

Minutes - UCU London Retired Members 5th February 2019 2pm

Apologies - Marilyn, Erica, Philip, Kate, Graham, Ross, Richard, David, Lynn, Jan, Tony, Ian, Jan

Well wishing messages to Marilyn and Ian.

Jan medicine shortage worrying - article in Morning Star -

<https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/b/big-pharma-rip-revealed-nhs-pays-nearly-ps500m-cancer-drugs-you-helped>. - *circulate*

Minutes and Matters Arising

Retired Members Annual Meeting

Our motions passed
Opposition to Universal Credit

Affiliate to Campaign against Climate Change - *Pete to send details to secretary and to be delegate*

Mayflower 400 and Grenada Revolution 40th anniversary

Steve to visit Grenada for book launch, intervention in "Mayflower 400" progressing.

AGM

Election of Officers - Chair Marilyn [deputy Sybil], Secretary - Steve [deputy Pete], Treasurer - Geoff, Regional delegates [Chris and Meg], Walks - Dave, NPC - Meg and Janet
Annual Report - on website

Southall Resists 40 – Appeal for Trade Union Support - *Barbara*

This branch affirms its support to mark the 40th anniversary of the murder of Gurdip Singh Chaggar and Blair Peach in Southall, West London. It is an important event, not only for the fight against racism and fascism, but for Southall and other black and Asian communities in Britain. Blair Peach, a member of the National Union of Teachers, was killed in an unprovoked attack and no one has ever been charged for his killing despite widespread calls for a public inquiry and an international campaign for justice launched by his family and friends that lasted until 2010.

A series of events organised by Southall Resists 40, a community based group that includes trade union activists, will take place from April to June 2019 to remember a community's victorious resistance against racism and fascism 40 years ago and learn the lessons for today.

The branch agrees to:

- *Support and promote the work of Southall Resists 40*
- *Send a delegate to the organising meetings*
- *Sponsor the group by donating money towards the cost of the events (Directly or through the Ealing Borough Trades Union Council).*

Agreed - £50 donation, Barbara to be delegate - LKJ link on youtube - circulate to members, raise at trades councils. NEU in Tower Hamlets commemorated Blair. *Write to Jane Shallice.*

Greener Jobs Alliance AGM -

Report from *Graham*

Just Transition agenda. Air pollution, working with "Hazards". TUCAN - air pollution and the workers - charter. On website and to trades councils.

Court cases on air pollution. Alan to keep us updated.

- <https://www.clientearth.org/what-we-do/>
- <https://www.clientearth.org/government-loses-third-air-pollution-case-judge-rules-air-pollution-plans-unlawful/>
- <https://www.clientearth.org/rule-of-law/>

Stansted 15 trial - Steve

Trial tomorrow - Secretary to keep informed. First deportation flight to Jamaica tomorrow. Invite speaker.

later [*Stansted 15: no jail for activists convicted of terror-related offences - Judge says group 'didn't have a grievous intent as some may who commit this type of crime'*]

<https://www.theguardian.com/global/2019/feb/06/stansted-15-rights-campaigners-urge-judge-to-show-leniency>

Boycott of Senate House called by the workers there who are fighting outsourcing

Endorse [*have written to Senate House IWGB Branch Secretary*]

Slavery and Reparations - Steve

We note the University of Glasgow report on how the institution benefited from slavery and welcome their intention to make reparations. We congratulate our members who have been instrumental in achieving this result. We call upon all branches to pursue similar enquiries within their own institutions with a view to obtaining recognition of the role of slavery and the slave trade in financing British Higher Education as part of the development of British capitalism.

To London Region

"American fibs" on BBC worth watching

Climate Change Motion - Pete/Graham

Whilst recognizing right of energy unions to defend their members 'pay and conditions during a Just Transition to a low carbon economy, we regard this as an issue which is of legitimate concern to all parts of the labour movement. The transition to a zero-carbon society is the most urgent problem facing humanity and is technically feasible with obstacles to this being mainly political.

We have to help a Just Transition; shifting energy production, transport, housing and agriculture onto a sustainable basis; with workers and communities most directly affected re-skilled.

This needs immediate Government investment for a qualitative shift within 12 years, including a significant shift in the focus and aims of Education;

Conference calls on the Executive to approach unions to Lobby Government for an urgent Just Transition to a Low carbon economy and the organisation of Unions for a Just Transition conference.

Graham read amendment. Accepted Graham and Secretary to ensure motion for congress is within word limit.

Motions and election of delegates to Congress

to Congress - Climate Change Motion, delegates, *Graham* and *Alison*

Camden Traffic Wardens Trade Dispute - *Chris*

Seeking modest wage rise. Send message of support and support march 10:30 from Mornington Crescent to Camden Town.

[later - *Solidarity Social For colleges on strike and traffic wardens - Friday 15 February*]

Stand up to Racism

Medway coach - *Alison*

£25 for SUTR March 16th

Organisation matters - *Richard*

Support for March 16th UN Anti-racism day.

European Workers

Frank's residence position to be raised as union casework

Palestine Solidarity Campaign

Financial Appeal - Circulate

Socialist trip to Palestine, June 13-24 - *Sybil*

Standalone bid for Kensington and Chelsea College -

Report from Meg - Motion passed

Main item

Report of "Unite against Fascism" visit to Auschwitz

Report by Sybil - David Rosenberg piece in Morning Star - Current far right joined main National Day - Resistance

AOB

NPC - Free TV licence campaign - demonstration Thursday 7th March - should be funded by government

26th February - Hugo Blanco
No Parasas - fighting far right

Medway stroke services centralisation - link with Thanet