



UNISON

the public service union



SPRING
2017

University of Leeds Branch Bulletin

Use it or lose it - your vote counts!

The recently-announced snap general election means that we'll all have an important decision to make on 8th June. But, if you want to have your say in the election, it's vital that you register to vote.

This general election will go a long way to defining the future course of the UK and its governance, and we believe that all voices should be represented not just the fortunate few, big business or the media barons.

The rules on voter registering have changed recently, so it's really important that you check you are registered – especially if you have moved house recently or live in a shared tenancy.

You can register to vote online quickly and easily here:

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

The deadline for registrations for the 8th June General Election is **22nd May**. But don't delay – do it today!

You can read more from other organisations who are promoting voter registration and the importance of voting here:

<http://bitetheballot.co.uk/>

<http://hopenothate.org.uk/>

If you think that voting is important, please pass the message on to colleagues, friends and family and encourage them to check that they are registered.

Workers' Memorial Day

This year's International Workers' Memorial Day took place on Friday, 28th April. The theme for this year was 'good health and safety for all workers whoever they are'. The event focussed on inequalities in occupational health and the role unions play in narrowing the inequalities gap.

The University held a service on the LUU steps at 12.45-13.00 then took the memorial posy to the Workers' Memorial Tree.

Whose NHS? Our NHS!

Six members of UNISON University of Leeds branch joined a thousand others at the Leeds March for the NHS on Saturday, 1st April.

Mark Adcock, Rosie Bavage, Kath Owen, Angela Blackburn, James Thompson and Dawn Amesbury watched a rousing rally then marched around the centre of Leeds watched by supportive members of the public.

Dawn Amesbury, Communications and Admin Officer, commented: "It was an excellent rally and march which we hope will do something to raise public awareness of our fantastic health service which is being slowly and systematically destroyed."

Yorkshire union members, patients and NHS staff gathered in the city centre outside Leeds Art Gallery on The Headrow, for what organisers claimed was among the largest health protests in the city for almost two



Protestors young and old travelled from across the UK for the demonstration, which was highlighting proposed changes and funding cuts to services across Yorkshire.

The march was organised by Yorkshire Health Campaigns Together, a collection of unions and groups campaigning against NHS cuts. Campaign groups represented included Save Huddersfield Royal Infirmary (HRI), Dewsbury and Barnsley activists concerned about hospital downgrades and Sheffield paramedics highlighting the increased use of private ambulances in the region.

Junior doctors and student nurses also joined the march, and called on the Government to reinstate bursaries to boost applications for nursing and midwifery courses.



Spring Social Success!

Our Spring Social lunch-time event on 12th April proved a hit with lots of members coming along to take a break, enjoy some tasty food and catch up with colleagues.

Above are some photos we took at the event. Due to its success, our branch is planning another social before the end of the summer, so please watch this space!