

## THE WORKERS ARE REVOLTING!!

**AFTER 13 YEARS OF CUTS, STAGNATION AND ROCKETING POVERTY, WORKERS ARE STANDING TOGETHER AND SAYING ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**

The branch is proud to have stood shoulder to shoulder with countless workers and demonstrators over the last few months as this selection of photos shows. From rail workers and posties, to nurses and university staff we've gone along to show our support. There has never been a more important time for people to be unionised and act in solidarity with each other whatever their workplace or sector; as well as to defend the human right to withdraw your labour.

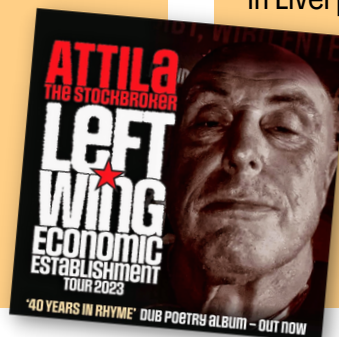
Trade union membership is on the rise, and polls show that the public are increasingly on the side of strikers, particularly those delivering public services. There is so much to worry about at the moment, but it is also a time of infinite potential. **If you are interested in coming along to similar solidarity actions with other UNISON members and branch officers, get in touch.**



### BRANCH AGM, INCLUDING GUEST APPEARANCE FROM ATTILA THE STOCKBROKER!

Our annual AGM is the main meeting where our members can get together, hear about the Branch's work over the last year, ask questions, and work with us on future priorities. We also try to make it enjoyable! This year we are delighted that the meeting will be opened with a very special performance from Attila the Stockbroker, and those that want to are welcome to join us for drinks afterwards. WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH, 5PM FOR A 5.30 START - SYNDICATE WING, BRIGHTON CENTRE OR ONLINE.

**RSVP to**  
**contact@brightonandhoveunison.org.uk**



### WANTED: DELEGATES FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCES, LIVERPOOL, JUNE 2023

The branch has limited spaces for members to attend National Delegates (13-16 June) and Local Government conference (11-12 June) in Liverpool.



Accommodation is provided and travel and subsistence costs covered. You should also be released to attend in work time. **If you would like to be nominated to be part of the delegation get in touch with the branch BY 8 MARCH**



# FIGHTING CUTS TO JOBS & SERVICES



The work of the branch is not just about helping workers when they are in difficulty, it also includes activism and campaigning, most recently to protect several teams and workplaces from being cut in the latest council budget. Working with our members we have lobbied officers and local politicians and appeared on local and regional TV, print and radio news, and many of the proposed cuts have been overturned. The financial position of the council is not likely to change soon, so it is vital that the workforce is well unionised. **Talk to colleagues, and if they aren't in a union, encourage them to join us:**

[www.brightonandhoveunison.org.uk/join](http://www.brightonandhoveunison.org.uk/join)

## FREE SURVIVING THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS WEBINARS FROM WAVE COMMUNITY BANK

Wave Community Bank, formerly the East Sussex Credit Union, are running two free Webinars for Brighton and Hove UNISON members. They pack a huge amount of helpful information into just half an hour, include a Q&A element, and we have two different times to hopefully fit with most people's work patterns.

- Monday 13th March – 12.30-1pm
- Wednesday 22nd March – 6-6.30pm

**To book a place get in touch.**



## #GIVEITBACKBRIGHTONANDHOVE CAMPAIGN VIDEO SUCCESS



Our joint Branch Secretary is also a writer, and has created a poem and short film to support the #GIVEITBACKBRIGHTONANDHOVE campaign. The video has now had nearly 4000 views and been shared over a hundred times. You can support the campaign by viewing and sharing it on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/giveitbackbrightonandhove), or via our website at [www.brightonandhoveunison.org.uk/giveitbackbrightonandhove](http://www.brightonandhoveunison.org.uk/giveitbackbrightonandhove).

please also support the campaign by signing and sharing the petition, joining the #GIVEITBACK [Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/giveitbackbrightonandhove) and letting us know about any organisations or businesses who would like to countersign the open letter to the Prime Minister.

We will be presenting the open letter later in the Spring, and are planning to take gravestones representing each of the services that have been lost from Brighton & Hove City Council since budgets started to be cut by central government 13 years ago.

It would also be really helpful if you could let us know what services you have seen cut or stopped since 2013.

All the links you need are on the #GIVEITBACKBRIGHTONANDHOVE pages of our website.

## FANTASTIC FREE WEBINARS FOR WOMEN MEMBERS IN MARCH:

see the Noticeboard Section below for more details



## LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR UNION?

Here's just some of the ways to get more involved, develop new skills and meet new people:

### **VACANT OFFICER POSTS:**

We currently have vacancies for a **Young Members Officer** (has to be aged under 27) and **Communications Officer**. Both roles are a great way to learn new skills and meet new people, and there's comprehensive training for the roles too.

### **WORKPLACE STEWARD:**

The help Stewards provide to their colleagues is vital to our union. They also get comprehensive training & support.

### **WORKPLACE CONTACT:**

A great role if you aren't sure if you want to be a Rep but would like to help spread the word about the benefits of being in a union.

### **CAMPAIGNING:**

Help the branch with campaigns & promotional work.

## MEET OUR JOINT BRANCH SECRETARY & FAMILIES & CHILDREN LEAD



Diana is one of our longest standing officers at the branch, and is a former social worker. She is Joint Branch Secretary with Corinna Edwards-Colledge and leads on representing members, and negotiations and consultations in the Families, Children and Learning Directorate at the council.

**01273 292959**  
**Diana.Leach@brighton-hove.gov.uk**



## DID YOU KNOW THAT UNISON HAVE A DEDICATED STEWARD TO SUPPORT CARE CREW COLLEAGUES WORKING ACROSS THE CITY COUNCIL?

Hi, I'm Lina Ginesi.

I have been a member of Care Crew since the beginning of 2012 and have worked in several units across BHCC and was previously a Deputy Manager at Beach House. I pride myself on having an interest and understanding of the issues affecting Care Crew staff.

I am all too aware that elements of the work such as shift patterns, working across various locations; long days and direct client work can make it very difficult for us to access the phone or computer at work and that makes meeting as a group difficult. But I want to find a way to address this and will be more visible over coming months. I am contacting managers to arrange visits so that I can drop off updates for noticeboards; membership forms and goodies. It would be lovely to say hello in person.

In the meantime, if you are experiencing difficulties at work, such as with Guidant and Payroll or wish to contribute to a wider conversation, please do not feel isolated or alone. You can speak to your union workplace Representative and you are also welcome to leave/send me a message and we'll take it from there: **0758312999** or **email me at [linda.ginesi@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:linda.ginesi@brighton-hove.gov.uk)**.



**2023/24 NJC PAY OFFER**  
Major unions put in a pay claim for local government staff of RPI (Retail Prices Index of inflation) + 2%. The employer has come back with the offer of £1925 flat rate again for workers earning up to around £50k per annum, and 3.99% above that. Unions are currently consulting with members so please ensure your contact details with us are up to date.

### FREE TRAINING: ASSERTIVENESS FOR WOMEN

June 15 and 16, at Corporate UNISON  
Brighton Office, 179 Preston Road

to book email  
[membereducationse@unison.co.uk](mailto:membereducationse@unison.co.uk)

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WEBINARS:

**March 6** - History of the  
Suffragettes

**March 7** - women and sleep

**March 21** - Dealing with the  
Menopause

**March 23** - Self Defence for Women  
to book email  
[membereducationse@unison.co.uk](mailto:membereducationse@unison.co.uk)

### NEXT BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETING 08/03/23, 2-4pm

All Workplace Stewards  
can attend our BCMs and  
members can put forward  
issues/questions for  
discussion.

## GET IN TOUCH:

For urgent enquiries please call us on **01273 291611** otherwise  
you can email us at **[contact@brightonandhoveunison.org.uk](mailto:contact@brightonandhoveunison.org.uk)**

**For a plain text version of this newsletter please get in touch**





# HUNDREDS OF EMPLOYEES AT THE CITY COUNCIL ARE **LOSING MONEY** EVERY BANK HOLIDAY THEY WORK.

## WE WANT YOU TO GET YOUR SETTLEMENT OFFER **NOW!**

Since 2013 our branch has been **fighting for equality in how bank holiday working is paid** at the city council. An issue first arose when a Resident's Services Guarantee (RSG) Payment for bank holiday working of **£280 a day (now £301 a day)** was negotiated for workers in Refuse & Recycling. Last year we led on the negotiation of a settlement to address this issue. This settlement will apply to around **800 workers**, with payments ranging from a few hundred pounds to a couple of thousand pounds and with the **lowest paid who work the most bank holidays benefitting the most.**

The Settlement includes an offer to pay up to **six years back-pay** at 70% of the difference between the RSG payment that workers in Refuse and Recycling receive and your normal Bank Holiday payments. On top of that it includes a commitment **to pay ALL bank holiday workers at the rate of the RSG** until a new, fair, bank holiday payment system is negotiated that values all workers the same, whether you are a care worker, refuse worker, kitchen supervisor or security officer.

**We want this settlement offer to be made to you now** so you can choose whether or not to accept it, but it has now been delayed by 8 months because of an outstanding dispute that has still not been heard by the employer. This means that for every month you are not given the opportunity to consider the settlement, **you are missing out on receiving £301 for the bank holidays you work**, as well as a lump sum from the back-pay settlement.

**IF YOU ARE AFFECTED AND WANT TO BE OFFERED YOUR SETTLEMENT, GET IN TOUCH**

[contact@brightonandhoveunison.org.uk](mailto:contact@brightonandhoveunison.org.uk) | 01273 291611 | [www.brightonandhoveunison.org.uk](http://www.brightonandhoveunison.org.uk)



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**WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER: IF YOU AREN'T A MEMBER OF A UNION YOU CAN JOIN UNISON HERE: [WWW.BRIGHTONANDHOVEUNISON/JOIN](http://WWW.BRIGHTONANDHOVEUNISON/JOIN)**

**THE VOICE OF 4000 PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS IN BRIGHTON & HOVE**