

## Workers' Memorial Day

28 April 2021

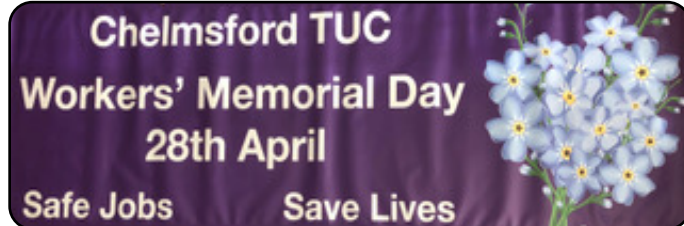
At 10.30 we will assemble through Zoom: ID 892 6448 5660 Passcode 933140.

The order of service will be: Welcome by Andrew Coburn, Secretary, Chelmsford TUC

Guest Speaker: Mick Lynch, Assistant General Secretary RMT.

Unusual Usual days and nights will be read by Hazel Corby, Treasurer Chelmsford TUC.

At approximately 11.00 we will join millions of trade unionists around the world for a Period of Silence to remember the dead and to focus on our campaign for the living. We will then invite attendees to make short personal reflections that they have experienced during the pandemic. A pre-recorded contribution by Banner Theatre will also be featured.



## Unusual Usual days and nights

Karla Bradford

Gazing through the windows at the sun, moon, rain  
Workers readied themselves for work day and night  
Kissed their husbands, wives, partners, children  
goodbye

Walked, rode their bikes, drove their cars, took the  
trains

They entered the factories, pits, building sites, mills  
They pressed buttons, operated machines, used  
power tools

“Just another usual working day?”

However this was to be an unusual usual working  
day for some.

Soon some would operate no buttons, machines or  
tools

Never enter another factory, pit, building site, mill  
Walk, ride bikes, drive cars or take trains

Would never feel the warmth of a loved one's kiss  
Nor husbands, wives, partners, children left behind  
Never ready themselves day or night for work  
Never gaze the sun, moon or rain through windows.  
No usual working days or nights again for some.

## Workers' Memorial Day

Workers' Memorial Day commemorates the thousands of people who have died, been seriously injured or disabled, or been made ill through their work. It began in Canada in 1984 and is a national day in 19 countries. Since 1989, trade unions around the world have organised events on and around 28 April. Workers' Memorial Day has been informally recognised in the UK since 1992 but not until 2010 was it officially recognised by the government. The day is intended to be a rallying cry to 'remember the dead and fight for the living'.

Over the past twelve months Covid-19 has dominated our working lives and our leisure activities; its cost in human terms has been horrendous and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all key workers for the contribution they have made to keep society moving.

The pandemic has also exposed an occupational health crisis in workplaces worldwide with workers routinely denied even basic health and safety protections. This has to stop. Health and Safety protection at work must be a right for all.



## Our Memorial Tree in Central Park



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