

MEMBERS FIRST

GMB

LONDON
REGION

GMB LONDON NEWS UPDATE

SODEXO VICTORY

GMB help Aldren
get his job back

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NHS MARCH

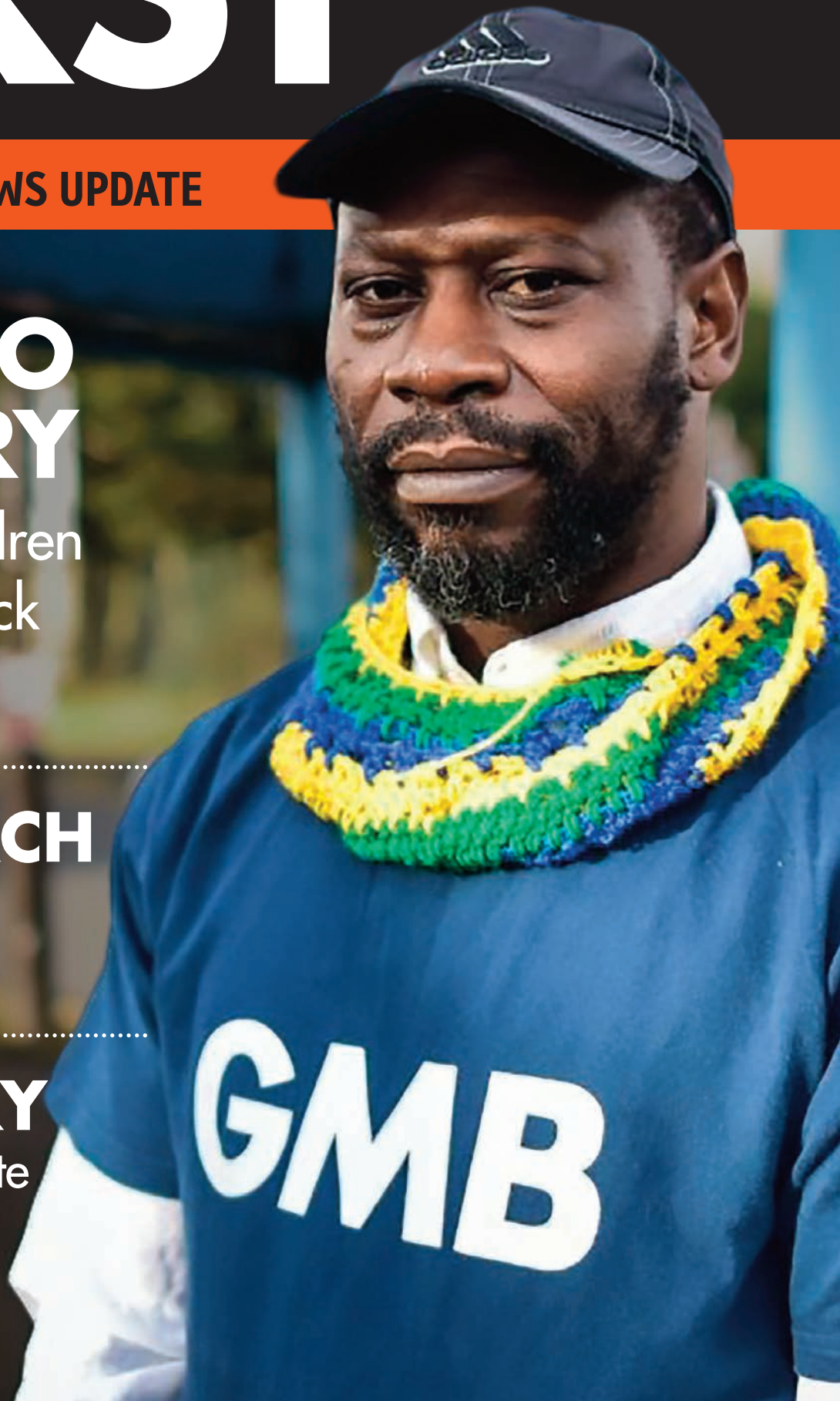
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OUR MARY

Tributes to the late
Mary Turner

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Welcome to
King George Hospital



“If I were not a GMB member, I would not have got my job back”

REINSTATEMENT OF ALDREN TOMLINSON AT KING GEORGE’S

Aldren Tomlinson, who has worked at King George Hospital for 15 years, was sacked in February without notice for allegedly stealing company property, a £4.00 breakfast following a misunderstanding over payment in the hospital canteen.

His dismissal by his employer Sodexo, generated much anger among his colleagues who are GMB members. Hundreds signed petitions and held meetings to discuss strike action and protest to ensure Aldren was reinstated.

The reinstatement came an hour before GMB were to hold a protest outside the hospital and following three days of adverse publicity generated against Sodexo by the sacking.

Aldren Tomlinson said

“If it was not for being a member of GMB I would not have got my job back. My friends and work colleagues who were prepared to go on strike are all GMB members. I am delighted at clearing my name and getting my job back.

“Vanessa Feltz interviewed me on Wednesday morning and the support from her and her listeners blew me away. I look forward to going back to work on Monday.”

CONTACT

Michael Dooley, Regional Organiser

✉ Michael.dooley@gmb.org.uk ☎ 020 8202 8272

RECOGNITION AT EAT

Eat Kitchens is based in Fourth Way in Wembley. Workers are employed in preparing ingredients, cooking and packaging food, ready to be delivered to the EAT shops.

During week commencing 2nd May ACAS conducted a ballot of approximately 200 shop floor food workers at EAT plant in Wembley to establish whether the workforce want GMB union to represent them in negotiations with the company.

GMB members at EAT Wembley recently celebrated the Union’s recognition ballot held on 18th May 2017.

The on-site ballot was conducted by ACAS, on behalf of the Union, and the results were issued to EAT and GMB on 1st June.

75% voted in favour of recognition so GMB can now represent them in negotiations with the company.

GMB and EAT signed the Recognition Agreement on the 9th of June.

CONTACT

Richard Owen, Regional Organiser

✉ Richard.owen@gmb.org.uk

☎ 07974 179 285

Hiten Vaidya, Regional Organiser

✉ Hiten.Vaidya@gmb.org.uk

☎ 07552 120 740



SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY

GMB Shop Stewards from ASDA Bedford visited the Summer Camp Multi Sports Camp at The Goldington Academy in Bedford on 10th August. The GMB A36 Branch from ASDA has paid £430 to cover the cost of the school hire to help reduce fees for the children. The summer camp is for boys and girls aged 14-15 who want to keep active and have fun during the summer holidays. The camp is being run by Bruno Dos Santos, a GMB member who works at ASDA Bedford.

Bruno said, "This is the 3rd year running that we have had a summer camp, we encourage children to take part in a host of multi-sport activities such as football, dodge ball, running, rounders and tennis.

It is hard work but rewarding when you see the enjoyment on the children's faces. Justin and Andre from my GMB Branch have always been very supportive and this is the second year that they have helped to fund this project."

Justin Openshaw, Branch President said "This is a great example of how we can take our Branch out of the workplace and into the community.

We fully support giving children the opportunity to remain active during the summer holidays and by paying for the hire of Goldington Academy it allows the Children's fees to be affordable."

Andre Marques, Branch Secretary said "anyone with young children will know that the summer holidays can be a difficult time to keep them entertained. This project is a good, fun way of keeping children both active and busy."

For more details you can visit their website at www.brazilsoccer.co.uk

ASDA MEMBERS SUPPORT CENTRE

GMB ASDA Members Support Centre celebrates it's 1st birthday.

GMB London is proud to be embracing modern technology to bring our region to a new generation. 12 months ago at GMB Congress in Bournemouth Regional Organiser, Keith Dixon, launched the GMB ASDA Members Support Centre.

The Support Centre allows our members within ASDA to connect immediately to a GMB Steward who can assist with any issue within the workplace. The service is free to all members and speeds up the time to gain support or representation from GMB.

Keith Dixon says "The GMB Members Support Centre has gone from strength to strength over the past 12 months. We have in excess of 100 Trained Stewards, 5 National Reps, 3 Secretarial Support Staff and 4 Officers using the system daily. This ensures a speedy, professional approach to our members concerns and keeps all information securely stored.

There has been great interest and involvement from our members within ASDA with well over 900 members in the London Region alone utilising the support centre over the 12 months.

The support centre has recently been extended to cover other GMB Regions nationwide.

It is a credit to GMB London Region and a great benefit to all our members."

The support centre can be accessed at www.gmb-asda.com/support

CONTACT

Keith Dixon, Regional Organiser

✉ keith.dixon@gmb.org.uk ☎ 01603 626492

CONTACT

Andre Marques, A36 branch Bedford

☎ 07850 970985

Justin Openshaw, A36 branch Bedford

☎ 07709 023692



LONDON REGION SCHOOLS TEAM

On Saturday 22nd April 2017, GMB London and Southern Regions held their second Joint School Support Staff Conference at GMB Euston Office.

The conference was attended by 70-80 school support staff ranging from play leaders, cleaners, lunchtime midday supervisors, caretakers, full-time convenors, branch secretaries, admin staff and teaching assistants.

The day-long event was a great success, with a mixture of presentations, guest speakers and interactive sessions with the delegates.

The Government has cut school funding by £2.8 billion since 2015 and between now and 2022, it wants to cut £8.9 billion more.

We need to stand together, if we are going to save our schools, jobs and the education of millions of children. Therefore, we will launch a school petition, which will be emailed to every school based member to be signed by members, family and friends as we will need 100,000 signatures to get it debated in the House of Commons. At present, government petitions have had to stop because of the recent general election, but after a new petitions committee is set up by the House of Commons, petitions will start again.

If you'd like a member of our Regional Schools Team to contact you or arrange a visit to your School, then please get in touch using the details below.

CONTACT

✉ schoolsteamlondon@gmb.org.uk ☎ 01245 345165
🐦 @GMBLondonschools

MARCH 4 THE NHS

GMB London joined the National Demonstration to defend the NHS against cuts, closures and privatisation on Saturday 4th March. The march was in support of a fully funded, publicly owned NHS & social care service.

We marched with thousands of people in the fight to save the NHS from destruction.

We have to keep fighting, as hospitals, GPs, mental health, ambulance and community services are already on their knees.

Sadly, Our NHS continues to be under constant threat of being completely dismantled by this callous and uncaring Government. It is therefore vitally important we do all we can to continue campaigning to protect and preserve one of our greatest National assets – Our NHS!

We made a short video capturing moments of the day that brought so many people together.



View the video on our youtube channel

tinyurl.com/GMBNHSMarchVideo





CONGRESS 2017 GMB LONDON AWARD WINNERS – PLYMOUTH



Taranjit Chana

Taranjit Chana, a member of GMB London region, picked up the President's Leadership Award for Equality 2017 at GMB's 100th Congress.

Taranjit, Lambeth legal advisor was handed the prestigious Eleanor Marx national award for her inspirational equality work.

Taranjit, a member of GMB's London Region who works for a womens' organisation in Ealing, was chosen ahead of dozens of others for her work organising marches, volunteering at women's refuges, giving up her spare time to give advice on the radio for Asian women.

She is also an ardent campaigner for LGBT rights, a champion of women's rights in the workplace, works with refugees and helps deliver aid packages in Calais and helps women survivors of domestic violence.

Angela Smith, Shadow Leader of the House of Lords, has now invited Taranjit to have tea in the Lords with her.



Lee Hillam (centre)

Two stewards from the region won the Mary Macarthur award at congress 2017, Lee Hillam of Cambridge County Council who won the main award and Helena Sharpe of Asda Luton who received a runner up award.

Lee is recognised for his role as GMB Health and Safety Representative and his work at a National level designing a worker involvement tool for the Waste Industry which has been adopted by the HSE's Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum.

Lee used his experience to organise staff within the Shared Waste Service between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. Lee played a critical role in ensuring proper oversight and developed new guidance for Waste staff.

Lee facilitated a workshop on employee involvement at the 2016 WISH Conference and from this developed a worker involvement tool for the Waste Industry and Recycling Sector. This was Lee's initiative using his own IT skills.

Organising and raising standards in a dangerous Sector such as Waste is a credit to Lee's commitment to keeping our members safe.



Helena Sharpe (centre)

GMB Workplace Organiser Helena Sharpe was on her day off. However, upon hearing the devastating news that a fire had broken out at the ASDA Luton store on the afternoon of Monday 6th March, she immediately made contact with her GMB officer to suggest what needed to be done to support her members.

The next day she worked alongside her GMB Officer, Keith Dixon, to organise a support centre at the local GMB Luton office. This was heavily promoted through social media. Throughout the day over 30 colleagues attended the GMB office for advice and support with 15 new colleagues joining GMB for support. Helena also responded to hundreds of members' questions via the GMB ASDA support centre on the days following the fire.

Helena has worked tirelessly to ensure members at her store receive the support they need.

ASDA recognised the support Helena offered to her members and placed her in the nearby Stevenage store as a GMB liaison colleague where she continues to prove full time ongoing support for the ASDA Luton Members along with assisting members in neighbouring stores.



GMB LONDON SECURE JOBS AT HEATHROW

GMB London has reached an agreement to secure jobs at Heathrow for workers hit by insolvency at airline catering firm Plane Catering.

GMB learnt that Plane Catering, who used to provide Catering services to a number of Airlines at Heathrow Airport, had lost a number of contracts at Heathrow and were owed nearly £2 million by one Airline that has yet to pay the insolvent company the outstanding balance it owes.

As a result of the company going into Liquidation, GMB members were confronted with the gates being locked and a notice stating “Closed For Business” with a loss of all jobs.

Perry Phillips, Regional Organiser, met with workers from Plane Catering on Monday 3rd April 2017 at the Alpha LSG Sky Chefs factory in Heston with a view of securing job positions with the company.

Alpha LSG Sky Chefs, who also provide catering services for Airlines at Heathrow. They agreed to offer job positions to the workers left on the street by Plane Catering without a job.

Perry Phillips said:

“This is fantastic news, that Alpha LSG Sky have agreed to take on these workers, the majority of whom are GMB members, who had lost their jobs with Plane Catering as a result of the company going into Liquidation. In some cases, the company have identified that TUPE applies to a section of the affected workers that protects their terms and conditions and continuation of employment.

I was outside the locked gates of Plane Catering with our GMB members who were extremely distraught and upset after losing their jobs without any prior communication from the company.

I understand that they had not been paid their one months salary for March and there is also the issue of Redundancy/notice pay which will be most likely claimed back through the Secretary of State, once an Administrator has been appointed to the Insolvent firm.”

CONTACT

Perry Phillips, Regional Organiser

✉ perry.phillips@gmb.org.uk ☎ 0208 573 6969

STEEL FIRM AGREE GMB MEMBER PAY INCREASE AFTER 10 YEAR FREEZE

Substantial 3 year pay deal for GMB members at Essex steel company after 10 year pay freeze. The employer has finally recognised that workers deserve recognition for the major part they play in the business, says GMB London.

At Rom Ltd in Witham, 14 GMB members have agreed a new 3 year deal as follows:

Effective from 1 July 2017, a London Weighting of £500 per annum.

Effective from 1 July 2018, a London Weighting of an additional £500 per annum = £1000

Effective from 1 July 2019, a London Weighting of an additional £500 per annum = £1,500.

In addition, a one off cash bonus of £250 in the first year, and recalculation of the bonus system worth an additional 22 pence per hour until new machinery is installed.

This represents 2.5% on basic pay for each of the 3 years as well as revamped welfare facilities. It follows a ten year pay freeze.

Rom Ltd is a small plant based in Witham Essex, manufacturing steel reinforcement bars for the construction industry. The company is owned by multi national steel giant Celsa.

Other sites around the country are still in dispute with Newport in the process of balloting and Sheffield currently taking strike action and action short of strike.

Gareth Davies, GMB member, said;

“It has been a long struggle for fairness, but we are grateful to GMB for helping us get an acceptable outcome.”

Michael Ainsley, GMB Regional Organiser, said;

“Workers in the UK are still being asked to pay for the greed of bankers and big business, our members at this Celsa steel site will not be the only workers to have had to do increasing amounts of overtime and be creative with household budgets to make ends meet.

It’s been over 10 years since our members have had an increase in basic pay but they’ve exercised extraordinary restraint. We are pleased that the employer has finally recognised that the workers here deserve recognition for the major part they play in the business.”

CONTACT

Michael Ainsley, Regional Organiser

✉ Michael.ainsley@gmb.org.uk

☎ 01245 345165



GMB ADDISON LEE EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL VICTORY

On 25 September 2017, Employment Judge Pearl decided that Addison Lee drivers were not self-employed workers and that the company was wrong to deny drivers holiday pay, the National Minimum Wage and the right not to have their contracts terminated because of trade union activities. Addison Lee tried to argue that each driver was an independent contractor and that they were self-employed, but not integrated into Addison Lee's

business. The Employment Tribunal rejected this argument, saying that it "defies evidential gravity".

The Employment Tribunal also decided that drivers were workers as soon as they log onto the Addison Lee driver portal system and not just for the time when they are on a particular job. This is important, as the National Minimum Wage applies to all the periods that the drivers are working. The significance of this decision is that it does not take

away any of the flexibility that drivers currently have – they are still self-employed – and the judgment says nothing about Addison Lee having more control over drivers' working patterns or hours. However, the decision that drivers are workers does mean that they should get paid holiday and be properly paid for all the hours that they work.

TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS

GMB, the union for Taxi & Private Hire Drivers, has been campaigning to have much needed legislation reform for the Trades, to enable a secure, viable, safe and healthy industry.

The Deregulation Act 2015 has led to a proliferation of a Wild West situation in many towns and cities, putting safeguarding at risk. We have also seen private hire drivers being directed in their work by operators, who claim these drivers are self-employed, thus denying them workers' rights such as the national minimum wage, holiday pay and other rights. Many who have worked in the trades for many years, have been forced out of business. Yet a number of licensing authorities, enforcement officers, make repeated excuses, turn a blind eye, and fail to act to protect their local licensed Drivers.

The vast majority of drivers play within the rules, and provide a safe and reliable service to their local communities. The majority are being penalised, seeing their earnings vastly reduced by the actions of certain high profile Operators who are actively encouraging their drivers to work in areas where they are unlicensed and go unchallenged, driving down standards, and forcing local drivers out of business.

There needs to be urgent reform of legislation that protects drivers, standards, safety of the public and earnings. GMB Union strongly believes that if all Drivers are united, with both Hackney and Minicab drivers speaking with one voice, then that voice is powerful and many of these problems can be resolved. GMB Union has managed to persuade an MP to put forward a private

members parliamentary bill to secure necessary legislation to bring fairness back to the industry, and create a safe, viable and vibrant industry for all. Join GMB Union campaign to SAVE THE TRADES and help Campaign to make the Private Members Bill law.

CONTACT

Gary Pearce, Regional Organiser

✉ garypearce@gmb.org.uk

☎ 07850 036952

GMB Professional Drivers

G56 Branch

🖱 gmbdrivers.org

✉ info@gmbdrivers.org

🐦 @ProDriversGMB



Photo: Helen Purcell

GMB WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2017

GMB London Region held their second very successful Women's Conference earlier this year, we grew in numbers attending and were very encouraged by the amount of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) members attending, we are hoping this will be a trend for all our equality groups.

The Women's Conference is aimed at all self-defining women in our region to take part, you don't have to be a branch official or workplace rep/shop steward to attend, although we do welcome all our reps to apply. Look out for the application form and poster for next year, later in the year, and you can nominate yourself to attend.

NEW SKILLS – PUBLIC SPEAKING COURSE 2017

All attendees were given the opportunity to take part in further training and GMB Sisters held their first ever women only Public Speaking and Speech Writing course in August 2017. What a great event this was; the feedback from members has been so very positive.

BARKING & DAGENHAM WOMEN'S FREE TRAINING EVENT

GMB are holding a women only training event in March for International Women's day, which will be open to all women who live or work in Barking and Dagenham.

Make sure to keep an eye out for further details!

OUR REGIONAL EQUALITY CONFERENCE – OUR BIGGEST YET!

We are gearing up for our Regional Equality Conference on 4 November 2017.

We've had a tremendous response from many of you wanting to be delegates.

If you would like to attend this conference next year, let your Branch know, and get involved! You'll get loads of support, and we're sure you'll want to come back for more!

To keep updated with all the latest from GMB London Equality, you can visit our website www.gmblondon.org.uk/departments/equality.

CONTACT

@gmbability gmbability@outlook.com

@gmbshout info@gmbshout.net

gmbshout.net GMB Shout! – LGBT+

@GMBsisters fb.com/gmbsisterslondon

@GMBRACE fb.com/groups/411778275687169

gmbracelondon@gmail.com

@GMBYoungLondon fb.com/younglondonGMB

younglondongmb@gmail.com

GMB LONDON EQUALITY

The regional equality department have been distributing so far three seasonal editions of all the latest updates packed full of news, opinions, campaigns, and details of events and regional equality contacts.

You can view these newsletters on our equality page on the regional website via this link www.gmblondon.org.uk/departments/equality.

There is also news and updates from all of the equalities self-organised groups (SOGS) – Race, Young London, Shout LGBT+, Ability and Sisters.

Don't forget to send them your articles and news of workplace equality successes to sue.hackett@gmb.org.uk.



POLITICS

Over the last few years GMB has built up a large group of political activists within the London Region.

These activists have come out on many occasions to campaign against national and local government, irrespective of political party – campaigns such as protecting the NHS, fighting for our members in local government and facing the austerity cuts imposed on us from a Tory government. Our activists have also campaigned on affordable housing, equalities, unfair dismissals and have taken on the far right BNP.

Everything we do is political. Whether it's train fares or environmental issues, we challenge the powers-that-be.

WANT TO BECOME A TEAM GMB POLITICAL ACTIVIST?

Complete the form on our website via www.gmblondon.org.uk/departments/political/political-activists-sign-up and submit to sign up as a Team GMB Activist, and we will keep you informed of our



activity in London so you can make a change with us.

This also means you can be kept up to date with political activity happening in the London region.

LABOUR PARTY PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE APPLICATION

From time to time, the GMB London Region opens applications and holds interviews for any GMB members who wish to enter the world of politics either as an MP or a Local Councillor.

We believe that to represent society as an MP or a local councillor, then selections should not just be for professionals. There is a strong belief that to represent the needs of a constituency, you should take into consideration the life and working experiences of any candidate wishing to stand for election.

It's with this in mind we are encouraging all members wishing to be added to the GMB London Region Parliamentary and or Local Council List, especially those from working class backgrounds, to come forward.

If you want to be considered for an interview and go onto the GMB London Regions selection list, and all the training that goes with it, (should you be successful at interview), then please complete the form on our website via www.gmblondon.org.uk/application



CONTACT

Marian Healy, Political, Policy & Research Officer

✉ marian.healy@gmb.org.uk ☎ 020 8202 8272

DON'T LOSE YOUR VOICE AT WORK SWITCH TO DIRECT DEBIT NOW!

GMB are expecting the government to roll out the "Trade Union Bill", from March 2018. Part of this Bill/Act is to be the possible removal of the right for GMB Members to pay their monthly subscriptions through their salary.

Therefore, to ensure that you do not lose your membership when this happens, we are in the process of changing all our members over to direct debit.

It's quick and easy to Switch to Direct Debit. Just follow this link www.gmb.org.uk/switch-to-direct-debit and log in to fill out your personal and account details in our secure members area to perform the switch. It's that simple, or you can contact your local branch/office and get a new form sent out to you.



JOIN US

GMB's main purpose is to improve the pay and conditions of GMB members in their workplaces. The best way to do that is to increase the number of GMB members, as this strengthens the Union's negotiating, campaigning and organising agendas. The more GMB members in a workplace, the more influence you will have with your employer in negotiating improvements to employee benefits.

If you have yet to join GMB and would like to do so, you can join online at www.gmb.org.uk/join.

SUPPORT

Do you have an issue in the workplace? Would you like us to help? If so you can fill out and submit the form on our support page www.gmblondon.org.uk/support and a representative of the GMB London Region will be in touch.

Follow us on twitter [@GMBLondonRegion](https://twitter.com/GMBLondonRegion) and [fb.com/GMBLondonRegion](https://www.facebook.com/GMBLondonRegion) to be kept up to date with all the latest news, events and campaigns.

If you haven't already, you can visit our brand new regional website at www.gmblondon.org.uk.

If you have a query to do with your membership you can contact our regional membership department on London.Membership@gmb.org.uk



OUR MARY – MARY TURNER

A servant to the people and hero of GMB, Mary gained the respect and recognition of everyone in GMB, the wider Trade Union and Labour movement as well as those from all political spheres.

Mary was a tenacious and unflappable trade unionist, combining toughness and care and soared through against all the odds. She was known throughout the Labour movement for her indomitable stamina, kindness and compassion.

On a personal note, I knew Mary for more than 30 years, she gave GMB her tireless commitment to tackle injustice and unparalleled loyalty to our membership.

Mary was everything that an outstanding Trade Unionist and Socialist should be.

Mary inspired so many to realise their potential in life as she dedicated her life to helping others.

A giant, warm giving person whose passing will be mourned by all.

Mary Turner, remembered forever.

Warren Kenny – London Regional Secretary





The following Article by Julia Langdon, was published in The Guardian, Thursday 3 August 2017

The trade union leader Mary Turner, who has died from cancer aged 79, had a particular set of personal skills that enabled her to survive a lifetime in the difficult and challenging world of trade union politics while engendering respect and affection on all sides. As president of the GMB for 20 years, where she was known as “our Mary”, she spoke truth to the people she represented, as well as to power.

When she was elected in 1983 to the central executive council of the General and Municipal Workers’ Union (now GMB), Turner was the only woman among 40 members. More than two decades later, and as president since 1997, she saw the number of women on the executive increase to 26 out of 55.

She was the authentic voice of the ordinary man and woman, the hospital porter, the office cleaner, the shop assistant and the dinner lady. She spoke a commonsense language they understood, and they knew that she knew what she was talking about, because she had been there and done those sort of jobs herself.

“We can all name many great inspirational trade union leaders through our lifetime, but Mary you come top of this list as far as we are concerned.

There is no one that has given as much time and passion to the trade union movement than you, you are the shoulders we all stand on today.”

PENNY ROBINSON, REGIONAL COMMITTEE, CEC MEMBER, VOTE OF THANKS, CONGRESS 2017

A former school dinner lady at Salisbury primary school in Brent, north London, and a fervent socialist, Turner campaigned for 40 years for free hot meals at lunchtime for schoolchildren. The introduction of free meals for infants, implemented as part of the Liberal Democrats’ policy programme for the coalition with the Conservatives in 2010, was a consequence of Turner’s unremitting pursuit of this cause, but to her fury and dismay was destined for abolition in the recent Tory manifesto. The proposal was abandoned, however, as a result of Theresa May’s failure to secure an overall majority, an outcome in which Turner rejoiced.

Turner was an active member of the Labour party throughout her adult life and was elected to represent her union on the party’s national executive in 1995. She chaired the NEC from 2003 to 2004. When the last Labour government introduced a policy initiative called The Big Conversation during that time, it included the appointment of more women on the boards of the country’s top companies among its lists of objectives. Turner wanted to know why it did not, rather, say more about equal pay.

She was not an enthusiast for Tony Blair’s New Labour project and did not hesitate to make her views known on the private finance initiative, which she was



She married Denny Turner, a painter and decorator, in 1956, and took time out from work while their children, John and Denise, were small. She returned to work as a dinner lady in 1970 and immediately set about recruiting her colleagues into membership of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, persuading them that it was worth the ninepence weekly subscription. One of her early successful campaigns was to secure the routine issue of rubber gloves to kitchen catering staff.

Thereafter she became increasingly active in the London region of the GMB. She was secretary of the Hendon branch for 26 years and a member of the union's regional council. As a shop steward she was proud of her ability to mobilise a small army of secondary pickets to support industrial disputes or confront political opponents such as the National Front. During the 1981 People's March for Jobs, she organised a mobile field kitchen to feed the unemployed marchers.

She was good at rostrum rhetoric as well as the small stuff, skills that were rewarded when she was elected to the union's executive in 1983. She fought for those who needed help, for part-time workers, for the low-paid and for protection against unfair dismissal. Latterly she campaigned for those suffering from dementia, the cause of her husband's death in 2015.

She was appointed MBE in 2010 and CBE in 2016. She was an annual speaker at the Trades Union Congress and was awarded the TUC women's gold badge in 2012 and the GMB's Eleanor Marx award in 2016.

She is survived by John and Denise, and five grandchildren.

Mary Josephine Turner, trade unionist, born 15 June 1938; died 19 July 2017

If you haven't already done so, you can leave a message on our condolence page for Mary by visiting www.gmblondon.org.uk/about/our-mary

vehemently against. She also badgered Blair to take the initiative on free school meals.

As chair of the Labour party's policy forum, she worked with Ed Balls as shadow chancellor to secure the inclusion of free school meals in official party policy. But she ticked him off in 2012 for refusing to commit Labour to reverse George Osborne's approach to public-sector pay restraint, and she told Ed Miliband in 2013 that his planned union reforms would have Keir Hardie turning in his grave. She formed a warm friendship with Jeremy Corbyn, shortly after he was elected as an MP in 1983, and they campaigned together to resist a move to cut back on school meals provision in Barnet.

"Mary was such a great campaigner for people"

JEREMY CORBYN, LABOUR LEADER

She was a familiar figure at Westminster, while socialising with her many friends in the Labour movement. One such recalled her prestigious capacity for drinking into the small hours and "being fresh as paint the following morning".

Turner made two attempts to stand for the House of Commons herself. She opposed Ken Livingstone when he faced reselection in his Brent East constituency in 1989, in a contest he won with a two-thirds majority. A decade later she was one

of six on the shortlist to replace him after he became mayor of London, and was runner-up in a hard-fought contest for the selection, which was won by the Brent council leader, Paul Daisley.

This was probably to the benefit of the GMB. It was facing a possible merger with the Unite trade union, and Turner's relaxed style of leadership was credited with helping the union through a lively period of political in-fighting.

As chair of the union's conference over many years, she was loved for her humorous style and lack of adherence to procedure. "Get a grip, Mary!" she would admonish herself if she made a mistake. She was still a vocal presence this year, despite her evident poor health.

Her instincts owed much to the experience of her parents, as well as her own life story: her mother worked in childcare and her father was a cleaner and a security guard. Born Mary O'Brien in Thurles, Co Tipperary, in Ireland, she was educated initially at a convent school. Her parents moved to the north of England in the early 1950s and later settled in Kilburn, north London, where Mary went to Carlton Vale secondary modern school.

She left at 16 to train as a bookkeeper at Jackson's Tailors in Oxford Street, joining the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, now part of the GMB. She also worked in the print industry, joining Sogat and becoming mother of the chapel of her branch.

GMB MEMBERS' BENEFITS:

Put UNIONLINE
in your phone now:
0300 333 0303

- Free legal advice from your very own trade union law firm UNIONLINE
- The John Cope Trust for training and learning opportunities

There are many other benefits too:

- Travel & Home Insurance
- Free legal assistance for Personal & Road Traffic Injuries
- Free Will Service
- NHS Dental Plan
- Convalescent Facilities
- Guardian Taxation
- GMB Credit union

UNIONLINE

Did you know that your GMB Membership allows you access to GMB Solicitors and Legal Advisors?

Our professional legal advisors can assist you with any personal injury claims, whether they be accidents at work or elsewhere. You don't need to contact a private solicitor.

For more information visit our website: www.gmblondon.org.uk/benefits



ASBESTOS AWARENESS

GMB believes that Asbestos removal is a priority and that failure of companies to protect workers from coming into contact with it should lead to prosecution and compensation. But above all, we should prevent contact by knowing where it is, and dealing with the problem through specialist contractors.

GMB, along with Hazards, continues to campaign to make our schools, factories and homes as safe as possible, by highlighting the dangers Asbestos can cause to those who come into contact with this deadly material. Raising awareness of Mesothelioma is something we must continue to do, by reporting and highlighting the dangers this poses to all who come in contact with Asbestos.

DO YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS?

What to ask your employer?

Ask your employer if you can see the asbestos register, certificates of inspection and any asbestos certificate of inspection.

What will this tell you?

It will tell you what type of asbestos you have possibly been exposed to; and it will recommend certain action i.e. removal or make it safe, depending on the damage level or risk on the certificate. The airborne test, if deemed necessary, will also have a risk factor and show either a high or low level.

Who to contact?

If you believe you have been exposed to asbestos within your workplace, then you need to talk to your Health and Safety Officer, Shaun Graham.

Shaun can be contacted at his office on 07885 706556 or shaun.graham@gmb.org.uk, and will be able to advise you around any exposure concerns you may have.

UNIONLINE

Once you have taken advice, you will more than likely be asked to contact

Unionline on 0300 333 0303 to register that you have been exposed to asbestos within your work place. You can also visit their UnionLine website for further details via this link: unionline.co.uk/personal-injury-services/natural-disease/asbestos-related-claims

Remember don't leave it; deal with it, ASBESTOS KILLS.



