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YOUTH

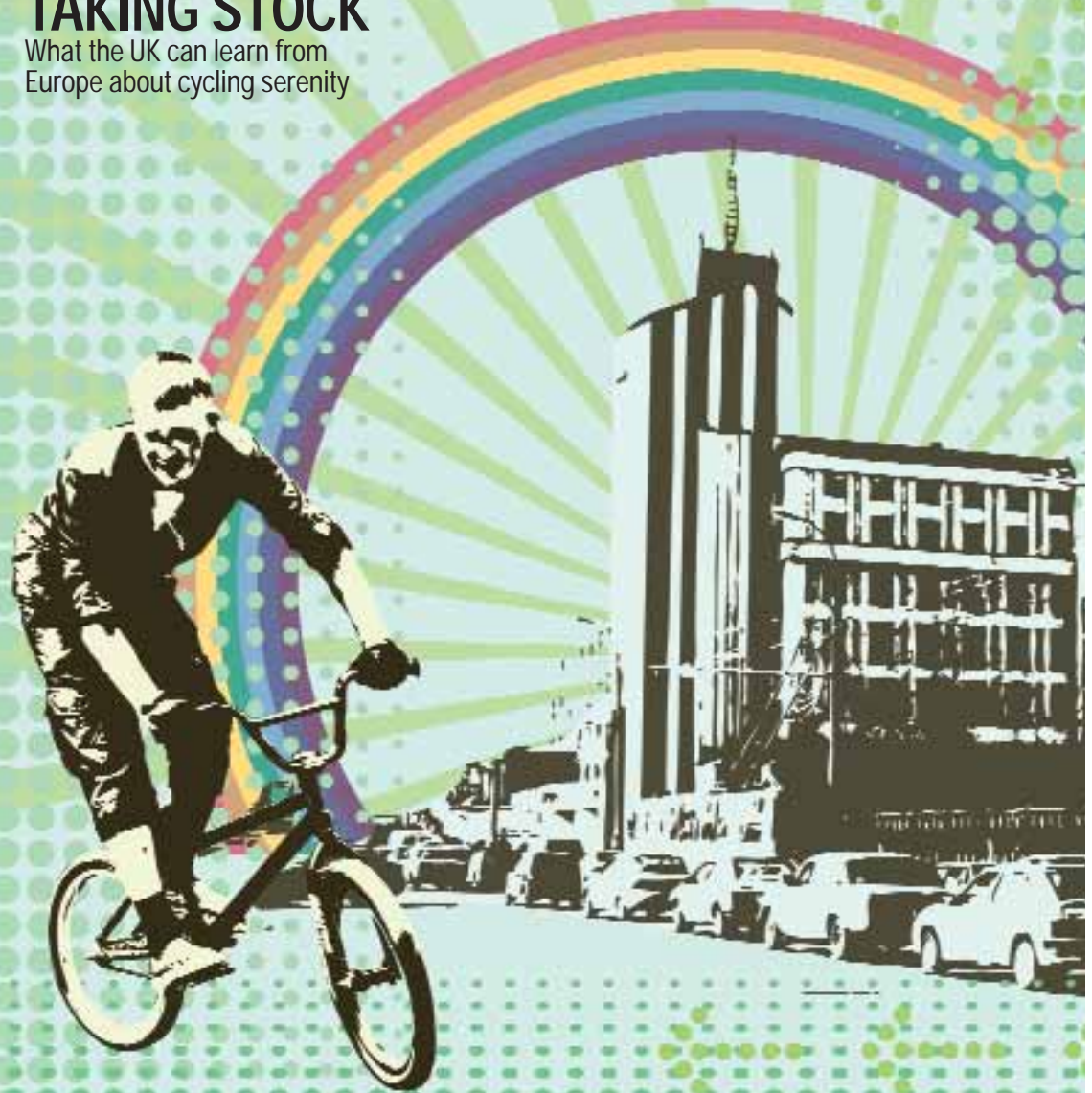


THE MAGAZINE OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WINTER 2009 WWW.CWU.ORG

CYCLE CITIES – TAKING STOCK

What the UK can learn from
Europe about cycling serenity



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THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

BILLY HAYES
GENERAL SECRETARY



With recession and industrial tensions in Royal Mail, BT Openreach, O2 and Alliance and Leicester, these are challenging times and the union must adapt to survive.

Just because we have always done things a particular way does not mean that must always be so. Equally, just because the union has been structured in a certain way, does not mean there is not a need for a critical look, with a view to making it more

efficient and effective.

This is where the views of young activists are crucial. What do you want your union to look like in the future and what do you want the union to do? Youth can play a major role in the rejuvenation of the CWU, by challenging at all levels. We need to look at the union through fresh eyes and we look forward to working with our young activists on this project.

Get digital

KEVIN SLOCOMBE
HEAD OF COMMS

We are about to try something new with the youth magazine – the next edition will probably be electronic only and be posted on the CWU website and the CWU youth website. This is an attempt to see if this works as a better communications tool for young members. There is great software now that means we can produce a really smart interactive magazine, with video pop-ups and more images. We will be e-mailing out the magazine to all those who have e-mail addresses listed on our data – but if you want to ensure you receive yours, send me your e-mail address direct.



Vote! Vote! Vote!

SIMON SAPPER
NATIONAL OFFICER

Next year all of us will receive at least three ballot papers. One for the union's National Executive; one, depending where you live, for local authority elections; and the big one, for the General Election. There is a saying that "if voting changed anything they would abolish it", but across the world there are huge numbers of people who would give their lives for the right to vote and who queue for hours at polling stations to exercise that right. If you don't use your vote, you can't complain about the choices made by those who do. How you use it is up to you, but we should all remember who our friends are, and they include many hugely supportive – and financially conscientious – Labour MPs.



RALPH FERRETT CWU YAC CHAIR

[WELCOME]

Only through membership of the CWU can young workers make their voices heard, says **Ralph Ferrett**, so look out for what the union is doing in your area and get more involved...

For many workers, 2009 has been a difficult year.

The economic crisis has dominated headlines and it seems that the blame for what's happened has once again been laid at the feet of ordinary working people, rather than those who actually caused the crisis.

In the workplace – whether that's Royal Mail, BT, O2, Orange, or other businesses in which the CWU has representatives –

there has been unprecedented challenges, but it is through membership of the CWU that these challenges can be addressed and workers get stronger.

In the pages of this magazine are stories about the good work being done by young CWU members, the campaigns being fought and ideas for the future.

I hope that everyone reading this will find something that interests them, and the YAC

really hope that they will get involved in union activity.

A good start would be to log onto the CWU's new youth website www.cwuyouth.org.

I hope and look forward to seeing you at forthcoming CWU Youth events, the next of which will be the Youth Conference taking place on the 29th January. If you are interested in attending please speak to your Branch Secretary



BT'S GRADUATE PROGRAMME



In August, BT announced it was ceasing graduate recruitment activity and no longer running a graduate recruitment programme, in response to the economic climate and headcount pressures. Despite assurances it will continue to support those people already on the programme, BT were unable to confirm when or if the programme will reopen.

This news is clearly worrying, particularly in view of the fact that the number of graduates applying for BT's programme has increased substantially over the last three years, rising from 3,800 applications in 2007 to 4,800 in 2009.

An estimated 300,000 graduates are joining the jobs market this year, with applications for graduate places becoming far more competitive. BT is one of the first big name companies to scrap its graduate recruitment scheme, and there are worries that other companies will follow suit, resulting in even less graduate places being available.

Recent figures indicated that in June of this year, 928,000 people under the age of 25 were out of work, and the news from BT only adds to existing fears that dwindling job prospects will lead to a generation of young people leaving school or university and failing to find work; leading this generation of youth to face the brunt of the recession.



● By Jamie Jenkins, YAC

Youth branches stood strong with UAF to fight against fascism



Blockade at BNP festival is a triumph

CAMPAIGN

Unite Against Fascism (UAF) caused huge disruption at a British National Party (BNP) annual festival in the summer.

UAF activists across the UK organised coaches to be sent to Codnor village, in Derbyshire, where the event was being held, and were joined by 25 anti-fascist campaigners from Eastern No4

Youth branch in Cambridge.

The activists successfully formed a blockade of protesters at each end of the road that led to the festival, and were able to prevent BNP supporters from gaining access.

For some six hours no-one was able to pass through the blockade (except local residents on foot) and many people who wanted to attend the event

had to turn around and give up.

Police presence was high on the day and police kettling made the blockade even more effective because it further corralled the festival-goers.

Jamie Andrews,

8m ... number of people who watched Nick Griffin on Question Time

Eastern No4 Youth officer, said: "I have been on many

protests, for various things, but this was the first time that I can honestly say I felt like I had actually achieved something.

"We caused massive disruption to the BNP festival event and in frustration many Nazis were photographed on the day doing fascist salutes, thus removing the mask of respectability that Nick Griffin has been trying hard to paint of the BNP."

Conference to National policy

POLICY

A motion submitted by the Bristol & District branch to Youth Conference 2009 called for the Southwest TUC's Green Workplaces initiative to be expanded across the union.

The motion was carried by the Youth Conference as Youth policy, and, on the advice of Tony Kearns SDGS – who declared it as the best motion on the Youth Conference pad – Youth Conference voted to submit the motion as one of its two motions to General Conference.

"This is an example of where the CWU youth movement can lead the way on climate change," said Youth officer Kye Dudd. "Taken further than anyone at Youth Conference could have imagined, the motion is now a pan-trade union project!"

Vestas workers and compulsory high heels at TUC

CONFERENCE

A motion about compulsory high heels in company dress codes was one of several interesting debates at the TUC Annual Congress, where

the CWU youth movement was again represented.

The Annual Congress also saw many propositions about green issues, including a fringe meeting in which workers from wind

power supplier Vestas spoke about their struggles. Later, during an address from Environment Minister Ed Miliband, the Vestas workers staged a lively protest in

support of their jobs and the importance of wind energy.

A proposition was carried to ensure that in future young members will be able to submit items for discussion.



➔ See story on page 11

Keep your gifts sweatshop free - buy No Sweat

ETHICS

Whether it's birthdays, Christmas, or just shopping for yourself, everyone likes new things. But there can be a troubling aspect to the gifts given and received – how they were made.

The truth is that vast quantities of the clothes, goods and toys bought last Christmas were made in sweatshops across the developing world; manufactured by people who work for

less than a dollar a day, and often in appalling conditions.

In these factories there is little or no health, safety or welfare, child labour is often exploited, and attempts to unionise are met with outright hostility and violence.

No Sweat, an organisation campaigning against sweatshop labour, is avoiding the traditional boycott approach, and instead is focused on empowering

workers and engendering solidarity.

No Sweat is campaigning for:

- A living wage.
- Safe working conditions.
- Independent trade unions.

The mechanism for doing this is helping people unionise and exposing retailers and suppliers in the UK that use sweatshop labour, and undermine attempts by workers to organise unions.

Simply holding

up a microscope to retailers, performing a protest, or writing a letter is enough to make people think twice and to ensure they uphold proper standards.

No Sweat regularly holds protests, events and stunts to highlight instances of sweatshop labour and to pressure UK firms to allow better working conditions.

● Learn more by logging on to www.nosweat.org.uk, or subscribe to No Sweat Twitter feed (@NO_SWEAT), and find out what's happening locally

No10 celebrates apprenticeships

APPRENTICESHIPS

Two young CWU members joined General Secretary Billy Hayes and Prime Minister Gordon Brown at a Downing Street reception to celebrate apprenticeships.

Wolverhampton-based Stephanie Harrison, from BT Wholesale, and Ben Haycox, from BT Operate, joined with 40 other apprentices to mark the ongoing advance of apprenticeships. There are a record 250,000 apprentices beginning training this year.

"I have been fortunate to have a good wage, an excellent apprenticeship framework and a full-time role waiting for me, however, if this was not the case, I know I would want someone to turn to," said Stephanie.

TUC general secretary, Brendan Barber, said: "Apprentices play a vital role in our economy and unions are working with employers to increase the number."



Image credit: Jess Harrod/Report Digital

Help for victims of workplace bullying

AWARENESS

A deterioration in respect and tolerance by employers is an increasingly common area of concern from CWU members – and it's important not to suffer in silence.

The CWU has a zero tolerance policy on bullying and all reps attend a mandatory course to raise awareness of the issue.

Bullying behaviour, which seeks to disempower the victim, can come from so many places and does not necessarily stem

directly from the employer. However, if it happens at work, managers have an obligation to deal with it, and service providers, ranging from mobile phone companies, internet service providers (covering both network/platform and content) to public sector landlords, must also prevent their products or services causing harm.

The most important thing is to tell someone and be aware of sources of support. The CWU has its own excellent

harassment helpline, on 0800 107 1909, and a guidance leaflet is available at: http://www.cwu.org/assets/_files/documents/aug_09/cwu_1249385266_Harassment_in_the_workplace.pdf. The TUC website is also an excellent resource (www.tuc.org.uk).

Young people, in particular, can be at a disproportionately high risk due to their age and perceived lack of experience, so it pays to know how to recognise the warning signs for you and your friends, and where to turn for support.

National Youth Education Event

MEETINGS

The eighth National Youth Education Event took place in Cardiff in October, attended by more than 60 young delegates from 40 branches.

Workshops sessions on the environment, knife crime, debt and the far right were complemented by industrial updates in the Postal and TFS sectors, and a *Question Time*-style conference.

● A full report can be found at www.cwuyouth.org/cwu-national-youth-education-event-2009.html

ACTIVE COMMUNICATION

Socialising in cyberspace

Community driven internet content is transforming CWU Youth and allowing branches, officers and workers from across Britain to communicate at the click of a mouse. **Ralph Ferrett** highlights what is available and how to get in touch...



CWU Youth Conference 2010

The youth conference will be taking place on Saturday January 30 at the offices of the Birmingham District Amal Branch. Any member wishing to come along as an observer should speak to their branch.

Twittering

In order to maximise CWU Youth's reach it now Twitters. Find us at www.twitter.com/cwuyouth Of course, Youth is also on Facebook too, so please find us and say hello at www.facebook.com/cwuyouth

Youtube and podcasts

View further pictures on the CWU Youth Youtube channel (www.youtube.com/cwuyouth) and listen to podcasts at <http://cwuyouth.podbean.com>

The CWU website needs you

We have a page on the CWU Youth website called "This is Me". This gives young members the space to tell the world why they joined the union and why they are active.

If you would like to be featured please email Jo at youth@cwu.org and she will send you a list of

questions to get you started. All you need to do is fill in the gaps and supply a photo of yourself. Simple!

Want to get active – don't know where to start?

If you really would like to take a more active part in the union then please talk to your local branch or region. If you don't have contact details then email Jo at youth@cwu.org and she will help you out.

Podcasts

CWU Youth podcasts are now well established. Appearing roughly once a

A TOOL FOR UNION ACTIVISM

Ralph Ferrett takes a look at how social media can be used as a trigger for activism...

Most commentators and pundits seem to agree that social media on the internet is a hugely powerful tool, which is manifestly effecting the way people do business and the way they get things done.

Through TV and newspaper reports, we've seen what this kind of media can achieve, from the bad: <http://bit.ly/3VNNMj> (where a misplaced advert about a party on MySpace caused £20,000 worth of damage to a house), to the fantastic: <http://bit.ly/1u0OHZ> (where Twitter users were able to show up the ridiculous nature of the UK's libel laws during the Trafigura scandal).

In fact, there is a bewildering and growing amount of social and new media: Myspace, Facebook, Bebo, Google wave, Podcasts, Vodcasts, Blogging, internet relay chat... and the list goes on.

The question is not so much: should activists use social media, but rather: how can it be used effectively so it doesn't become counterproductive? You only have to look at a handful of the many "Support the Postal Strike" facebook groups to notice how unproductive they can become. Many are now simply forums for "trolls" to show up and incite wars with activists.

Social media is not a magic wand, or a panacea to counter all

difficulties activists and trade unions encounter when communicating with their "target audiences". Instead, they are supplementary avenues by which messages can be transmitted to people. If the messages are right and communicated properly then social media can help achieve those goals.

The key is content – what is being said and how to say it. The delivery method, be it meetings, publishing, or social media, is the tool. It's a means not an end, and, by recognising and embracing this, social media can be used to effectively help activists accomplish their tasks, get their messages across and communicate effectively with as many people as possible.

Social media is a cheap, quick and effective way for activists to get messages across that often bypass the mainstream, which looks to cut out unwanted or difficult stories and campaigns.

In the famous McLibel case (<http://bit.ly/3vQDIA>) things were going badly for the main protagonists, Dave Morris and Helen Steel, and it was only the rapid onset of the internet as a mass communication tool that allowed them to highlight what was going on and turn a difficult situation into a big winner, at least for the campaign.

Social media will increasingly become an important and useful tool for activists, providing they remember that it is just that.



SOCIAL MEDIA IS NOT A MAGIC WAND...TO COUNTER ALL DIFFICULTIES ACTIVISTS AND TRADE UNIONS ENCOUNTER WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH THEIR "TARGET AUDIENCES"...

Ralph Ferrett, CWU YAC chair



fortnight, the pods are downloadable from www.cwuyouth.com and also iTunes, and have already received very good reviews.

Subjects so far include management style in BT and 02, 'Where Next for Royal Mail?', and a review of the National Youth Education Event. Each pod runs for 20 minutes maximum.

Let us know what you think – and what you want to discuss.

If you want to participate directly, contact jthair@cwu.org. Cyberspace beckons!



Could we have a Vélo Toulouse-style bike hire scheme in Britain?



CYCLE

CITIES – TAKING STOCK

YAC chair **Ralph Ferrett** shares his holiday experience of cycling in France – and of its public bicycle hire system – and wonders how the plans for the UK will compare

Toulouse, “La Ville en Rose”: a beautiful vibrant cosmopolitan French city, the nickname coming from the pink bricks used to build most of the city.

Toulouse is a wonderful melting pot of French, local Occitan, Spanish and north African culture, with a very young and artistic population due to large student numbers. It is a quintessentially modern, yet traditional French city.

Cycling the future

On a recent trip to stay with family, however, one thing in particular caught my eye: Toulouse's most recent municipal public transport system, the 'Vélô Toulouse'.

Vélô Toulouse is a public bicycle hire system with bike stations scattered throughout the city. At these stations cyclists can hire a bike and ride it around the city for a

nominal fee (less than half an hour is free) which really encourages people to use the system for short hop transportation, as well as for longer trips and social occasions.

Cheap, clean and healthy

It is precisely this sort of inventive and innovative scheme that needs to be implemented here to help cut carbon emissions.

It is incredibly hard for us to meaningfully reduce our carbon footprint, but personal transportation around our cities is one way we could all make a huge difference.

It is vital that we implement integrated public transport systems that give us a viable alternative to using the car. Bicycle share schemes are a valuable way that we can do this – and can be applied to every city. They also do not require the substantial capital ►



Above: Get your bikes ready for summer 2010

► investment, which many conventional public transport schemes need.

And, there are other reasons to do this. Some might suggest that the French diet of cheese, bread, wine and gourmet food is unhealthy, but the truth is that France is an incredibly active place with hundreds of people cycling, walking and running regularly. As well as saving the environment and reducing congestion on our roads, cycle hire schemes will benefit public health and help people get fit.

Cycling Scheme London

Now, however, cycle hire schemes will not just be the preserve of European cities.

Inspired by the “Velib” Scheme in Paris, and Vélô Toulouse, Transport for London will be introducing its own cycle hire scheme in London in the summer of 2010.

The scheme will cover most of zones one and two of the London Underground, but the exact pricing structure has yet to be announced.

As with many schemes and plans to help Britain introduce sustainable development, the cycle hire scheme has been beset by problems. A degree of nimby-ism has slowed planning applications for the docking stations, and some London borough councils have been unhappy about potential losses of parking revenue.

However, thankfully it seems most of these difficulties have been overcome and next summer Londoners will be able to enjoy a municipal public cycle hire scheme of their very own.

**[FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
WWW.TFL.GOV.UK/ROADUSERS/
CYCLING/12444.ASPX]**

Cycle Facts

- The UK has 17 designated cycling towns including: Aylesbury, Blackpool, Brighton and Hove, Cambridge, Colchester, Chester, Darlington, Derby, Exeter, Lancaster with Morecambe, Leighton-Linslade, Shrewsbury, Southend, Southport, Stoke-on-Trent, Woking and York.
- The government named Bristol as the UK’s first Cycling City in 2008.
- The National Cycle Network has over 12,000 miles of routes, which pass within a mile of half the UK population. Find a ride near you by visiting the website www.sustrans.org.uk
- For more information on Cycle Towns, visit www.dft.gov.uk/cycling/england/

[REPORT]

CLIMATE SOLIDARITY: BRINGING COPENHAGEN HOME

Kye Dudd explains how the money obtained by trade unions from government will fund actions to cut carbon emissions, build sustainability and ultimately save the planet

CWU has recently made a successful bid for funding for its Climate Solidarity project from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The bid was made together with three other unions: PCS, NUT and UCU, and also involves the Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN), which is a climate change campaigning charity.

What is Climate Solidarity all about?

The project builds on the TUC's Green Workplaces initiative which is a successful project across the country. Climate Solidarity extends this into the communities in which trade union activists and members live. The project will look at the way we contribute to climate change through our use of energy, transport and the things that we buy and eat.

How will it happen?

This may all sound like pie in the sky stuff, however there is a clear direction and plan. Working within 10 areas of England (Defra funding covers England only) members and activists can work from branches, or through action groups, with other unions. We'll also be working with employers to provide work time to deliver short presentations and create working groups in the



workplace. These presentations and working groups will focus on cutting carbon emissions and building sustainability in the workplace and communities.

There are four key strands that the project looks to influence:

- **Transport to and from work**
- **Homes: Insulation and reducing wasted energy in the home**
- **Waste: Reducing waste and increasing recycling at home and in the workplace**
- **Food: Buying seasonal food and supporting local food production at home and in the workplace**

Above: Trade unions are stepping up to the climate challenge

Core values, legacy and ambitions

Climate Solidarity will support a grassroots movement for a low carbon economy and frame pro-environmental attitudes consistent with fairness, self help and social justice to members. The aim is to achieve significant, measurable and sustained reductions in personal carbon emissions and create a model for engagement that can be replicated across the TUC and the country at large. It is a sign of trade unions taking up the climate change challenge.

16%

...the small number of UK businesses intending to address green issues in 2010

[FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL]
KYEDUDD@HOTMAIL.COM

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

North East

The regional youth meeting in October included a recruitment workshop, which was well attended by both branch youth organisers, branch secretaries and other branch reps.

The workshop looked at one-to-one communication, overcoming barriers and objections when recruiting, and shared best practice. Thanks go to Kevin Leeton for helping organising the meeting and to everyone who attended.

At the regional youth meeting, Jonathan Bellshaw discussed his concerns at the increasing popularity of the Conservatives or the BNP as alternatives to Labour. He suggested it is the responsibility of members to educate young members to use their vote wisely. It was agreed the profile of youth involvement within the political arena should be raised by working with John Woodhouse and the regional political forum. The North East will also try to send a young delegate to Parliament when lobbying there.

The North East is aiming to hold January's annual general meeting in Leeds, directly after the Regional Women's AGM, with a joint social event to follow! Details to follow....

Youth conference 2010 is approaching and branches need to consider potential motions from the region to agree at the next meeting in time for the full regional AGM. Members need to ensure the tradition of good attendance continues and remember the

delegation is now branch based.

The Dragon Boat Presentation Night also took place and the North East were awarded £50 towards CWUHA as part of the 'Tail-Enders Award'. Members have registered interest for the 2010

6% ...votes BNP received in the 2009 European Parliament elections

challenge and have already raised just over £2,000 from this year's event.

Even if a place isn't secured for next year, the North East will maintain youth involvement with fundraising for CWU Humanitarian Aid across the North East Youth. If you are interested in getting involved in regional events, or just want to know more, email joanne.lawton@bt.com

Finally, the North East youth committee would like to congratulate Jonathan Bellshaw and his wife, who recently adopted a little boy, and Laura Knowles and partner on the arrival of their second child, Ruby. And, a well done to all the members from the region who participated in the Great North Run this year.

London

The regional youth event was a great success. Tutor Nick Nicholls addressed trade union history and globalisation, and, although these could definitely have been heavy-going, the way in

which it was taught got everyone involved. It was good to hear the history and the reasons behind the union events celebrated every year, such as the Chainmakers' Festival. Future ideas for the union were also discussed, with a look back to past models.

With an early Christmas dinner provided on Saturday evening, followed by karaoke, everyone definitely enjoyed themselves. And the least said about 'pyjama-gate' the better!

There was some great feedback about the course, with a few people suggesting environment awareness as the next course – so watch this space come April.

Anyone interested in being more involved in the region should contact Rob at robett.mccracken@openreach.co.uk

Midlands

The Midlands is still progressing and members are attempting to complete all the objectives on the action plan for the year. At the most recent Midland Regional Youth Committee (MRYC) meeting it was collectively decided that the focus would be on raising some money for CWU Humanitarian Aid – details of how each committee member will contribute is currently being considered.

Members are still actively looking to hold a regional youth



education event and are currently liaising with the national youth project worker and the CWU education and training department about creating a bespoke course.

A generic course is being considered, one that will provide youth officers with the necessary skills required for their role, and the course title: "Youth Officers – Skills For The Job" is favoured, although this is currently a work in progress.

The MRYC were delighted that the YAC opted to hold the 2010 youth conference within the Birmingham region (subject to final ratification by the NEC).

Members are currently in the process of organising a social event for the night before. The MRYC want to make every delegate feel welcome and kick off the conference with a bang! Updates will follow...

Wales

The CWU, on behalf of the Wales TUC, represented the voice of young workers at a Bevan Foundation event in Newport, on October 15.

The event, 'Celebrating Democracy: Our Voice, Our Vote, Our Freedom', marked the 170th anniversary of the chartist uprising in Newport. The report and pictures can be found on the youth website at www.cwuyouth.org

The region continues to work with the Wales TUC to establish the creation of a bespoke youth committee; there's currently a forum and the CWU currently holds the chair position of that forum.

[SPOTLIGHT ON...] SCOTLAND

Youth activities within the Scottish region continue to grow, attracting more new youth reps and regular attendance from those with longer term involvement. The region is looking to capitalise and grow the committee during the remainder of the year and is very keen to hold the first regional youth education event in 2010.

The region is meeting quarterly and these meetings continue to be well attended and productive on both a branch and regional basis for the reps attending. The latest meeting was held in Dundee in July, and this worked on integrating motions from this year's youth conference into everyday working, as listed below:

- There is now funding for a mobile phone text-based system for updating and contacting youth members.

- The region is now affiliated to the Unite Against Fascism campaign, and the CWU Humanitarian Aid campaign.

- Recruitment and organising was added as a standing agenda item.

The Scottish regional committee has been very supportive of youth activities over the past 15 months and, on every occasion that advice, guidance or financial support has been sought, the response has been excellent.

The quarterly regional youth meeting is established and the focus is now on increasing the profile to an ever wider youth audience.

If you know of any youth members in Scotland who want to get involved, please email Steve Munro: steve.munro@cwuscot1.org or call on 07515 017 321.

[SPOTLIGHT ON...] EASTERN

The region has had a number of successes. The first regional education event was held at the beginning of April which was a joint course with the London region. Thanks go to all the branches who sent along youth officers.

The course, which was about recruitment and organising, was very successful with many members

taking active roles.

The region had a large youth presence at this year's annual conference and the region's gratitude goes to the branches' continuing support. The region has a YAC member, Melanie Reynolds (Suffolk Amal Branch), and is looking forward to working with her and the rest of the YAC.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SCOTTISH REGION CONTINUE TO GROW, ATTRACTING NEW REPS AND REGULAR ATTENDANCE FROM THOSE WITH LONGER TERM INVOLVEMENT

Steve Munro, Scotland



CWU YOUTH HIT THE INTERNET HIGHWAY

The new CWU Youth website will be a dedicated place for young members to find and share the latest news and access resources, says **Jamie Jenkins YAC vice chair**

“Considering we are the Communication Workers Union, we are not very good at communicating.” Not the Youth Advisory Committee’s words, but the words of young activists attending the 2008 National Youth Education Event in Brighton; words that have led to the YAC ensuring communications are a priority for the forthcoming year. Recognising that young

people are spending up to 10 per cent more time online, and wanting to create an area that focuses on issues that affect young members, the CWU are launching a bespoke youth website: www.cwuyouth.org

The website, launched at this year’s National Youth Education Event and supported through the CWU’s Youth Empowerment Strategy (YES) Project, aims to give young members and activists a dedicated place to find

up-to-date news and union information, access resources – such as the branch youth officers tool-kit – share photos, and blog about issues that matter to them.

For the more active youth member, there’ll also be access to the newly launched CWU Youth Activist e-newsletter.

National officer Simon Sapper said: “The website is truly our space where we can be ourselves. Now it’s down to us to make it work.”

GET ACCESS GET ACTIVE

SET UP YOUR PROFILE AND GET INVOLVED

MyProfile
Login to your CWU Youth profile below.

Email:
Password:
Remember me
Login
Log out your account

Join CWU Youth
Create your new CWU Youth profile

www.cwuyouth.org

CWU Youth
Today and Tomorrow

THIS IS ME...

Here we get to know a new young activist within the Union

Dean Reason: CROYDON & SOUTH LONDON BRANCH

Dean works at the Purley Telephone Exchange, WF&A for London South and has just become active. Here, he tells us why he became a member and what his aspirations are for the future



What is your name?

Dean Reason

Where do you live (city/town)?

Wallington, Surrey

Where do you work and what do you do?

Purley Telephone Exchange, WF&A for London South

What made you join the union?

I originally joined the union as I've always had the opinion it's better to be safe than sorry, and with the way some businesses operate you never know when you might need some sort of assistance.

What made you want to become more active in the union?

It was my local branch that offered me the

opportunity to become more active as I was the youngest member to attend local meetings regularly. But I wanted to become more active due to the fact that as my career progressed within the company I started to notice certain issues which I felt weren't right.

“ I have great empathy and can understand how it feels to have the shoe on the other foot ”

How have you found it so far?

I've not long been an active member as I was only elected as the youth officer in the first

part of 2009. But I have found that the training and opportunities have been endless in comparison with my day job. All in all, very worthwhile and satisfying.

What are you passionate about?

This is a hard question, but I suppose it's people. I like talking to people and can listen to anyone talking about anything. I also have great empathy and can understand how it feels to have the shoe on the other foot.

What part of being in the union interests you the most?

I'm not sure at present which area of the union interests me most as I haven't seen too much of it. But I'd still like to

keep as many doors open as possible.

Outside of work and the union what do you like to do?

In my own time I have many hobbies including kickboxing, in which I work up quite a sweat! I train twice-a-week and combine it with Wing Chun in order to become a more rounded martial artist.

I also go to the gym and go jogging most lunchtimes. I'd like to complete some form of marathon but haven't yet taken the leap. I like fast cars and motorbikes and, most of all, socialising with friends.

● Are you a young member and would like to introduce yourself in the *Youth* magazine? If so, get in touch and contact Jo Thair on: jthair@cwu.org

My hobbies



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The CWU logo features the letters 'CWU' in a bold, sans-serif font. To the left of the letters are three curved, overlapping lines in shades of yellow and orange, suggesting a stylized wave or a signal.

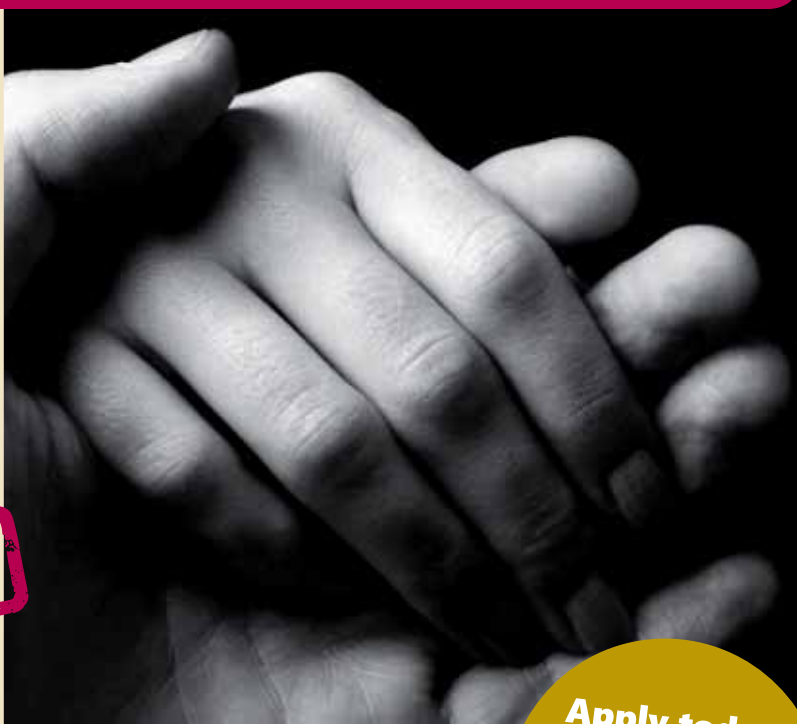
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