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GENERAL

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UNION SKILLS II Course – BELFAST

The Communication Workers Union has organised a Union Skills II Course, to be held in Belfast. This is a fully integrated course. The course will be held from 19th–23th MAY 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.

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.
Tel: 01993 843373
Fax: 01993 840960
e-mail: mtodd@cwu.org

HEALTH & SAFETY

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Early Day Motion (EDM) No 1376: INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

The following communication was sent to CWU Supported MPs and copied to the Health and Safety Minister Lord Bill McKenzie.

Dear Colleague,
(EDM) No 1376: INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Michael Clapham MP has put down the following Early Day Motion in the House of Commons which we have asked all CWU Supported MPs to sign:

“That this House notes that 28th April is International Workers Memorial Day; commemorates those who have died as a result of work; and calls on the Government to do what it can to officially mark the day whilst at the same time reducing the death toll caused by work by increasing resources for prevention of ill-health and injury in the workplace as recommended by the recent Work and Pensions Select Committee, Third Report of Session 2007-08, on The role of the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety

Executive in regulating workplace health and safety, HC 246-1.”

This EDM is fully in line with current CWU Policy and we request that you kindly sign the EDM

All enquiries concerning the above should be addressed to Dave Joyce National Health, Safety & Environment Officer quoting Ref: N4

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TUC calls for better occupational health assistance from employers

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) has called on UK employers to provide better occupational health assistance, after it found that 175 million working days were lost as a result of sickness absence in 2006.

The TUC has published a new educational workbook, Occupational Health: Dealing with the Issues, to coincide with Workers' Memorial Day, today, which found that sickness absence in 2006 cost firms £650 per employee.

The TUC aims to have 15,000 workplace safety reps trained up using the new educational workbook, who will be able to use the guide to assess the extent of ill health in their workplaces and work with their employers to find healthier solutions.

A TUC statement said that the UK is currently facing an 'epidemic' of occupational ill health. Many people are ill and in pain as a result of lifting injuries, slips and trips, stress and noise-induced hearing loss suffered either at, or caused by, their work.

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Parcelforce Fleet: Iveco Daily Box Vans – Fire Risk, York Incident 14th April 08

Further to LTBs. 237/08, 520/06, 512/06, 511/06 & 495/06. The below exchange of correspondence in relation to the above incident is self explanatory:

23 April 2008

“To Dave Joyce
CWU National Health, Safety & Environment Officer

Dave,

Parcelforce Fleet: Iveco Daily Box Vans – Fire Risk, York Incident 14th April 08:

I meet with Iveco last Friday, 18 April 08, in York to look at the vehicle. Iveco flew two guys in from Turin to carry out the investigation. I can confirm from their findings that the cause of the fire was not as a result of the Starter Motor. The damage to the wiring was isolated to an area immediately above the fuel injection pump.

Iveco believe that the cause of the damage was possibly due to the injector pump becoming hot which may have been as a result of an internal fault/failure within the pump. The vehicle is now in the local Iveco dealers being repaired, which Iveco's have agreed to pay.

They may also change the Injector pump depending on what they find when their Engineer goes in to the dealers to download the information from the Engine Management Unit. Which should hopefully provide them with the necessary data to pin point the causal.

With regards to the incident itself, this should be treated as an isolated case. If I hear anything else from Iveco I will let you know.

Kind Regards

Shaun Buttress

National Aftersales Manager
Royal Mail Vehicle Services
shaun.buttress@royalmail.com

Shaun Buttress shaun.buttress@royalmail.com
National Aftersales Manager
Vehicle Services
Royal Mail 3rd Floor 'B' Block,
Rowland Hill House, Boythorpe Road
Chesterfield, S49 1HQ

Dear Shaun,

Parcelforce Fleet: Iveco Daily Box Vans – Fire Risk, York Incident 14th April 08:

I take it you were made aware of another incident at York on 14 April. My PA took a call from Iain Groark Parcelforce Head of CSR informing us that another IVECO van had caught fire in York and it was one that did NOT have its starter motor replaced! The work is due shortly we were told.

The damage to vehicle was not substantive, like in the Newport incident and so it should allow extensive analysis/forensic work of vehicle/starter motor. Please keep us informed

Yours Sincerely **Dave Joyce**

All enquiries concerning the above should be addressed to **Dave Joyce** National Health, Safety & Environment Officer quoting **Ref: PF1**

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**.

Thursday 8th, Friday 9th and Saturday 10th May 2008: Ila Haifa – A Special Performance of Palestinian Art and Culture in London. To be held at the Greenwood Theatre, Weston Street, London SE1 3RA, at 7.30 pm. This May, al Zaytouna, Britain's leading dabke dance troupe, will be performing the first adaptation of Ghassan Kanafani's "Ila Haifa" (Returning to Haifa) fusing music, theatre, contemporary and traditional Palestinian dance. Tickets cost £15 full, £12 concession in advance, and £17 full and £15 on the door. To purchase tickets by card, call **020 7700 6192**, or send a cheque payable to PSC to PSC Box BM PSA London WC1N 3XX. The performance coincides with the Nakba rally in London on 10 May, so participation in the rally can be combined with a trip to the theatre. Funds raised through the performance will be used to develop the work of al Zaytouna and PSC. Email: info@palestinecampaign.org Web: www.palestinecampaign.org

Saturday 17 May 2008 – Friday 23 May inclusive: Adult Learners' Week 2008. Adult Learners' Week encourages thousands of adults, whatever their age and background, to give learning a go: whether it's learning for pleasure, catching up on skills missed out on at school or getting that new job or promotion. It also celebrates the learning achievements of those adults already learning and brings their inspirational stories to a wider audience. Thursday 22nd May, celebrates Learning in the Workplace. Contact for more information www.niace.org.uk/ALW/2008/workplace/contact.htm

Sunday 8th June – Friday 13th June 2008: CWU Annual Conference. Liverpool.
Monday 16 June 2008: TUC Climate Change Conference: A Just Transition – Trade Unions & Climate Change. 09:30 to 16:30 to be held at Congress House, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3LS. The TUC has played a leading role to date in working with affiliates globally, through the ITUC, to support a new treaty. This event will provide a timely opportunity for the TUC to engage in public debate with key affiliates in the trade union movement, and other key stakeholders in Government and business and NGOs, to develop and promote TUC policy, reputation and support for an effective climate change strategy. Keynote speakers amongst others will include Rt Hon Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment and Frances O'Grady, TUC General Secretary. To register for this free event, please complete the flyer www.tuc.org.uk/extras/climatechange08.pdf and return to **Emma Richards**, TUC, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS or email erichards@tuc.org.uk

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**

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 or visit www.unionlearn.org.uk/extrasul/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**

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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

*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.***

BRANCH MAGAZINE COMPETITION
 The annual awards rewarding the very best CWU branch magazines are up for grabs once again – and the competition will reach its climax at Annual Conference in Liverpool next month.

To enter, all you have to do is decide which edition of the magazine was your best of the last twelve months and send three copies to: Marcia Murray, CWU Communications Department, 150 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London, SW19 1RX.

Deadline for entries is Tuesday May 27th, so don't delay – not least because, as in previous years, substantial prizes are at stake!