. A number of key figures from the movement has been invited to this event which is designed to enable participants to focus on specific actions that we can all take forward in countering austerity. This will include learning from other activists around the world as they struggle to do the same. The final committee meeting of the year takes place following the anti-austerity conference.

Bernard Regan, NUT, *Chair*
Jon Bigger, PCS, *Secretary*

Three of our sub-groups are not covered in this annual report:

No report was received from the **Pensioners Network** although it is active and functioning.

Our **Creative and Leisure Industries Committee** and **Construction Committee** have met somewhat sporadically.

During the year the South East Trade Union Network met with south east Labour MPs at Parliament twice.

SETUN members also met at Congress House to discuss the issues facing workers in the south east sub-region and to set targets for SETUN activists to meet in their local areas.

Members of SETUN have discussed and sent out communications on many issues affecting our members in the south east including, Transport, Local Government, Education, NHS, Post Office Energy and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

We have set targets on reinvigorating local trades councils in all south east towns and cities in our push for local support on all trade union issues but mainly to forge a communication link with workers in order to muster support for anti-cuts rallies and marches both locally and nationally.

Most trade unions in the south east have nominated delegates to SETUN but we have room for more so please ask your union to nominate to this SERTUC sub-group.

Alan Durrant, GMB, *Convenor*
Terry Jackson, CWU, *Chair*

Young Members' Network

It's been a strong year for SERTUC Young Members' Network which has seen delegate numbers double, active participation triple and positive gender balance. With support from the TUC Local Organiser, David Braniff-Herbert, our young members' network has engaged 12 consistent activists who now meet on a monthly basis.

Deciding campaigns and developing skills

Young members decided to use a motions-based format at their AGM to discuss the areas of work they wanted to focus on for the year. This enabled the committee to agree a clear work plan whilst developing the policy making skills of young delegates.

Brent Youth Unemployment

Developing hyper-localised support for the TUC's Youth Charter in Harlesden, delegates organised a series of street stalls outside job centres and a campaign workshop event for young unemployed people in Harlesden. The assistant secretary, Keir Greenaway, then delivered a petition calling on local MP Sarah Teather to sign up to the TUC's charter.

Young Workers Month

An initiative focussed on organising and stimulating young worker focussed events across the region in November. A web site was created and several events were held on issues such as: unpaid internships, low pay

and future trade union leaders. External partners included University of London Union (a London federation of students' unions) and the Young Trustee Network.

Hear My Voice: Save HMV Staff UK

Inspired by the Irish occupation of HMV stores that had refused to pay wages owed to workers, our young delegates organised a campaign to highlight the issues facing HMV workers in the UK. Online they have collected over 400 signatures in support and offline they have delivered roses and trade union rights-based Valentine's cards to the Piccadilly Branch near Congress House. The campaign is ongoing.

We also had a presence with our banner at the National Union of Students march and organised a successful post-event social for the TUC's Future That Works 20 October rally. Special thanks to affiliates for active and financial support of the network and events.

For more information on our young members' network please go to www.youngworkersmonth.org Facebook: "SERTUC Young Members Network", Twitter: @sertucyouth

Lucille Harvey, Unite, Chair and from January 2013 Rob Thornton, PCS
Shelly Asquith, Unite, Vice Chair
Hazel Nolan, GMB, Secretary
Keir Greenaway, GMB, Assistant Secretary



ETUN

The East of England Trade Union Network meets quarterly with the support of Unite at their offices in Cambridge.

The network held an additional meeting of TU full time officials and trades councils in the East of England in July to discuss preparations and co-ordination for the TUC demonstration in London in October.

Throughout the year we have publicised and sought to build solidarity for workers in dispute with employers, including the Pensions Dispute, the Coryton Oil Refinery closure, and Essex and Cambridgeshire Fire disputes.

We have taken forward discussions with individual unions and the Anne Frank Trust regarding joint projects in the region. Unison is taking forward a joint initiative with AFT in schools. PCS is underwriting a number of exhibition opportunities especially in the cities in the East that have been visited by the EDL in the last year.

We have sought to mobilise TU members and support trades councils opposing the EDL in Luton, Chelmsford, Norwich and Cambridge. We took part in discussions with the trades council in Luton regarding a long term strategy to deepen contacts in the migrant communities to build a sustainable opposition to racism.

We have supported the annual Norwich Pride and the annual Burston Strike School Rally and have discussed our input to the 100th anniversary in 2014.

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



Public Services Committee



With the threats from this government to our public services continuing across the SERTUC Region, the Public Services Committee has continued its work to publicise and support the campaigns and struggles being fought by our trade union affiliates.

At our AGM in June, Kerry Fairless (PCS) was elected as the new Secretary of the committee. Martin Powell-Davies (NUT) continued to Chair the committee with Mark Campbell (PCS) continuing as Vice-Chair, and Sasha Pearce (Unison) as Assistant Secretary. The Committee has met four times – in June, September, December and February. We agreed a work plan prioritising encouraging attendance at the committee, supporting unions taking action against cuts and privatisation and building support for the TUC demonstration, the “March for a Future that Works” on 20 October 2012.

On a sad note, the committee unexpectedly lost two of its members in July; Auriel Downs (NUT) who died suddenly at home and Roger MacKay (Suffolk CATC) a long-standing member of the Committee, who lost his battle against illness.

As well as receiving regular reports from affiliates on campaigns and disputes, Rachel Newton addressed the Committee in December to introduce a discussion on the People’s Charter and our February Committee focussed on the attacks on facility time.



Our other main initiative has been to build for a jointly-hosted conference with the SERTUC International Committee, *Resisting Austerity in Europe and in the UK* which will be taking place on Saturday 16 March at Congress House.

Martin Powell-Davies, NUT, Chair

Mark Campbell, UCU, Vice Chair

Kerry Fairless, PCS, Secretary

Sasha Pearce, Unison, Assistant Secretary

Transport Industries Network

SERTUC's Transport Industries Network met four times in the year. The September and March meetings were open to all; September concentrated on CrossRail and was addressed by Charles Devereux, CrossRail Operations Delivery Manager, and March's was addressed by Tom Molloy from Nautilus International covering Flags of Convenience.

The Network has been kept up to date by the reports from delegates covering a range of issues from the threat to the London Transport Museum; training portability for rail and tube staff; cuts to station staff on rail and underground; problems for the taxi trade in London including financial problems of the main manufacturer; the battle for common pay and conditions for bus workers. We followed two major themes throughout 2012-13 – the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and CrossRail.

The Olympics was in the delivery phase and the problems associated with that, but the successful bus workers' battle to get appropriate payment was a highlight for the movement. CrossRail as a major construction and transport project remains to the forefront as will battles being conducted by union members against the sub-contracting system and anti-union actions by employers. TIN has supported those workers in the electrical and other construction areas as they have fought for good treatment and H&S standards.

This year was one of cuts, crashes and failures. Bright spots were few but in London at least the extension of the Overground was a rare case of transport expansion. Across our Region, bus cuts, fare rises and service reductions, all accompanied by reduced employment and company failures like Countryliner (bus operator in Surrey and Sussex), while bigger bus groups retrenched (First Group pulled out of major areas) and local authorities withdrew significant financial support for buses.

Aviation took up some of our attention as no less than three separate 'inquiries' began over aviation policy and the future of Heathrow. Aviation also saw consolidation of airlines, at home and abroad, the continued debate over national and regional air policy and the daft ideas for a Thames Estuary island airport, announced or promoted exactly 60 years after the terrible floods which devastated the UK's east coast and the Thames Estuary, with flooding to a depth which would drown any such airport unless it was built at least 15 feet higher than mean sea level. The horrific helicopter crash in London in February 2013 may yet highlight more issues over airspace management and information provision.

Rail fares rocketed for the tenth successive year, again this year at above-inflation rises; the transport unions mounted joint and independent awareness campaigns ahead of the new fares applying to make sure passengers, MPs, user groups and others knew what was being done to them. All major stations saw demonstrations at some time, and the support of the TUC in the combined 'Action for Rail' campaign started to bear fruit.

McNulty produced his 'report' which destroyed fact in favour of fantasy, showing that the UK rail operations were more expensive than unitary State-owned rails in Europe, but finding mythical reasons for this.

Overall, we noted a rise in passenger traffic (especially rail and on TfL), shrinkage in jobs, lessening of service provision but no let-up in the excessive rewards to transport companies' senior managements. We saw scant attention being paid to noise, pollution and accidents, and only retrospective, under pressure and at a cost of resource from other budgets.

Roger Sutton, GLATC, *Chair*
Mark Steel, ASLEF, *Vice Chair*
Joel Kosminsky, TSSA, *Secretary*

LGBT Network

This year the SERTUC LGBT Network has been active in a number of areas and campaigns, the highlights being:

May Day As in previous years our banner was on the LGBTQ section of the London May Day March in May 2012.

TUC LGBT Conference 2012 Luca Stevenson (GMB) and Terry Conway (Unison) were SERTUC observers at the TUC LGBT Conference 2012. We organised a successful fringe meeting at the TUC LGBT Conference on the topic of HIV/AIDS and funding with community activist Dan Glass and Thierry Schaffauser speaking. The meeting was ably chaired by David Sharkey (Unite) and David addressed the conference reporting back on the fringe meeting.

Pride London throughout the summer the Network was actively involved in the public consultation meetings organised and hosted by the TUC on the future of Pride following the collapse of World Pride. David Sharkey was involved in the preparation meetings and discussions and Lesley Woodburn (Unite) represented the Network at the consultation meetings. Our thanks to Dylan McGarry who ran an opening facilitating exercise for the second public consultation meeting.

OUT Against Austerity the Network was involved in an umbrella body launched in June that brought together various LGBTQI community and campaign groups including Queers Against the Cuts; Queer Resistance; Queer Strike; Left Front Art and NUS LGBT Campaign to build for the 20 October TUC demonstration in the LGBTQI communities. A flyer aimed at the LGBTQI communities was produced and distributed in venues along

with an event in September – Speak OUT Against Austerity, hearing how LGBTQI people had been affected by the Austerity policies. The event was held at Unite House and there was a speaker from Brighton Queers Against Cuts along with Peter Purton – TUC LGBT policy officer. Following the event attendees were able to go to the Horse Hospital in Russell Square to see the premier of *Hollow Bone*, a short film by LGBTQI artist Hermes Pittakos.

In the run up to the 20 October demonstration a meeting was held at Congress House to organise the community LGBTQI section on the march.

In October Suzanne Ellis (GMB) supported a Greater London Association of Trades Union Council stall to build for the demonstration and promote trade unions at the opening of the London Queer Social Centre in Kennington, South London.

Thanks should be given to all those who took part in this project in building for the 20 October demonstration and continuing to raise awareness of the cuts within the LGBTQI communities.

Brighton & Hove Pride in September we witnessed Brighton Queers Against Cuts being kettled by the police on the parade through Brighton. This was the only group on the parade to be kettled and is the first time such an incident has occurred at Brighton & Hove Pride. There was no clear reason for the police to kettle Brighton Queers Against Cuts and they were allowed to carry on with the parade to Preston Park but heavily policed. Following the Pride event the Network sent a message of support to Brighton Queers



pic: Alessandro Angeli

Against Cuts and wrote to the organisers of Brighton & Hove Pride over what had happened.

Queers Against the Cuts The Network continues links with the group and David Sharkey attended the Queers Against the Cuts AGM. In February David read from Christopher Isherwood's Berlin works at the Queer Against the Cuts LGBT History Month event in London. The theme of the meeting was on rise of fascism and its impact on LGBTQ communities.

LGBT History Month in February 2013 the Network ran its now annual very successful event, our 7th in concert with the Unite London & Eastern Region LGBT Committee; the theme for this year was solidarity with LGBTQI communities in those countries suffering under austerity, such as Greece and Spain. The art medium for this year's event was photography and we commissioned London based LGBTQ photographer Francisco Gomez De Villoaba to take nine portrait photographs of LGBTQ people from Greece, Cyprus, Spain and Ireland who are contributing to LGBTQI life in our Region conveying their message about austerity. The portraits were exhibited at a reception hosted by Unite London & Eastern Region at Unite House. The event was addressed by Jim Kelly – Chair of Unite London & Eastern Region and Rachel Newton from the Greece Solidarity Campaign; David Sharkey (pic above) who curated the exhibition also spoke and introduced the evening. The event was a great success, raising the issue and people present were interested in finding out more about trade unions and this is the purpose

of the event – getting people to join and be interested in being active in our movement.

In the run up to the event in February we had a feature article in the *Morning Star* written by a Greek LGBTQ activist Emmanouil Balomenos and David Sharkey giving the background to the exhibition.

The exhibition was put on display in Congress House for one week in February and at the Horse Hospital in Russell Square, London for a LGBTQ film night.

Our thanks to David Sharkey and Unite London & Eastern Region for bringing this fantastic event and exhibition together from scratch. David and Francisco worked very hard through the winter to a tight deadline.

Our thanks also to Peter Purton who arranged for the exhibition to be on display at Congress House.

This year we said goodbye to our Secretary Thierry Schaffauser who went to start a new life in Paris with his partner. Thierry was a delegate from GMB and his activism, drive and energy will be missed.

Following Thierry's departure we should note the fantastic contribution David Sharkey has made supporting the Network in the absence of a secretary and organising our LGBT History Month events. Without David's sterling efforts we could not have run the exhibition and event this year.

Thanks also to Network Steering Group member Suzanne Ellis for her support and encouragement of the Network activities.

**Terry Conway, Unison, and
Lesley Woodburn, Unite, Co-Chairs
David Sharkey, Unite, Acting Coordinator**

Trades union councils

There are 60+ trades councils in the SERTUC Region. If anyone believes the trades council movement is moribund they are mistaken! The reports that follow are snapshots (many of them seriously cropped to fit the available space...) of their wide range of activities.

Chelmsford trades council held five exhibitions in the local library during the year and marked Workers' Memorial Day with an event in the park. At the May Day rally the speakers were joined by the Strawberry Thieves Socialist Choir. Various activities against the government's austerity programme have taken place virtually every Saturday, and an Essex-wide conference against the cuts was held. Chelmsford TUC organised all the local activities against railway fare increases and thousands of leaflets have been distributed at the railway station and in the community.

Our largest and most popular campaign took place during the summer when the EDL visited Chelmsford to voice their opposition to the proposed new mosque. With only two weeks notice the trades council established *United Chelmsford* and organised a successful march and rally in the High Street. Thousands of leaflets were distributed and meetings were

held with faith bodies including both mosques. Sixteen speakers addressed the rally and among the many messages of support were those of the Bishop of Chelmsford, Simon Burns MP, and Martin Gould (president of SERTUC). Over 800 people signed our Statement Against Racism and Fascism and our work with both mosques is currently being developed.

Dover and District trades council (DDTUC) was reinvigorated some three years ago and since then has played a significant role in agitating, educating and organising local trade unionists in a common struggle against this vicious anti-working class government. This year began with a inspirational report at our AGM from Paul Callanan from *Youth March for Jobs* which emulated the Jarrow march in the 1930s however we note with concern that youth unemployment remains a stain on our society.

The DDTUC helped to inspire workers from south east Kent to attend the anti-austerity demonstration in London and we are proud that we now have a banner, so look out for it on the next national demo!

We have campaigned on the streets of Dover and surrounding areas to defend our public services, in particular our NHS and will be at the forefront of the campaign to condemn the coming visit to Canterbury of Prime Minister Cameron, on the 21 March.

The area is dominated by the Port of Dover and therefore we have been at the forefront of the campaign to prevent the privatisation of the port.





The Ealing TUC banner and contingent on the Save our Hospitals Ealing demo in September

Over the last year **Ealing** trades council's main focus has been the NHS campaign to save our local hospitals. We have organised regular well-attended fortnightly organising meetings and have become the activist wing of the Save our Hospitals campaign. These meetings have organised regular street stalls and mobilised for demonstrations and other events. We also organised a successful Casualty car convoy around the four threatened hospitals

We have produced 40,000 NHS leaflets and played a central role in mobilising for the 15 September Save our Hospitals demonstration in Ealing. We have organised two very successful public meetings; the first in June on defending our NHS with John Lister, Dot Gibson and John McDonnell MP in Ealing Town and the second, in October to build for the TUC demo on 20 October with Dr Louise Irvine, Nick Grant (NUT) and Mick Brooks.

We have supported our public sector colleagues in Unison in their fight to defend services and in particular to defend Stirling Road & Learning Curve. We have supported lobbies of Ealing Town Hall and sponsored a Save our Day Centres Public Meeting with Unison and SAD in January this year.

Eastbourne trades council continues to produce its newsletter, distributed by post to over 120 unionised workplaces in Eastbourne and available to download from the website. Over the year they have campaigned on Action for Rail and for local NHS services, supported NUT and NASUWT members at Sussex Downs College, USDAW's *Time to Care*

campaign, and worked with Lewes Against the Cuts against service cuts proposed by East Sussex County Council.

Tottenham in **Haringey** continues to have the highest unemployment in London and in April will be a pilot for Duncan Smith's Universal Credit benefit cap scheme.

Haringey trades council has been very active during the year working with local trade unions, community groups, anti-cuts campaigners and the Labour Council and Tottenham's Labour MP David Lammy in the borough to see what we can do to co-ordinate resistance to this. The issues are immense.

In another but related register the trades council works with local NHS campaigners and now again particularly the Defend the Whittington Hospital campaign and we also continue to explore ways of highlighting the, at best, laissez faire approaches to the issues and problems of the borough of government Minister and Hornsey MP Lynne Featherstone.

As someone once said, much done, much still to do.

A major area of concern for **Harlow** trades council was the Health & Social Care Bill and Harlow TUC played its campaigning part with a successful multi-party street event at the Obelisk in March and another in September.

The TUC's London march for "A Future that Works" on 20 October saw the people of Harlow respond to our free coach magnificently with all 49-seats booked, plus a good number going by tube and rail.

King's Lynn: Jo Rust, Lyndsey German and Jacqueline Mulhallen at the Women for Change talk in April 2012. The run also included Dr Katherine Connelly, Bernie Barclay, Hilary Finlay Megan Dobney, for Black History Month Bev Miller and Cathrine Ward, Cristel Ames and Vera from the Crossroads Women's Centre



The council's decision to terminate the contract of Harlow Welfare Rights & Advice Service was disturbing. An attempt to evict them from the Advice Centre in December was resisted and a Judicial Review in the High Court is still ongoing. We played our part in setting up two public meetings and continue our support.

In May we took a full crew on our 17-seater minibus to the anti-EDL demonstration in Luton and also went to the protests in Chelmsford and Walthamstow.

We supported the July rally against Fire Service Cuts in Essex and also the protest against the closure of Coryton Refinery; made our third visit to the Burstn Strike School Rally; and organised a Quiz Night in aid of the Woodcraft Folk raising over £200.

In October we organised an *Austerity Isn't Working* public meeting with a stellar line-up with Billy Hayes CWU, Kelvin Hopkins MP and our old comrade Tony Sullivan. Also a stall at Harlow Jobs Fair in order to distribute union joining forms and employment advice.

In November we distributed leaflets to workers facing redundancy from the closure of Comet including the TUC's "Facing Redundancy". The workers later received good support from Conservative MP Robert Halfon, who raised an Early Day Motion in December about Optcapita's financing arrangement that left the UK taxpayer to pick up the redundancy bill whilst Optcapita walked away with millions.

In December we organised an Action for Rail

leaflet session at Harlow Town station, a good example of co-operation between the Trades Council and some members of the Labour and Co-operative parties.

Harrow trades union council continues to operate despite witnessing a reduction in affiliations almost entirely due to workplace closures. However it is potentially embarking on a dynamic response to the challenges following discussions with the Harrow Anti Racist Alliance (HARA) on developing ways of providing employment and employment opportunities related to training, and meeting facilities for unemployed workers at a new community resource centre being set up by Carramea, a consortium of HARA and 15 diverse community organisations. The Chair of Carramea and Trustees are all trade union members.

It's been a very busy year for **King's Lynn** trades council and we started the year as we ended it, campaigning against hikes in rail fares.

In February we held a public meeting at the Town Hall, with speakers including Gavin Shuker and Richard Murphy in defence of the NHS and calling on the government to Drop the Bill. Although the bill wasn't dropped, we did raise the profile of the TC and of course of the impact of this government's policies.

But one of our main achievements this year has been a series of talks by women and about women titled *Women for Change*. We've attracted many people to these talks and as a result made them aware of the work our trades council does and the links to the cuts.



Isle of Wight trades councils at the island's annual Garlic Festival



At the same time as this we've been instrumental in the continuing fight to oppose the incinerator and shamed Henry Bellingham MP into supporting an anti-incinerator stall forcing him to raise the issue in parliament.

The trades council highlighted the local racism in the British Freedom Party's objection to the Islamic Association's plans for the former Queen's Arms pub.

Our regular stalls outside Topshop have received a good response from people, many taking the time to stop and engage us in debate. It's through this face to face discussion that we get to make a case for an alternative. The focus of our stalls has been Policing not for Profit, save the NHS, and Pensions.

Our trades' council was proud to once again take a coach to London to demonstrate against the cuts and March for a Better Future. Thanks to a generous donation from the GMB and funding from SERTUC we were able to offer free places to the unwaged.

We joined with Norwich comrades to fight the EDL, attending the We Are Norwich rally in November and successfully seeing the EDL leave Norwich. The secretary spoke at the rally saying the EDL are not welcome anywhere and wherever they turn up we'll be there to face them down in peaceful protest.

Lewisham trades council has discussed how we could build a role for the TUC with unemployed people and have looked at different possibilities.

To support the national TUC 20 October

demonstration we organised a public meeting at the Town Hall with the main speaker Mark Serwotka, General Secretary of PCS.

In November we held an open meeting, to help widen our circle beyond affiliated delegates, with outside speakers around the TUC's decision to investigate a General Strike.

As we reach the end of the year two major local issues have arisen. The Accident and Emergency unit of Lewisham Hospital is under threat; we have joined a wide campaign of demonstrations, petitions and posters. At the same time, local fire stations are under threat of closure under cuts by government, London Mayor and Fire Authority.

The **Luton** trade union council has been busy organising a march against the EDL in Luton in May which was very successful. We also held a public meeting leading up to the 20 October TUC march and rally in London with Tony Benn and Kelvin Hopkins MP among our speakers.

We have bought a LTUC gazebo which we used each Saturday in Luton town centre promoting the 20 October march and rally, as well as using this for future events including a regular stall in Luton town centre.

We have also been getting in to our local schools to promote trade unions and what trade unions are and do for their members. We did a presentation at five assemblies in Lea Manor high school in Luton with 150 to 200 pupils at each assembly. We are also going in to Barnfield college this month to speak to the Early Years group about trade unions, as well as



attending a carers convention at Cardinal Newman school in Luton in March.

Members of **Milton Keynes** trades council, with MKATC, protested against the council-proposed £16 million in cuts affecting all council services.

It was always going to be hard to organise the size of protest needed for such an important event. We certainly did our best but what was missing was any mobilisation from the public sector unions (are they asleep or what?). Bar the odd individual there was no presence from the key unions one would have expected to lead and build this protest despite £400,000 this year and £700,000 next year in staffing cuts. Very soon there will no public sector union members to protest, as there will be no public sector!!

What is sad but very predictable is that these £16 million of cuts in vital services went through with Labour abstaining! The voting was (from *Mk Citizen*) “at the final vote, the budget was carried with 20 votes in favour (Conservatives), 15 against (Lib Dems) and 16 abstentions (Labour)”.

The **Norwich** trades council has been involved in a number of events this year including supporting the Norwich Pride event, running our own conference for trades unionists to debate how to work with Labour in July, to attending the Burston Strike School Rally in September, running a coach down to the massive national TUC march for a Future that Works in October, and then being a big part of the organisation and support for the We Are

Norwich anti-EDL march in November. We’ve been supporting protests about cuts, the Remploy strike, the anti-Atos campaign and many other causes. If it’s been happening in Norwich then trade unionists and the trades council has been there!

In May the Climate Change Caravan arrived in **Southampton** with activities supported by Alan Whitehead MP, Richard Williams, leader of the Council and Cllr Simon Letts.

In July we held an additional meeting to discuss arrangements for the TUC march at the end of October and another meeting was held in September to finalise arrangements.

In October the trades council helped set up a Keep our NHS Public group and a wider NHS support group.

On 31 October, as a result of the shock announcement of the closure of Ford, we held an emergency meeting to discuss with Ford workers how the trades council could assist them. This resulted in the production of petitions in their support and with the help of other delegates, many hundreds of signatures were obtained. A BBC camera crew attended part of our November meeting to talk to the Deputy Shop Steward and FTO. However, the Ford workers felt that they did not want to pursue industrial action.

On 26th January 2013 the president attended a rally called by Stand up on the South Coast to protest at benefit cuts. This met at the Guildhall and marched to the Bargate and was well attended.



Portsmouth: 50 trade unionists braved the rain to mark Workers Memorial Day 2012. They held a minute's silence at the Portsmouth memorial in Victoria Park for workers killed or injured at work. Louis Macdonald (trades council secretary) lays flowers at the memorial.

Pic: Jon Woods



above: **Redbridge** trades council rally outside Ilford Town Hall with Hector Wesley, PCS



Waveney trades council and Lowestoft Coalition against the Cuts successfully mounted Waveney's first ever May Day festival in 2012 that included debates on Palestine, and Labour and the cuts, with music from Coral Cross, Murphy's Lore and John Ward.

Wisbech trades union council has now been in existence for 12 months and continues to grow in strength, justifying our decision to work for its re-establishment.

In the course of the last year we have carried out work on academy schooling, the working conditions of migrant labour, and their recruitment to the trade union movement. Supported the TUC national demonstrations against the government's austerity measures, and shown our support for workers in struggle against the attacks of employers.

Speakers have attended the trades council and a healthy political awareness has developed amongst the delegates, giving rise to stimulating political discussions, ranging across the political spectrum of the British and international labour movement. Support was shown for the Palestinian struggle and the battle for socialist democracy in Venezuela.

The future of the trades council is therefore one of continuing strength in the community, there are many areas of work that we can, and need to be involved in.

Many thanks to all the unions in the Region who have shown such great support to their trades council delegates and their activities!

Inter-Regional TUC



SERTUC continues to play a major role in the Inter-Regional TUC (IRTUC) with 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.

This year, as well as the regular committee meetings covering a range of issues, we were able to take a delegation to participate in a seminar examining health care in the regions, attended by activists from all the member confederations.

The pictures show (top) from the left Dianne Hill (CWU) with Andre Haffreingue (CGT at P&O) and Les Ford (IRTUC policy officer) and (below) Jasmin Suraya (Unite) with Dianne.



SERTUC officers and staff

President

Vice Presidents

Treasurer

Regional Secretary

Regional Campaigns and Policy Officer

Administrative Secretary

Administrative Assistant

Unionlearn Regional Manager

Regional Education Officers

Regional Union Development Co-ordinator

Senior Union Support Officers

Union Support Officers

Community & Trade Union Learning Centre

Manager

Learning Support Officer

Admin/Receptionist

Administrative Secretary

Administrators

Martin Gould

Tony Lennon

Linda Perks

Carolyn Simpson

Megan Dobney

Laurie Heselden

Darren Lewis

Joanne Adams

Barry Francis

Rob Hancock

Phil Gowan

Jon Tennison

Mick Hadgraft

Stuart Barber

Oreleo du Cran

Joanna Lucyszyn

Adrian Ryan

Phil Spry

Tanya Nelson

vacant

Sonia Dawson

Johanna Garcia

Jaspal Ghortay

Alyx Jenkins

020 7467 1291

020 7467 1292

020 7467 1220

020 7467 1218

020 7467 1209

020 7467 1369

020 7467 1238

020 7467 1212

020 7467 1298

020 7467 1385

020 7467 1368

020 7467 1397

020 7467 1339

020 3288 5522

020 3288 5521

020 3288 5522

020 7467 1251

01279 408 188

020 7467 1248

020 7467 1237

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



Executive Committee attendance 2012-2013

Trade union section

ASLEF	Mark Steele	8
BECTU	Tony Lennon	9
CWU	Jim Kirwan	8
CWU	Paul Moffat	7
FBU	Ian Leahair	6
GMB	Paul Maloney	4
NASUWT	Timothy Ramsden	8
NUT	Alex Kenny	5
PCS	Richard Edwards	7
RMT	Paul Cox	1
TSSA	Joel Kosminsky	8
Unison	Linda Perks	6
Unison	Phil Wood	7
Unite	Martin Gould	8
Unite	Peter Kavanagh	5
Unite	Jim Kelly	5
Treasurer (ex officio)		
Unite	Carolyn Simpson	7

Women's seats

CWU	Linda Kietz	9
GMB	Evelyn Martin	2
Unite	Sithabile Tabi Mpala	4

Young trade unionist

PCS	Lee Vernon	6
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Black trade unionists

GMB	Dotun Alade-Odumosu	8
PCS	Dil Joshi	7
Unison	Gloria Hanson	4

Disabled trade unionist

NUT	Derek McMillan	7
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LGBT trade unionist

Unite	Anton Johnson	8
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County Associations

Cambs CATC	Tony Carter	7
GLATC	Roger Sutton	8
Hants CATC	Louis Mac Donald	6
Oxon CATC	Sue Tibbles	9
Suffolk CATC	Teresa MacKay	8

Attendances are from a possible total of 9
(the April 2013 meeting is not included)

Delegate monitoring



Attendance at meetings of the Regional Council 2012-2013

Meeting	Union delegates	Unions	CATC delegates	Observers	Total	(2011-12)
April	97	16	24	2	121	(96)
July	54	15	12	7	66	(74)
October	67	14	20	18	87	(69)
January*	32	14	13	0	45	(70)

Gender monitoring

	Total	Male	Female
Regional Council (nominated)	148	99	49 (33%)
Executive Committee (elected)	31	23	8 (26%)

Ethnic monitoring

	White	Afro Caribbean	African	Asian	Other	No response
Regional Council (nominated)	118	6	3	3	4	14
Executive Committee (elected)	22	2	2	1	3	1

* For the January RC much of the south west and east of the Region was snowbound

Campaign account

1 January to 31 December 2012

Receipts

Interest	11.26
<i>Campaign Fund donations</i>	
BECTU	400.00
CWU South East	800.00
FBU London	1,000.00
TSSA	50.00
UCATT	300.00
Unison Eastern	1,000.00
Unison London	1,200.00
Unison South East	4,200.00
WGGGB	31.44
<i>Funding for 30 November London event</i>	
GMB London	592.00
GMB Southern	592.00
NUT	1,185.00
PCS	1,185.00
Unison ESAB	200.00
Unison London	1,185.00
Unite London & Eastern	1,185.00
WRC tour fees	55.00
Young Members from BWTUC work	516.75
Young Members 20.10 event PCS	50.00
Young Members 20.10 event GMB	200.00
Young Members 20.10 event income	244.86
<i>Swimming Against the Tide NASUWT</i>	60.00
<i>Swimming Against the Tide Unite</i>	40.00

Payments

<i>Advertisements</i>	
PPPS New Year	200.00
PPPS May Day	200.00
<i>Affiliations</i>	
ACTSA	40.00
Baby Milk Action	50.00
Charter for Women	50.00
CND	75.00
CPBF x 2	50.00
Cuba Solidarity	50.00
End Child Poverty	200.00
International Brigade Memorial Trust	125.00
Labour Behind the Label	50.00
Liberation	40.00
London Hazards Centre	80.00
National Assembly of Women	30.00
NSC	75.00
Socialist Health Association	25.00
Socialist Renewal	20.00
VSC	60.00
<i>Delegate fees</i>	
Abortion Rights	10.00
CND	40.00
<i>Donations</i>	
Abortion Rights fringe meeting	50.00
ACTSA	50.00
Banana Link	133.00
Burston Strike School Rally	600.00
CND bus advert	50.00
CND Trident folder postage	15.00
CSC	200.00
Cutting Edge	50.00
Eastbourne trades council Unison	200.00
Greece Solidarity Campaign	100.00
Ipswich May Day	500.00
Leigh Folk Festival	100.00
London May Day	1,200.00
London Labour Film Festival	100.00
London Socialist Film Co-op	30.00
LRD Centenary	100.00
National Student Pride	100.00
Norwich Pride	100.00

Summary SERTUC Campaign Account

Balance in bank at 1 January 2012

Current account	1,000.00
Deposit account	19,980.96
Total 1 January 2012	20,980.96
Add Receipts	16,283.31
	37,264.27
Subtract payments	17,743.89
	19,520.38
Credit balance at 31 December 2012	£19,520.38

Reading theatre event	100.00
RTP Edinburgh Fringe event	807.89
Stephen Lawrence appeal	200.00
UpRise	500.00
Young Members 20.10 event	500.00
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	
Oxford & District TC newspaper	100.00
Rachel Kolsky WRC walking tour	168.00
SERTUC Film Club technician	199.80
Xmas celebration (drinks)	34.05
Xmas celebration (entertainment)	150.00
Upstream fliers 20 October	1,872.00
<i>30 November London event</i>	
Alex Burrow (toilets etc)	6,638.86
<i>Woodie Guthrie event</i>	
Will Kaufman hotel	160.80
Will Kaufman fares and meal	74.49
<i>LGBT History Month event</i>	
C Brogan	60.00
V Rodriguez	500.00
P Isherwood	300.00
P Brand	100.00
A Bartar	130.00

Sylvia Pankhurst account

Summary Sylvia Pankhurst Memorial Committee

Balance in bank at 1 January 2012

Current account	1,025.00
Reserve account	18,983.54
Total 1 January 2012	20,008.54
Add Receipts	604.90
	20,613.44
Subtract payments	0.00
	20,613.44

Credit balance at 31 December 2012 £20,613.44

Receipts

Interest	9.90
Donations	595.00

Payments

0.00

