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## GENERAL

**041**

### **Equality & Diversity Mandatory Training for Branch Officials – Wales**

In line with conference policy, we now require branches to submit applications for the following mandatory Equality & Diversity course. This course is being held in the Wales region:

**Tuesday 15th April 2008** – Newport.

Further dates and venues for other regions will be published in due course.

Nominations should be made on an application form for union courses and returned as soon as possible to **Trish Lavelle**, Head of Education & Training, CWU Education & Training Centre, Alvescot Lodge, Alvescot, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2PY. Telephone: **01993 843373**; Fax: **01993 840960**; email: **mtodd@cwu.org**

**042**

### **Union Skills II Course – Preston**

The Communication Workers Union has organised a Union Skills II course, to be held in Preston. This is a fully integrated course.

The course will be held from **31st March – 4th April 2008**.

Please submit application forms as soon as possible.

Only members who have attended a Union Skills I or an Induction course are eligible for nomination. Preference, will of course, be given to those students who have been refused a previous Union Skills II course, so this must be shown on the application form.

We particularly encourage branches to nominate women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and young members who are often under-represented on the CWU Education and Training Programme.

Branches are required to meet the cost of travelling and subsistence payments.

Those nominees who are committee members, branch representatives or branch officers are entitled to leave with pay. Nominations should be made on the form for education courses, and returned to Alvescot Lodge as soon as possible.

Application forms should be addressed to **Trish Lavelle**, Head of Education & Training, CWU Education & Training Centre, Alvescot Lodge, Alvescot, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2PY. Telephone: **01993 843373**; Fax: **01993 840960**; email: **mtodd@cwu.org**

**043**

### **Postal Agreements & Procedures Course – Derby**

The Communication Workers Union have organised two Postal Agreements & Procedures courses, to be held in Derby.

The courses will be held from **17 – 21 March & 7 – 11 April 2008**.

Special leave with pay applies. For postal branches, please refer to LTB No. 096/07, issued 5th February 2007.

It aims to give more in-depth training on the main agreements that you will use in your day to day work as a CWU representative, including:

- Conduct & attendance
- Grievance procedures
- Managing the Surplus Framework
- Manpower resourcing

We particularly encourage branches to nominate women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and young members who are often under-represented on the CWU Education and Training Programme.

Nominations should be made on the form for Education Courses, and returned to Alvescot Lodge as soon as possible. Application forms should be addressed to **Trish Lavelle**, Head of Education & Training, CWU Education & Training Centre, Alvescot Lodge, Alvescot, Bampton, Oxon OX18 2PY. Telephone: **01993 843373**; Fax: **01993 840960**; email: **mtodd@cwu.org**

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

**044**

### **Harassment Complaints Database: Union Policy**

Branches are again reminded of the need to fill in the Harassment Complaints Database (HCD) Forms, as illustrated in LTB 450/04.

Please ensure that all representatives have a copy of LTB 450/04 as it contains useful

guidance as well as the form itself.

Branches may also find LTB 289/04 useful which contains information on the Harassment Helpline and the Harassment Advice Network as well as the HCD. The completion of the HCD forms is part of our agreement with the Equal Opportunities Commission and is, therefore, CWU policy (the full agreement can be found in LTB 292/04).

The Equal Opportunities Commission has raised concerns with us regarding the completion rate, which we need to address, otherwise we will fall foul of the agreement. Therefore, please ensure that any complaint raised with branch representatives by members that involves possible harassment should be notified to HQ via these forms.

We appreciate that this will add to an already busy work schedule for those representatives that have the responsibility for completing them, but there is no scope for non-compliance.

We must accept that this will become an accepted culture in terms of harassment reporting. The data that will come through to HQ will be vital in enabling us to analyse and identify any obvious patterns where problems exist.

We extend our appreciation to all those branches already complying with the policy and look forward to the co-operation of all branches in this matter.

Any enquiries regarding this paragraph please contact **Michèle Emerson** at CWU Head Office, 150 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RX.

**045**

### **Mandatory Equality & Diversity Training**

Branch secretaries are requested to ensure that any person in their branch who has CWU rep responsibilities and has not yet completed their mandatory Equality & Diversity training are enrolled in the courses that are planned throughout the regions in the forthcoming months.

All reps must do the training – this includes divisional reps, area reps, unit reps and branch officers.

For clarification on dates please contact your regional secretary. The training has been running now for over three years and there are still a substantial number of reps who have not completed the training.

Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.  
Equal Opportunities Department.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

046

### 'REACH' Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation & Restriction of Chemicals

REACH is a new European Union regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals. It came into force on 1st June 2007 and replaces a number of European Directives and Regulations with a single system.

#### Aims

- To provide a high level of protection of human health and the environment from the use of chemicals.
- To make the people who place chemicals on the market (manufacturers and importers responsible for understanding and managing the risks associated with their use).
- To allow the free movement of substances on the EU market.
- To enhance innovation in and the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.
- To promote the use of alternative methods for the assessment of the hazardous properties of substances i.e. QSAR and read across.

Any enquiries should be addressed to **Dave Joyce**, National Health, Safety & Environment Officer quoting **reference No. E1**.

047

### Scottish Parliament Strengthens Asbestos Claims Bill

Action is to be taken in Scotland to ensure that people with two asbestos-related conditions continue to be eligible to claim for damages, as well as people with pleural plaques.

Scottish Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill announced in November last year that a bill was to be introduced to the Scottish Parliament at the earliest opportunity to reverse the House of Lords judgment on pleural plaques which adversely affected thousands of workers suffering the past effects of asbestos exposure.

This will mean that those people negligently exposed to asbestos who are diagnosed with pleural plaques will continue to be able to raise an action for damages.

However, it is possible that people who have been negligently exposed to asbestos and have developed asymptomatic asbestosis or pleural thickening may not be able to raise a claim for damages following the same House of Lords Judgment. The Scottish Government therefore intends to address this apparent anomaly also by including these two conditions in the bill when it is introduced.

Scottish Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill said: "This Government has already taken steps to ensure that those who suffer the effects of asbestos as a result of our industrial past are able to claim for damages. It is right and proper that we should not turn our backs on those who contributed to our nation's wealth in the past. Pleural plaques in anyone exposed to asbestos mean they have a greatly increased lifetime risk of developing mesothelioma and a small but significantly increased risk of developing bronchial carcinoma. This will mean that people diagnosed with this condition will have to live with the worry of possible future ill health for the rest of their lives. That is why this Scottish Government announced last November that we are to take steps to reverse the House of Lords Judgment and ensure that people with pleural plaques can continue to raise an action for damages. So that the House of Lords Judgment does not have an effect in Scotland we need to make sure that people who have developed symptomless forms of other asbestos related conditions can continue to be able to claim for damages. So we intend to include provisions in the bill to make sure that is the case. This Government takes this issue very seriously and I hope this move to help those who have been affected by exposure to asbestos will bring some relief to people living with this condition."

Harry McCluskey, secretary of Clydeside Action on Asbestos said: "We are delighted with the news that the Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill will incorporate pleural thickening and asbestosis within the pleural plaque bill. This will allow those people with any asbestos related disease to continue to have the legal right to pursue civil damages.

This charity would like to take the opportunity of thanking Mr MacAskill, and all those who supported the introduction of the bill, on behalf of all sufferers throughout Scotland."

The House of Lords Judgment in Johnston v NEI International Combustion Ltd published on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 ruled that symptomless pleural plaques do not give rise to a cause of action under the law of damages. Prior to this Judgment, pleural plaques had been regarded as actionable for over 20 years. Concerns have been expressed in and beyond the Scottish Parliament about the Judgment.

The Scottish Government announced on November 29, that it intended to introduce a bill which will reverse the House of Lords Judgment and enable those negligently exposed to asbestos who have been diagnosed with pleural plaques to continue to be able to raise and pursue actions for damages in Scotland. The provisions of the bill would take effect from the date of the Judgment i.e. October 17 2007.

Pleural plaques are small areas of scarring on the lungs which are benign and are an indicator of exposure to asbestos. Although they do not cause or develop into a more

serious asbestos-related condition, they do signify an increased risk of developing mesothelioma because of exposure to asbestos.

Although the judgement was restricted to pleural plaques, other indicators of significant exposure, such as asbestosis and pleural thickening can also both be detected while symptomless. In contrast with pleural plaques, they are usually (but not always) progressive and symptoms/impairment will occur. However, so as to reduce the risk of a narrow interpretation of the case giving rise to the anomaly that people with symptomless pleural plaques may claim because of the bill, while people negligently exposed to asbestos who have developed symptomless forms of other asbestos related conditions can't, the Scottish Government intend to include provisions to cover these other asbestos-related conditions.

This may affect only a small number of asbestosis and pleural thickening cases. Information on this will be gathered through the partial regulatory impact assessment.

The Scottish Government expects to introduce the bill, subject to Parliamentary timetabling, before the summer recess. The TUC, CWU and all other UK unions are campaigning for the UK Government to introduce similar legislation in Westminster.

All enquiries regarding the above should be addressed to **Dave Joyce**, National Health, Safety & Environment Officer quoting **reference No. P8**.

048

### CBRNE Research – Live Trial and Tests of the "Biral VeroTect" Detection Unit at Sheffield Mail Centre, Fortnight Commencing 25 February 2008

Dr. David Coward Royal Mail Engineering (Security), the CBRNE Lead has informed me of an exercise to be undertaken at Sheffield Mail Centre over a fortnight, commencing on **25 February 2008**.

As you will know, Royal Mail and on their behalf Royal Mail Engineering (Security) have been continuing to look at ways of protecting Royal Mail workers and members of the public from bioterrorist threat. This commitment to the health and safety of our members has full CWU support. Royal Mail continues to investigate ways of protecting against the threat posed by terrorists using chemical, biological or radiological material and has been monitoring ongoing technological research and development in this area.

Over the last couple of years Royal Mail Engineering (Security) have been conducting research into 'automated detection' of potential biological agents, to establish whether the technology could be usefully installed into Royal Mail's automation to detect hazardous material. A piece of new technology has been identified that may enable dangerous materials to be detected if they enter the mail pipeline. Laboratory results so far look

promising, but to ensure that the technology would work in a live environment, as well as in the laboratory, it is necessary now to run tests in a mail centre under normal working conditions. It is therefore proposed to run a live trial at Sheffield Mail Centre which will involve the release of a simulant organism for anthrax. The organism is the same as was used for the Sheffield, Nottingham and Mount Pleasant Mail Centre trials in late 2001, early 2002.

The HSE's Health Services Laboratory (HSL) will be running the trial, and Dr. Brian Crook will be co-ordinating the trial and will be briefing local staff. The trial is scheduled for the fortnight beginning 25th February, with the organism release sometime in the second week.

A small detection unit, known as a VeroTect manufactured by a company called Biral, will be installed temporarily on one of the IMPS. Working with Royal Mail, BIRAL Ltd and the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) will be testing the "Biral VeroTect" detection unit device which is potentially able to detect biological contamination in the air. Specifically the device is designed to detect anthrax spores, because they were used by bioterrorists previously in the USA and a number of postal workers and others were infected. Even though the chance of it happening again, or in the UK, is small, it is important to take necessary precautions.

During the trials at Sheffield Mail Centre the Biral VeroTect unit will run continuously, sampling air and measuring the nature of particles. Engineers from Biral will measure the normal background from envelopes passing through the IMP, and occasionally, will feed special envelopes containing household materials; talcum powder, icing sugar, plain flour, wood ash, and bakers yeast, into the IMP. There will be one set of envelopes that contains a naturally occurring biological material.

Scientists from the HSE's Health and Safety Laboratory will control the release of these envelopes and will provide briefings and information about the material.

If a contaminated letter was sent through the mail system, it is important to be able to detect a release quickly so that exposed staff could be treated and contamination stopped from spreading further. It is hoped that the new prototype device can be used together with other control and prevention measures and hand held detection equipment already in place in Royal Mail.

It is known from previous work (HSL did similar exercises at three mail centres Sheffield MC, Nottingham MC and Mt. Pleasant MC in late 2001, early 2002) that a bacterial tracer in an envelope will leak out as it passes through automated mail sorting equipment. The aim during this trial is to repeat that work in order to test the new Biral VeroTect detector. The tracer to be used is a bacterial spore (*Bacillus globigii*). It is used to mimic anthrax, but is harmless and has been used many times before

in tracer studies. It may be mixed with harmless powder such as talcum or milk powder, as these are sometimes used by hoaxers and it is important to test whether the detector can tell the difference.

Volunteer mail centre staff will sort a batch of dummy mail into which will be an envelope containing the tracer. The Biral VeroTect detection device and other sampling detection devices will be used at the same time.

Although the bacteria used is harmless, Royal Mail will limit the people potentially exposed and therefore the trials and testing will be done when the mail centre is least busy, and staff other than the volunteers will be asked to avoid that test area.

Dr Brian Crook from HSL and Dr Dave Coward from Royal Mail Engineering will head up the tests and will be on hand to speak to CWU representatives and members and will be available for an open question session beforehand and on the days that tests are run.

The IMP used for the trial will be cleaned afterwards.

Further progress reports will be made to branches in due course.

All enquiries concerning the above should be addressed to **Dave Joyce**, National, Health, Safety & Environment Officer quoting **reference No. E1**.

#### 049

##### **New HSE Interactive Guide to Asbestos in Buildings**

The HSE has launched a new interactive guide to show where asbestos is most commonly found in buildings.

This is a similar guide to the one produced by OEDA, supported and distributed by the Health, Safety & Environment Department. It can be viewed on the following link [www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/building.htm?ebul=hsegen/18-feb-2008&cr=3](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/building.htm?ebul=hsegen/18-feb-2008&cr=3)

All enquiries concerning the above should be addressed to **Dave Joyce**, National HS&E Officer.

#### 050

##### **HSE Warns of the Dangers of Using Fork Lift Trucks Inappropriately after Carlisle Firm is Fined**

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is warning employers of the danger of using fork lift trucks inappropriately. The warning follows the prosecution of a Carlisle joinery company after an employee was lifted eight feet into the air on a fork lift truck to fit a company sign.

Dick Thompson and Co (Cumbria) Ltd of Blackdyke Road, Carlisle were fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £834.39 costs at Carlisle Magistrates Court after pleading guilty to a charge under section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 that they failed to ensure the safety of an employee.

The court heard that on 8 August 2007 HSE inspector Mhairi Duffy visited the premises when she saw employee Ryan Jewett being

lifted eight feet into the air on a pallet on a fork lift truck to fit a company sign to their own premises. The company was issued with a Prohibition Notice at the time and the prosecution has subsequently followed.

HSE Inspector Mhairi Duffy said: "Although no one was injured on the occasion, this incident had all the hallmarks of an accident waiting to happen. Employers must realise that they have to take the health and safety of their employees seriously.

"Accidents involving fork lift trucks account for a large proportion of accidents in the workplace and it is an employer's responsibility to ensure that drivers are properly trained and use the equipment properly.

"Working at heights should never be carried out from the fork arms or from a pallet balanced on the fork arms of a lift truck. Specifically designed work platforms secured to the truck may be used under limited controlled conditions."

1. Section 2(1) of the HSW Act states: "It shall be the duty of every employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all his employees."

2. Further information about falls from at height can be found at HSE's website [www.hse.gov.uk/falls/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/falls/index.htm)

Any enquiries should be addressed to **Dave Joyce**, National Health, Safety & Environment Officer quoting **reference No. EX5**.

#### 051

##### **Safety Reps Improve Safety: France**

A significant French report has been published concurring with the findings of UK reports. According to an official French Government report, health and safety representatives clearly help to improve the quality of prevention policies in workplaces where they are present. Thomas Coutrot from "Dares", the research institute of the French Labour Ministry, reviewed recent studies and concluded safety reps clearly help build workers' awareness and improve the identification of workplace risks. He found they also substantially improve prevention of chemical and biological risks, but appear less effective with regard to physical and organisational risks. According to a summary from the European trade union safety thinktank REHS: 'Safety reps presumably have fewer difficulties in demanding the implementation of protection against specifically located risks than calling into question management and work organisation approaches.'

The Dares paper concludes a combination of safety rep knowledge and the power to require changes are key to improvements delivered when safety reps and health and safety committees are present. The report notes 'self-perceived economic interest often leads employers to outsource the costs of work-related health damage to the general social protection system and employees themselves, rather than pay for what may be

costly prevention programmes. Employees and their safety representatives can therefore significantly influence the prevention policies implemented, either through conflict, co-operation, or more likely, a combination of the two.'

Any enquiries should be addressed to **Dave Joyce**, National Health, Safety & Environment Officer quoting **reference No. PUS**.

## EVENTS BULLETIN

**October 2007 – June 2008: The London Socialist Film Co-op.** There will be a number of films showing the second Sunday of every month. Film(s) includes La Última Cena/The Last Supper all showing Sunday 14 October 2007. Tomás Gutiérrez Alea is best known for his Memories of Underdevelopment. The Last Supper is unfairly neglected, made during the height of 'the cold war', showing a Cuba that was unknown and a history that was of little interest to audiences of that time. Discussion led by Michael Chanan, Professor of Film and Video at Roehampton University, London, Jacqui McKenzie, Caribbean Labour Solidarity, Dionne Walker and many more. For all enquiries and the full programme contact **020 7278 5764**.

**Saturday 23rd February 2008: CWU Women's Conference.** To be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Belfast from 10.30 am – 16.30 pm. Speakers for the event include Gloria Mills, National Organiser Equalities, Unison and Evelyn Collins, Chief Executive of the Equality Commission. For more information and details on registration contact **Dionne** on **020 8971 7356**; email **dgittens@cwu.org**

**Saturday 23 February 2008: SERTUC Conference.** 10am-4pm at Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS. Mobilising to defeat fascism in London, the South East and East of England A mobilisation event for trade unionists. Keynote speakers: Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, and Rt Hon Harriet Harman, MP for Peckham.

**Saturday 1 March 2008: Unite Against Fascism National Conference.** 09:00 to 17:00. To be held at TUC, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1. In Seven years the BNP vote has grown 97 fold, polling over 3,000 votes in 2000 to over 292,000 in 2007. If the BNP's vote trend continues they could be on course to make a significant breakthrough into British politics. This year the BNP will be standing candidates in the London Assembly and local elections across Britain. Special guests and speakers include – 'Dirty Pretty Things', 'Natty', Jerry Dammers, Brendan Barber TUC General Secretary, Weyman Bennett UAF & Anti Nazi League, Martin Smith Love Music Hate Racism and more. For more information email **unite@ucu.org.uk** or telephone **020 7833 4916, 020 7837 4522** or visit **www.uaf.org.uk/**

**Wednesday 5 March 2008: Working Together For LGBT Rights Worldwide.** 15:00 to 17:30. To be held at Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, Shoreditch, London EC2. Amnesty International and TUC joint seminar on LGBT rights worldwide. With Speakers from Amnesty International, the TUC and Mozaika, the Latvian LGBT organisation. For more information visit **www.amnesty.org.uk/tradeunions**

**Thursday 6 March 2008: World Action Day – Free Osanloo.** Mansour Osanloo believes that Tehran's bus drivers deserve a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. For that he has been thrown in prison for five years. Please join us and hundreds of thousands of other people worldwide today who are trying to help Mansour Osanloo, an ex-bus driver beaten and imprisoned for nothing worse than being a member of a union. Osanloo is a family man who's been courageous enough to stand up for his rights and those of his fellow workers. An ordinary person who has become involved in extraordinary events. Osanloo is the elected leader of the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, a trade union founded three years ago. Even though the organisation is free, democratic and legal it has been violently attacked by Iranian security forces. As a result of his work Osanloo has been beaten, arrested and had his tongue sliced as a warning against speaking out. He is now being held in Evin Prison in Tehran, where he is in danger of losing his sight in one eye due to a previous beating. Osanloo and fellow jailed trade unionists are considered to be prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International. By helping us to campaign for his freedom you'll be standing up for the fundamental human rights of all Iranian citizens, for the many thousands of people around the world imprisoned for trade union activities, and reinforcing our own freedoms as well. Actions are being held around the world today to protest against what's going on. If you want to find out more please go to **www.freeosanloo.org**, watch the film there and then click on Take Action to see how you can get involved.

**Friday 7 March 2008: Unions 21 Annual Conference 2008 – Who Cares About Skills?** 9.30 - 15.30. To be held at Hamilton House, London. Union learning is hailed as a great development for the trade union movement. The Union Learning Fund has grown and this year it's celebrating its tenth anniversary. There is an increasing number of Union Learning Reps. What better time for Unions 21's conference to look into union involvement in learning and skills. Speakers include: Brendan Barber, TUC General Secretary; Liz Smith, Director of Unionlearn; Christine Payne, General Secretary, Equity and more. Tickets cost £30 if your organisation is paying or £15 for individuals. There is a discount rate for Union Learning Reps

(£20/£5). Tickets are free for students. For more information please phone **020 7239 1224** or email **events@unions21.org.uk**

**Monday 10 March 2008: International Women's Day Evening Reception.** 18:00 to 20:30. To be held at Congress House, London. The trade union movement celebrates 100 years of International Women's Day and reflects on the challenges of globalisation for women. Guest speakers include Women's Minister Harriet Harman MP, with Latin grooves provided by Manteca. For more information contact **Aisha Latif**, SFPA Project Assistant, on **020 7467 1239** or by email: **alatif@tuc.org.uk**

**Tuesday 11th March 2008:** Branches with retired members are reminded that articles or letters for publishing in the April edition of the Link need to be sent to: The Editor, c/o SDGS Dept, 150, The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1RX. Any queries on this item should be taken up with **Nobby Clark**, Editor, The Link, on **07713 155575**.

**Wednesday 12 March 2008: TUPE Regulations 2006. Clarification or Confusion.** To be held at the UCU Conference Centre, Britannia Street, London WC1 at 1.30pm - 4.15pm. The transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations, known as TUPE govern how workers are treated following the transfer of a business or a change in service provision. Speakers include: Richard Arthur is a partner at Thompsons Solicitors, Melanie Tether is a barrister at Old Square Chambers and more. Cost IER subscribers and members £45.00, Trade Unions £60.00 and Commercial £120.00. For more information contact the Institute of Employment Rights on **0151 702 6925** or **office@ier.org.uk**

**Wednesday 12 March 2008: International Women's Day Rally.** 17:30 to be held at the Winter Garden in Eastbourne. The TUC Women's Committee are hosting a rally to celebrate International Women's Day. All are welcome to attend – delegates and non-delegates and unions are invited to organise groups of workers to attend the event. National and international speakers from across the trade union movement and beyond will address the rally. For more information contact TUC Equality & Employment Rights Department: **020 7636 4030** or visit **www.tuc.org.uk/equality/index.cfm?mins=389&minors=383**

**Wednesday 12 March 2008 – Friday 14 March inclusive: TUC Women's Conference.** To be held at the Floral Hall, Winter Garden, Eastbourne. Delegates will debate motions on a range of issues of importance to women in the UK and across the world. For more information contact TUC Equality & Employment Rights Department: **020 7636 4030** or visit **www.tuc.org.uk/equality/index.cfm?mins=389&minors=383**

**Friday 4 April 2008: Amnesty International Trade Union Conference.** To be held in Nottingham. 10am – 16.30pm. Speakers include: Kate Allen, Amnesty International; Janek Kuckiewicz, International Trade Union Federation; Kay Carberry, Trade Union Congress. The campaign action is defending Iranian trade unionists with various workshops. For full details and online registration at [www.amnesty.org/tradeunions](http://www.amnesty.org/tradeunions) click on news and events buttons.

**Monday 7th April 2008: Retired Members' Eastern Region Meeting.** To be held at Swinton House, 324 Grays Inn Road London at 11am. For further information contact **Nobby Clark** on **07713 155575**.

**Thursday 17 April 2008 – Friday 18 April inclusive: Introduction to International Development.** 10:00 to 17:00 daily. To be held at Congress Centre, London. A broad introduction to international development from a trade union perspective, this two-day course gives tutors and officers the skills, knowledge and confidence to train others. Covering issues of poverty, globalisation and the trade union role, North/South perspectives, race and migration will be tackled, as will techniques and methods to organise and train in this area. For more information contact **Aisha Latif**, SFPA Project Assistant, on **020 7467 1239** or by email: [alatif@tuc.org.uk](mailto:alatif@tuc.org.uk)

**Friday 18 April 2008: TUC PES Manifesto Conference: Mapping a Future for Social Europe.** The TUC is holding a conference for union officers in Congress House, to respond to a consultation from the PES over their manifesto for the 2009 European Parliament elections as well as into TUC/trade union campaigns and the ETUC; to switch trade union approaches to Europe from defensive campaigns to a positive agenda; to engage a wider audience of trade union officials in TUC debates about Europe, and to engage MEPs with a trade union audience. Kay Carberry – TUC Assistant General Secretary; Billy Hayes – CWU General Secretary and TUC European Spokesperson; John Monks – TUC General Secretary; and Poul Nyrup Rasmussen MEP, Leader of the Party of European Socialists. For more information visit [www.tuc.org.uk/extras/socialeuroperegistration.doc](http://www.tuc.org.uk/extras/socialeuroperegistration.doc)

**Sunday 8th June – Friday 13th June 2008: CWU Annual Conference.** Liverpool.

**Sunday 27 April 2008: Love Music Hate Racism Carnival – 30th Anniversary of**

**Rock Against Racism.** Victoria Park, London. LMHR will be marking the 30th Anniversary of the iconic 1978 Rock Against Racism/Anti Nazi League carnival and procession with a similar event. The 2008 Carnival's aim is to inspire thousands today to join a mass movement against racism. The Carnival will have three stages – two outdoor live music stages and a large DJ marquee. The line-up will be announced very soon, however, stars of the '78 event and the RAR era already confirmed to appear include Tom Robinson, The Specials, Jerry Dammers, and ace filmmaker and Clash collaborator Don Letts. For further information visit [www.lmhrcarnival.com](http://www.lmhrcarnival.com). There will be a carnival procession/march to show united opposition to racism immediately prior to the start of the main event in the park. Unite the union and the PCS have already committed as major sponsors of the event, which is also supported by the TUC, and many other trade unions have pledged support at a national level. Transport to LMHR Carnival 08 is being arranged from most areas of the country – contact us for details of your local coach, or if you'd like to help organise transport from your area.

**Tuesday 29 April 2008: Pay Bargaining 2008.** 09:45 to 16:00. To be held at Congress House, Great Russell, Street, London. This is a conference for negotiating officers and researchers organised by the TUC and the IDS. The Chair will be Gail Cartmail (UNITE) and the speakers will include Sarah Veale (TUC), Heather Wakefield (UNISON) and Alastair Hatchett (IDS). The topics will include the pay and bargaining agenda for 2008, public sector pay, total reward and equal pay: where now? IDS pay conferences are highly regarded and this is an opportunity for unions to attend an event that would normally cost £200 per person at a specially reduced rate for TUC affiliates of just £75. To book a place at the conference visit the link <http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S,M3,2ef14ad2-94fa-4ff5-ae2-0b42005f3955>

**Thursday 3 July 2008 – Friday 4 July inclusive: TUC LGBT Conference.** Will be held at Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS. The TUC LGBT Conference 2008 takes place at Congress House. It is one of the largest annual gatherings of LGBT activists and workers. Unions will be invited to submit motions for debate, and send delegations, early in 2008. The TUC welcomes visitors from relevant organisations to the event. For more information contact **Peter Purton**, **020 7467 1271**, [ppurton@tuc.org.uk](mailto:ppurton@tuc.org.uk)

**Wednesday 16 July 2008 – Friday 18 July inclusive: Tolpuddle Green Camp 2008.** 10:00 to 18:00 daily. To be held at Tolpuddle, Dorset, DT2 7EH. There will be a charge for food, from a subsidised organic cafe on site. Participants will bring their own tents to camp on site. For people interested in taking a wider view of their role as environmental champions, and taking forward the idea of Green Reps in the workplace. Based at the site of the Tolpuddle Festival, with the 2008 festival beginning as the Green Camp ends on Friday 18th July. Course participants will camp on site for a programme of presentations, discussion and activity and local visits. Successful completers will receive a Level 2 Award from the Open College Network. For more information contact **South West TUC**, tel: **0117 947 0521** email: [southwest@tuc.org.uk](mailto:southwest@tuc.org.uk) or visit [www.unionlearn.org.uk/extras/greencamp08.pdf](http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/extras/greencamp08.pdf) to download information leaflet.

**Friday 18 July 2008 – Sunday 20 July inclusive: Tolpuddle Festival.** On February 24th, 1834, six farm labourers from the Dorset village of Tolpuddle were arrested on a charge of taking part in an 'illegal oath' ceremony. In the eyes of their masters, however, the real offence was that they had dared to form a trade union to defend their livelihood. For this they were sentenced to seven years' transportation to the penal colonies of Australia. The sentences provoked an immense outcry, leading to the first great mass trade union protest. The campaign won free pardons and the martyrs' return to England. A historic episode in the struggle for trade unionists' rights in Great Britain. For more information contact **South West TUC: 0117 947 0521**, [southwest@tuc.org.uk](mailto:southwest@tuc.org.uk)

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If you have anything for the events bulletin page please send your contribution to:

**Marcia Murray**  
CWU Communication Department  
150 The Broadway  
Wimbledon SW19 1RX  
Tel: **020 8971 7497**  
Email: [mmurray@cwu.org](mailto:mmurray@cwu.org)

*Details must arrive nine days before publication and must include a contact phone number, brief summary of the event, email and website address. Listings are free, but inclusion is not guaranteed.*