

Report for 2015-16

Demonstrations and Campaigns supported

- Save London Met - 12th May
- Protest against the EDF in Walthamstow - May 9th
- Solidarity with London Metropolitan University UCU and Unison Strike - 21st May
- Support PCS Strikers At National Gallery- 30th May
- End Austerity Now - National Demonstration - 20th June
- Solidarity with the People of Greece- demonstration outside the German Embassy in Belgrave Square 15 July 2015.
- Defend the Union at London Met - Solidarity Demonstration 27th August
- Fund Raising Dinner for Medical Aid for Greece - September 18th
- Refugees Welcome Here - National Day of Action Saturday 12 September - in the context of this campaign, branch members collected for the Calais refugees and took solidarity to France. We sent a motion of solidarity with the refugees to the NEC
- Anti-racist demonstration in Dover - Kent Anti Racism Network October 17th
- Climate change demonstration - 29th November
- Cliff Snaith – Branch banner at Regional Secretary's funeral - 16th December
- Hands off our schools demonstration - 23rd March
- March for Health, Homes, Jobs and Education End Austerity Now 16 April 2016
- Various marches in support of the Junior Hospital Doctors - April 2016
- London Mayday March - May 1st
- We shall be supporting the campaign to defend the sacked UCU reps at London Metropolitan.

Speakers at Branch Meetings

The President spoke at a meeting to outline the union's position on the "Prevent Agenda"

National Pensioners Convention

We are affiliated to both the London Region and the national organisation. Our delegate is a member of the London Region Executive and we sent a motion to the London Region AGM:

Housing - Intergenerational Solidarity

We recognise that housing is in desperate need of a response emphasising inter-generational

solidarity. Young people cannot afford to buy and private rents have become extortionate, while social housing is under attack. The government proposes to charge a "market rent" for households who have reasonable occupational pensions. Revenge evictions from rented accommodation have become commonplace.

We note the motions at this year's TUC Congress. While agreeing wholeheartedly with the sentiments in these motions, direct action will be necessary to force their implementation. We welcome the TUC Housing Charter for young workers and call for a similar charter for older and retired workers. We welcome the rise in housing action groups fighting evictions, opposing the privatisation of social housing and similar injustices. The trade union movement should support such local campaigns both to defend workers' housing and to increase our relevance to younger workers.

This was passed.

We have agreed to send two delegates to the Pensioners Parliament

Trades Councils

We are affiliated to 6 London Trades Councils

International Solidarity

Supported the Early Day Motion, tabled on 2nd July, which denounces abuse of human rights in Bahrain. More in the series of texts in solidarity with Bahrain, written by branch member David Binns, have been posted online.

[<http://www.ucu-retired-london.org.uk/bahrain3.html>]

In particular we welcomed the news that Jalila al-Salman and Mahdi Abu Dheeb, leaders of the suppressed Bahrain Teachers Association (BTA), have been awarded this year's Arthur Svensson International Prize for Trade Union Rights. We also welcome the unions launch of a campaign against UK failure to act on abuses and the Joint Press Release from Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy, MENASolidarity and UCU

Opposed the visit of Sisi to the UK, an even more brutal dictator than Mubarak, we urged solidarity with all those in Egypt who are still fighting for democracy and social justice. Supported the campaign for justice following the murder of Giulio Regeni.

We have expressed solidarity with Esmail Abdi, a leader of the Iranian Teachers' Trade Association, was arrested on 27 June following his attempt to obtain a visa to attend the 7th Education International World Congress in Ottawa, Canada in late July

We supported the campaign to continue the enquiry into the assassination of the great Guyanese socialist and historian Walter Rodney - we agreed to sponsor a public meeting to be organised by the Socialist History Society and Caribbean Labour Solidarity

Two retired union members successfully moved a motion at the Society for Caribbean Studies calling for a boycott of the Dominican Republic over their treatment of their citizens of African heritage. The branch endorsed this motion and through our relations with the RMT this motion ended up at the TUC Black Workers Conference where it was passed.

Our motion to the UCU Congress concerns solidarity with "Academics for Peace" in Turkey

Members publications

Jan Pollock is one of the co-ordinators of "*All In A Day's Work*"

Steve Cushion - "*A Hidden History of the Cuban Revolution*"

John Peter Roberts - "*China: From Permanent Revolution to Counter-Revolution*"

members of the branch have given talks to the Socialist History Society and the London Socialist Historians Group as well as the UCL Caribbean Seminar.

Walks

The branch has continued with regular walks, this year started with some urban walks, A Walk in the Jewish East End and A Walk in Radical Walthamstow. As the weather improves, we shall be getting out in the country.

Membership contact

As well as the branch website, we have continued to use the "Mailchimp" [www.mailchimp.com] email system for branch circulars.

We have published 5 more issues of the Branch Newsletter

They may be downloaded here <http://www.ucu-retired-london.org.uk/newsletter.htm>

We held 5 branch meetings last year.

