

Massive TUC March coming to London



GMB Members out in force at a previous TUC Demonstration

The TUC have organised a demonstration for better pay and terms on all jobs in London on Saturday 12th May and GMB will be sending a massive delegation.

GMB members will be convening on Victoria Embankment from 11am before marching to

Hyde Park where there will be speakers until 4pm.

GMB are hoping that tens of thousands of people will come out to support us, so visit our Facebook page to find out more and to let us know whether you are coming. Come along and make your voices heard!

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- GMB battle shift changes at Poole Council



Paul Maloney, Regional Secretary

Message from the Regional Secretary

As austerity and cost of living continue to affect GMB members, it means that you often have to review your finances. In doing so, there are occasions when a member feels that union membership is not necessary - but that can't be further from the truth.

In the half year to December 2017, Southern Region secured over £3.5 million in compensation for members and acted in countless other cases. In the words of a nurse whose registration was at risk, 'Without GMB I wouldn't have known where to start in dealing with my defence. I now want to encourage everyone I know to join the union.'

Or the member whose speeding conviction was overturned, 'I have always and will always be a trade union member and I want to thank GMB for all their brilliant support because when I needed help, they were there for me.'

Or in the words of a family member following a £340,000 settlement for asbestos exposure, 'GMB have been fantastic throughout. We would never have gotten to where we are without... GMB.'

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Petition on Housing

GMB Southern believes that everyone should have a say over where they live. You should be consulted over any changes, regenerations and of course demolition affecting your home. Please sign and share the petition set up on change.org by looking on our Facebook or Twitter pages, or feel free to contact us for information on the petition or how you can get more involved.

GMB NHS Survey

B50 Sussex Branch are undertaking a general survey of members working at both the NHS Brighton & Sussex University hospitals and East Sussex Hospital Trusts, to greater understand the issues which members across the county's acute hospitals might feel are most important to them.

The full membership questionnaire which includes Nursing staff, HCA's, Medical Auxiliary's, plus Housekeeping, Porter, Cleaning teams, Medical Records, Secretaries and Ward Administrators, amongst others, covers such important matters as Work/Life Balance, Assaults & Allegations, Education & Career Development, Bullying & Harassment, Recognition of Achievements & Stress at Work, Pay & Pensions, Sector Issues and The Wider NHS.

If you work for either of these trusts and have not yet received a questionnaire, contact your branch to update your personal details and receive a form.

Legal Update

The most important piece of legal news, as most of you will be aware, is the forthcoming introduction of new Data Protection Laws in May.

Put simply, this will affect the way that information about you is stored and shared, meaning that you as an employee may have forced changes to your work practices, and that you as a service user or customer will be protected from having your personal data shared without your consent and unless strictly necessary.

If you have any questions about the new law, in your capacity as a worker or as a consumer, feel free to contact your Full-time GMB Organiser for more information about this will impact on you.

GMB battle shift changes in Poole

Following months of worry and concern, GMB members at Poole Council were informed only weeks before planned shift changes that the contentious plans were to be shelved.

GMB have stood firm against these changes and have queried a number of details presented by the management as a lack of concern for both the employees and indeed the community.

With the now agreed merger of Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch authorities, GMB will be keeping a watchful eye on any future proposals.

Message from the Regional Secretary

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Allegations and accidents as well as attacks on terms and conditions of employment and jobs can happen to any member, in any walk of life, so what price do you put on protecting your job, your career, your family, your home and your possessions? Maybe through insurance but without a job it's not possible.

Protecting your job is the job of the GMB for as little as £1.78 pw.

GMB Southern Region is a strong vibrant union, doing the business on a daily basis for members and you too can play your part in GMB by becoming active in your workplace and in your Branch.

Workers Memorial Day 2018

Upcoming Events

On Saturday 28th April, reps armed with a GMB workplace inspection checklist will be led by our G36 Security Branch, at sites across the whole of the Southern Region, to seek out Health and Safety issues at their workplace and reporting them to management.

For 2018, the slogan of the day is “Unionised Workplaces are Safer Workplaces” and will focus on the huge difference that unions make in preventing deaths in the workplace.

Since the Safety Representatives and Safety Regulations 1977 came into force, giving union Health and Safety Representatives legal status, it has become a known fact that more people return home safely from union organised workplaces, than from non-unionised workplaces.

The purpose of Workers Memorial Day has always been to remember the dead and fight for the living, and to make our places of work safer for everyone.

As well as the national TUC March, at which GMB Southern are hoping to send a large contingent, the region also has a number of events coming up to which you are invited and welcome. Some of these include:

THE TOLPUDDLE FESTIVAL

LONDON PRIDE

BRIGHTON PRIDE

And many more. To find out more about these, when and where they are, and how you can attend or get involved, visit our regional facebook page and check out our Events!

Have you got an event that you would like us to advertise?

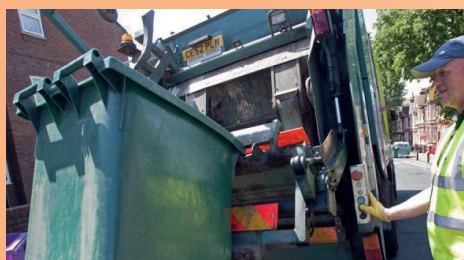
GMB Southern will consider all requests for us to try to secure an attendance at your event. Whether it is a community event, a charity event, or a demonstration to highlight a workplace or political cause, do get in touch with us to see if we can help you.

Have you attended an event with or on behalf of GMB? Why not send us any photos or videos you may have taken on the day. They might end up on our website or even in the next newsletter!

East Sussex Super Waste contract coming back in-house!

It has finally been advised by the contract manager for the East Sussex Super Waste collection contract (incorporating Eastbourne, Hastings, Rother and Wealden Councils) that the Eastbourne Council element of the contract is merging with Lewes District Council, effectively bringing the collection service back in-house and bringing an end to the outsourcing mantra, showing it to be a failure.

This is not the first council to do this and it won't be the last to realise that public services run in-house by their staff are more cost effective, better run and deliver far superior services for those who are paying for it.



SECAMB Branch Elect Women's Committee

GMB SECAMB Branch took the decision at the last branch meeting to set up a Women's sub-committee to progress equality issues facing women in SECAMB. The first meeting took place on 19th February with female branch reps, and the committee's first main project will be to draw up a Menopause policy and begin negotiations with SECAMB to have them adopt this policy. GMB SECAMB women's committee will be sending out a Menopause survey to staff so that we can ensure members experiences feed into the policy.

Public Sector Pay

GMB members who work in the public sector are being balloted on pay at the moment. If you work for a local council, at a school or in a hospital, if you are employed in the public sector, you should have received information already about the ballot. If you haven't received anything, let us know as it may be that your details need updating on our system.



GMB are advising our members in the NHS to REJECT their pay offer, as we believe more can be achieved. With over half of our NHS members being at the top of their pay scale, this pay rise works out as being below inflation, and therefore a real term pay cut. GMB were the only major union not to accept the deal, as we want to do more for our members!

Our Local Government workers have already been balloted and 94% of those who voted agreed to ACCEPT the proposal. Do get in touch if you have any questions about the process or if you believe you should have received a ballot paper from us but did not.

You should also shortly be hearing from us if you work for Kent County Council (which has its own bargaining unit), so again keep an eye out for information and let us know if you don't receive anything from us!

Members force Council backdown

When Brighton & Hove announced that council funding for the Royal Pavilions and Museum services could only be assured for a further 4 years, they announced that alternatives needed to be sourced to ensure the future of the city's Arts and Culture Heritage and the staff who worked there.

Since that announcement, GMB and its members have challenged that decision and this has led to two meetings with the Council's Chief Executive, which subsequently produced an offer from the Council to postpone the immediate threat of a direct transfer to the Dome and Festival trust.

Members have voted to officially stand down from the threat of industrial action and will now be involved in agreeing the scope of the consultation before the final report is submitted back to the Councils Policy and Resources Committee in September.

More updates here to come, so keep an eye out for news!

GMB Southern's new website has gone live!

As you may have seen, GMB Southern's website has had a total overhaul.

We hope that you will find the new layout easier to use and navigate, and that it will be quicker and easier for you to access this information you need.

All the latest news stories will remain visible on the front page, but you should now be able to search the archived news items by key word or category. Check it out at www.gmb-southern.org.uk

The best way of staying abreast of all developments within the region and of any news stories as they come hot off the press, you should like us on Facebook (GMB Southern Region) or follow us on Twitter (@GMBSouthern).

If you have any news leads you would like us to follow, stories you would like us to publicise, or indeed any feedback on our new website, then please don't hesitate to get in touch with us using the email address below!

Do you have anything to contribute to our Regional Newsletter?

Send in any stories or photos to info@gmb.org.uk or look us up on Facebook or Twitter