



GMB @ Durham County Council

Welcome to your Winter 2013 Newsletter!

In this edition you will find:

Everybody deserves £1 an hour	Page 2
Local Government Pay Claim	Page 3
Local Pension Scheme Website	Page 4
Humanitarian Trip to Chernobyl	Page 5
Children in Need Day	Page 5
Christmas Branch Meeting	Page 5
Equal Pay Update	Page 6
Section 188 Notices Restructures	Page 6
Credit Union Available	Page 6
York Trip	Page 7
2014 Diaries	Page 7
GMB Services and Benefits	Page 7

Save our Homes

Durham County Council are consulting on the future of their 5 remaining care Homes Feryemount, Cheveley Park, Newtown House, Grampian House, and Mendip House.

Public consultation ends 17th January.

GMB Lobbied Full Council on 30th October and will be again on 4th December and 8th January.

Any members wishing to support the save our homes campaign please contact the office on 03000 268135.





EVERYONE DESERVES A
£1 AN HOUR
PAY RISE FOR 2014

GMB and other local government unions met yesterday, 15 October, to determine the pay claim for 2014. All unions agreed that the claim should be for £1 an hour which would also achieve a Living Wage. The national local government employers have been written to with the claim put in formal terms as "A minimum increase of £1 an hour on scale point 5 to achieve the Living Wage and the same flat rate increase on all other scale points". I am pleased that this claim reflects the unanimous view of GMB lay delegates who met earlier this month.

A "£1 an hour" claim is equivalent to around 8% payroll cost and the employers will say they are planning to budget for much less. That's why we have submitted the claim now, before budgets are finalised. Local authority staff have suffered 18% real terms pay cuts, most never got the £250 given to the rest of the public sector and have seen other terms and conditions attacked. It's high time staff got a decent pay rise to make up for some of those losses. Another low pay year would be completely unacceptable.

But achieving a decent pay rise will need unions and members to campaign together - and getting non-members to join so that we take our message into every town hall and office and school and depot until it is heard.

GMB and the other TUs believe our justification for "£1 an hour" is strong and we will be asking everyone to take part in the campaign to achieve it.

Together we can win.

Brian Strutton

Brian Strutton

National Secretary - Public Services Section

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY CLAIM

At a meeting with local government employers today, 5 November, GMB and the other trade unions submitted a document setting out the arguments in support of our claim for 2014 which is :-

"A minimum increase of £1 an hour on scale point 5 to achieve the Living Wage and the same flat rate increase on all other scale points"

The full claim document is available on the GMB website at this link <http://www.gmb.org.uk/assets/media/documents/localgovernment/NJC%20Pay%20Claim%202014-15%20FINALPDF.pdf>

The local government employers said they will be consulting with councils and expect to be giving a formal response to our claim in February.

We must therefore use the intervening period to campaign and raise awareness of our strong case for a decent pay rise in 2014. We are told the economy is recovering, it's about time local government workers had a fair share.

Brian Strutton

Brian Strutton

National Secretary - Public Services Section



LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME MEMBER WEBSITE

The LGPS is one of the largest pension schemes in the world with 4.5m members and £180bn worth of assets. To help keep members up-to-date with news and information about the LGPS, together with comprehensive information about the scheme benefit changes next year, there is a dedicated website:

www.lgps2014.org

This website has been developed by the Trade Unions and the Local Government Association.

I hope you find it useful.

Brian Strutton

Brian Strutton

National Secretary - Public Services Section

Humanitarian Aid Trip to Chernobyl

We would like to thank everyone who support our Appeal this year,.

To prepare for next year we are holding a Christmas raffle. The first prize is 2 nights in London. Tickets are available in the GMB office or by contacting 03000 268135.

The raffle will be drawn on 12th December.



Thank You to Everyone who Supported GMB on Children in Need Day

The GMB cake bake sale, "guess the number of sweets in the jar" and raffle raised a massive total **£399.87**.

The raffle was drawn by Lisa Mason from HR and the winning numbers are :

1st prize	481	4th prize	241
2nd prize	91	5th prize	686
3rd prize	46	6th prize	651

The winner of "guess the number of sweets in the jar" was GMB member Joy Smallman who guessed the number was 73.

Christmas Branch Meeting

The next branch meeting is scheduled to be held on 2nd December at 5:30pm in the Council Chamber at County Hall. A free Christmas draw will be held for all members.



Equal Pay Update

Members should now have their offers for 4th Generation of equal pay. Any members who are not in receipt of an offer and think they should have one should contact the branch on 03000 268135.

Since 2005 many thousands of pounds have been paid to GMB members in equal pay claims.

Section 188 Notices/Restructures

CAS - Pathways - ongoing

Resources - Rev and Bens - Completed

CAS - School Governors supports - Completed

CAS - Community Caretakers - ongoing

Neighbourhoods - Clean and Green - ongoing

Neighbourhoods—Refuse Management - ongoing

Credit Union Available to Durham County Council Employees

Durham County Council is offering its staff the facility to save more easily with a credit union through a salary deduction scheme. Deductions are made from net pay and transferred directly into their credit union account. There are two credit unions that operate across County Durham, Prince Bishops Community Bank and Durham County Credit Union.

Durham County Council acts as a supporter and facilitator of the Credit Union salary deduction scheme, but the arrangement is between the member of staff and the credit union.

For further information

On the Prince Bishops Community Bank

<http://www.princebishopscommunitybank.org.uk/home>

On the Durham County Credit Union

<http://www.durhamcountycu.co.uk/home>

GMB - Off to York Again

GMB members are on the road again to York on 30th November for the annual Christmas shopping trip.

we have a few seats left if any members would like to go please contact the office on 03000 268135.

2014 Diaries

Reps will be delivering diaries, calendars etc to workplaces over the next few weeks. Check the bulletin board to find out when reps will be in your location.

Members can also contact the GMB office to request a diary.

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