

Report for 2016-7

Demonstrations and Campaigns supported

- Defend Indro Sen, UCU Branch Secretary at the College of North West London
- 'Climate Refugees' Conference - Sat 11 Feb at the NUT Hamilton House
- Free Movement Of Labour In Higher Education - "Hands off my colleague" campaign
- Tube strike action suspended as on-going RMT fight leads to reinstatement of nearly 60% of axed jobs - *Our Chair in particular has been deeply involved with solidarity with the RMT*
- '1.5 oC to stay alive?': climate change, imperialism and 'co2lonialism' in the Caribbean - Public meeting February 15th
- Migrants Day of Action - 20th February
- *our NHS* - national demonstration - March 4th
- International day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - March 18th
- SERTUC Pensioners Network Seminar "PENSIONS" Friday 17 March 2017
- *School Cuts*, Kevin Courtney, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers asks for support the campaign to stop the cuts to school budgets.
- Save Ruskin's BA and MA Courses
- The International Transport Workers Federation asked us to raise the question of the 14 leaders and members of Turkish union TÜMTİS Ankara branch who are facing imprisonment.
- Greece Solidarity Campaign - Medical Aid for Greece dinner Sat May 13th
- It had been my intention to write asking for support for 2 jailed teacher trade union leaders in Djibouti. However, before I could do so I received the following: *Omar Ali Ewado and Ahmad-Kadar Nour were released on Monday evening, 27 March, after 8 days detention.*
- Action for Rail Access demos on the 5th April 2017
- Supported Chris Stephenson, a signatory of the petition of Academics for Peace in Turkey, who has been dismissed
- Support for Picturehouse BECTU including the call for a boycott
- Celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Wood Green on Sunday 23rd April
- The students of the University of Puerto Rico on indefinite strike against massive cuts in funding for both public education and the health service. The Branch Secretary sent a message of solidarity.
- Barts Hospital Workers Strike Solidarity demo Saturday 15 July
- Saudi Arabia: Call to halt execution of peaceful protesters
- Supported the precarious workers rally against the employment practices of Uber, Deliveroo and the University of London on Wednesday September 27th
- Protested at the arrest and detention of 3 relatives of Sayed Ahmed AlWadaei
- Demonstration *Stop the 'Haringey Development Vehicle'* 23rd September 2017
- Opposes the construction of the High Speed 2 railway

- Deplores the decision to expel Emeritus Professor and distinguished mathematician Moshe Machover from the Labour Party for alleged 'anti-semitism'.
- Throughout the year we have continued our support for Middle East and North Africa Solidarity (MENA)

Relations with NUT Retired Members

The secretary has been liaising with the convenor of the NUT London Retired members and gave a talk at one of their meetings about the current USS Dispute.

Speakers at Branch Meetings

Kim Sharif, a prominent lawyer and Director of the Human Rights for Yemen, spoke about "Yemen - the Forgotten War". January 24th

Adam Lincoln, UCU Official responsible for Health, Safety and Sustainability, spoke about the union's position on climate change. April 10th

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,

We sent sent 2 motions to the London Region AGM 2017:

To halt climate change we need drastic cuts in the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases put into the air. That means leaving most of the existing reserves of high carbon fuels in the ground. We need workers to insulate and retrofit homes and buildings to conserve energy. Workers to build enough renewable power to meet all our energy needs. And workers to maintain the new systems the future of humanity depends on.

As part of our commitment to intergenerational solidarity, we call on the National Pensioners' Convention to campaign, with Unions, the TUC and relevant pressure groups for Government to plan for immediate transition to a carbon zero economy, including:

- *Energy democracy and a rapid transition from fossil fuels, including a ban on all Fracking.*
- *A stop to airport expansion*
- *Promotion of alternatives to short-haul flights, including publicly owned rail in UK and Europe*
- *A genuine commitment to reducing lethal air pollutants*
- *A just transition employment strategy to climate jobs and well-paid, skilled, sustainable employment*
- *Improved links between anti-war, refugee and climate campaign movements.*
- *Action against TTIP, CETA and other trade treaties threatening climate justice*
- *A Climate Justice Fund funded by wealthy nations and polluting companies.*

If we want young people to help us defend our pensions we must help them to defend their future.

The second motion is the same as the one on the *Triple Lock* presented to the UCU Retired Members Annual Meeting 2016

Both were passed.

We sent two delegates to the Pensioners' Parliament

We shall be sending 2 motions to the forthcoming London Region AGM 2018:

Climate Change, Airport Expansion and Fracking

We recognise that the motion on Climate Change passed at this year's TUC makes progress towards the resolution on Climate Change passed at last year's London region NPC. However, we regret that there is no mention of opposition to fracking or airport expansion. We therefore call upon the NPC to continue to campaign within the trade union movement in support of all the demands raised previously.

ESOL and the older migrant

Given the rise of Islamophobia and other forms of racism, this branch calls for the Government to immediately fund free ESOL classes in FE colleges and elsewhere within the public sector. While the facilities to learn to speak English should be the right of all migrants, we are especially concerned with the older non-English speaker who is likely to be especially isolated and disadvantaged.

Trades Councils

We are affiliated to 7 London Trades Councils

Members publications and presentations

Members of the branch have given talks to the Socialist History Society, SERTUC Public Services Committee and the London Socialist Historians Group.

- Steve Cushion: Launch of a Socialist History Society Occasional Publication "*Killing Communists in Havana - The Start of the Cold War in Latin America*" November 12th 2016
- SERTUC Public Services Committee welcome Dr Peter Latham Signing his new book: *Who Stole The Town Hall?* Tuesday 13 June 2017,
- Marilyn Moos: *The Neglected History of the Diverse Victims of Nazism* Marilyn is Vice-Chair of our branch 30 Oct 2017

Other members' publications and presentations in 2016

- Ian Birchall: *Hadj-Ali Abelkader: A Muslim Communist in the 1920s* in International Socialist Review

We are also proud that, as a result of research done to advance the branch position in solidarity with the workers of Bahrain, Dave Binns has been accepted to study for a PhD at SOAS.

Walks

The branch has continued with organised walks:

- River Lee Trail
- Visit to Bulstrode Camp
- Bermondsey And Rotherhithe Walk
- Cornmill Meadows, the Dragonfly Sanctuary and the River Lee
- A Summer Stroll in Epping Forest
- Watford To Kings Langley

Membership contact

We have revamped the branch website - <http://ucu-retired-london.org.uk/>

We have continued to use the "Mailchimp" email system for branch circulars.

We held 5 meetings in 2016-7.

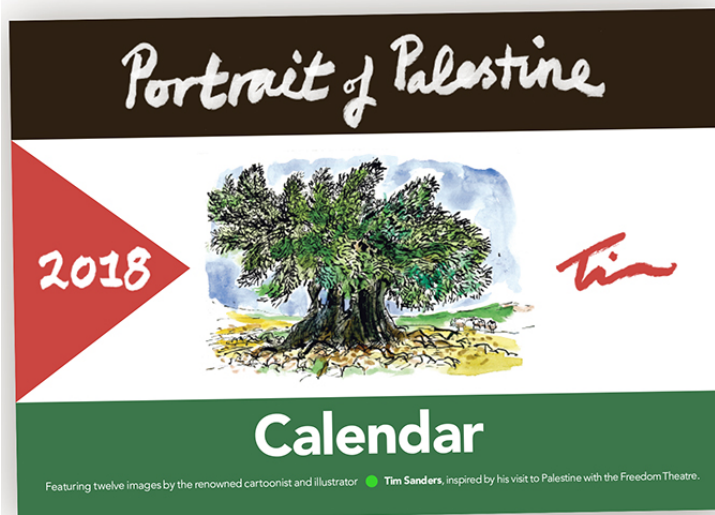
We have 562 members.

Ken Montague

We regret to announce the death of Ken Montague, known to many of us as a socialist, climate change activist and member of the UCU London Retired Members branch. His contribution will be sorely missed.

Finally, the branch supports Tower Hamlets and Jenin Friendship Association

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