



GMB @ Durham County Council

**Welcome
to your
February
2014
Newsletter!**

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We deserve an extra £1 an hour

Durham County LA Branch took part in the National pay campaign for an extra £1 an hour for all local government workers on 4th February.

The picture on the right shows the branch outside County Hall.



Public Services Section BULLETIN



PUBLIC SECTOR PENSIONS TO RISE IN APRIL

Please be advised that pensions being paid from public service pensions schemes will increase this April by 2.7%.

The increase is based on the government's preferred measure of the cost of living, the Consumer Prices Index, which they introduced to replace the Retail Prices Index in 2011. Under the RPI, public sector pensions would have been going up by 3.2% this April. Pensioners have therefore lost out as a direct result of this government's policies.

Brian Strutton

Brian Strutton

National Secretary - Public Services Section

Equal Pay Update

The last Remaining Equal Pay claims are now been made for Academies.

GMB members have received many thousand pounds since 2005.

188 - Restructures

Section 188 notices for February are:

- Care Connect
- Lunch Time School Crossing Patrols
- Youth Workers
- Neighbourhood Protection
- DLI and Killhope Museum
- Neighbourhoods Cleaning
- Roseberry School

GMB will be attending all meetings

Any affected members who would like an individual meeting with GMB should contact the branch on 03000 268 135.

Save our Homes

The Save our Homes campaign continues.

No decision has been made on the future of the five remaining Care Homes in the Authority.

GMB will continue to support its members with this Campaign.





Would you like to join GMB on the bus with Gus?

We have limited seats available for GMB Members on the executive coach (table, lap trays, toilet, Sky TV, PlayStation) to Wembley for the Capital One Cup Final.

Sunderland v Man City

On

Sunday 2nd March

The bus will leave County Hall at 5.30am

This will include quiz, bingo and refreshments

To book your seat please contact GMB

03000 268135 or gmb@durham.gov.uk





Forthcoming Social Events for 2014

March

Capital One Cup Final Wembley

Bus booked for interested members

April

Easter Egg Raffle

Membership numbers used to pick winners

July

Durham Miners Gala/Social Evening

March behind your banner down to the racecourse then enjoy an evening of music, food and drink with like-minded members

July/August

Football Season Tickets

New season and a fresh chance to have your name picked out to watch a match

November/December

Christmas Shopping Trip to York

More information will be confirmed closer to each date

For more information contact the GMB office on 03000 268 135

GMB Congress 2014 - Nottingham

Branch Nominations are for David Clegg and Les Timbey who were nominated at the Branch meeting in December. Retired member Jan Jepson has a nomination from another branch within the northern region. All three have been elected by the Northern Region to attend Congress.

Last year speeches were about saving Durham Miners Gala. This year they are expected to be about the 1984 miners strike which is its 30th anniversary this year.

Shop Stewards Retiring

Shop Stewards Ronny Harper from Neighbourhoods Services and Ronnie Clarkson from Durham and Darlington Fire Brigade have both retired as Shop Stewards, as they have also retired from their current job roles within the Authority.

We all wish them well in their retirement and both will be invited to the Branch Meeting in March for a presentation.

GMB Services and Benefits

GMB Legal Services

Free legal services for accidents at work or on the road, and free initial advice for a wide range of other legal issues.

Free Basic Will Writing Service

Offered through the legal helpline, this service can save you up to £70

GMB Bulletins

Please note: up-to-the minute information for members is posted onto the bulletin board on the intranet under the heading Trade Unions.

For the GMB website go to Intranet A-Z, click on T, and select Trades Unions.

Remember — You're better off in the GMB

How can I join the GMB

Telephone the GMB office on 03000 268 135 or 03000 268 136

OR

See your Shop Steward for a membership form

Watch out for our recruitment stalls coming to your place of work