

Report for 2014-15

Demonstrations and Campaigns supported

- NHS workers pay campaign June 5th
- No more Austerity demand the alternative: 21 June
- Lambeth College - National Day of Action 25th June
- Public Sector Strike and Demonstration on July 10th
- National Demonstration for Gaza 19th July
- People's Climate March Sept 21st
- Lambeth College dispute - 7th October demo
- TUC March and Rally, "*Britain Needs a Pay Rise*" 18th October
- Launch of the Pensioners Manifesto and Lobby of Parliament - 5 November
- Stop TTIP - Waltham Forest Trades Council Meeting - 25 November [anti TTIP resources - <http://www.community-languages.org.uk/waltham-forest-trades-council/stop-ttip.html>]
- "No ethnic cleansing in the Caribbean" Picket of the Evening of Dominican Cigars, Music and Rum on 26th November - <http://www.cls-uk.org.uk/haiti-DR.html>
- Lambeth College strike and rally - 17th December,
- Lambeth College UCU rally at the start of an all out strike on January 19th
- MENA Solidarity conference, *The Arab Uprisings Four Years On – Revolution, Resistance and Repression* 13-14 February
- Thanet *Stand Up To Ukip* demonstration in Margate February 28th
- TIME TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE *No to Austerity, Yes to a Million Climate Jobs* Saturday, March 7th
- Save Adult Education" demonstration on March 25th at 6pm outside the City Lit.
- Defend Adult Education - April 25th Demo

Speakers at Branch Meetings

Anne Alexander from *Middle East and North Africa Solidarity*

Jonathan Neale from the *Climate Change Jobs Campaign*

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:

This NPC London Region Annual Meeting supports the NPC "CAMPAIGN TO DEFEND UNIVERSAL PENSIONER BENEFITS SUCH AS THE BUS PASS AND WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE". We urge all pensioners to question all candidates in their constituency and to refuse to vote for any candidate in the General Election who will not publicly endorse the "Pensioners Manifesto 2015"

This was passed.

It was also passed by the Waltham Forest Trades Council, who have produced, in conjunction with the Waltham Forest Pensioners Convention, a model letter to go to all MPs and prospective candidates. This may be downloaded from the front page of our website: <http://www.ucu-retired-london.org.uk/>, along with contact details for MPs

Trades Councils

We are affiliated to 6 London Trades Councils

MENA Solidarity

Branch resolution

This branch condemns the arrest of human rights activist Maryam al-Khawaja in Bahrain. We resolve to urge local MP's to call upon the government to demand that the Bahraini regime releases her immediately.

Our branch proposed a motion, *Free imprisoned Bahraini teachers*, that was carried unanimously at UCU Congress 2013.

Since then a series of texts examining the issues and events surrounding the assault on the BTA and other trade unionists, written by branch member David Binns, have been posted online. [<http://www.ucu-retired-london.org.uk/bahrain3.html>]

The decision, announced in December 2014, to open a British military base in Bahrain, where under present arrangements there is and can be no meaningful public mandate, is only the most recent of two centuries of colonial and neo-colonial insults to the democratic impulses of the people of Bahrain, workers first and foremost.

Publications and exhibitions supported

UCU Publication

"Why immigration is good for all of us" circulated via trades councils, Green Party conference and London Region NPC.

MENA Solidarity

Anne Alexander '*Bread, Freedom and Social Justice*' which argues that collective action by organised workers played a fundamental role in the Arab Spring in Egypt, which erupted after years of strikes and social protests.

Members publications

Merilyn Moos '*Beaten but not Defeated. Siegfried Moos: an anti-Nazi who settled in Britain*'

Ian Birchall '*La Vie ouvrière, a Beacon of Internationalism*' in Socialist History

Merilyn Moos '*Breaking the Silence, Voices of the British Children of Refugees from Nazism*'

and a photo exhibition by Dave Binns - *Colours of Music* 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th April

members of the branch have given talks to the Socialist History Society and the London Socialist Historians Group on, Internationalism before the First World War, German anti-Nazis, Cold War murder of trade unionists in Cuba, mutiny in the French army during World War One and post-War decolonisation

Walks

The branch has continued with monthly walks, along canal and river tow-paths in winter, with slightly more adventurous excursions during the better weather, frequently aimed to pass iron-age sites.

Membership contact

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

We have published one issue of a branch circular and it is the intention to produce a minimum of 3 a year.

It may be downloaded here [<http://www.ucu-retired-london.org.uk/pdf/Newsletter-1.pdf>]

We held 6 branch meetings last year.

Charlotte Monro

Finally some good news. A union leader sacked by the trust which runs Whipps Cross Hospital in East London is to be reinstated after a two-year battle. Unison rep Charlotte Monro was dismissed from her role at the hospital in 2013 after 26 years, after Barts Health Trust said she failed to disclose criminal convictions relating to historic political activism. Our branch, along with many other union branches in London supported her campaign, so we rejoice in a small working class victory.



London Retired Members Against Climate Change