



UNITEd @ Donnington

Donnington Rally A Great Success

Hundreds of us across the Donnington Site took part in the March & Rally on 7th Sept. The rain held off & with flags flying we marched & chanted, vowing to fight Cameron's cuts package.

At the inspirational rally we heard Telford MP David Wright promise to stand with public sector workers to protect jobs services and pensions. David argued that throwing people out of work & cutting the public sector would actually fuel a further recession & make the current economic situation worse.



Jonathan Sedgebeer, from Telford Unison branch, brought fraternal greetings from his members working for the borough council. He gave a rousing speech & received loud cheers when he argued British workers should follow the example of their French counterpart, currently on strike in protests at their state pension age being raised from 60 to 62.

Len McClusky from Unite brought a message of support from the Union's Joint General Secretaries. He praised Stewards & members on site for taking a stand.

Support

Messages of support came in from Trade Unionists around the country. The Chair read out a letter from the PCS Midlands Regional Committee, calling for unity between public & private sector workers. Support also came from the Unite MoD National Sector Industrial Committee, Unite Prison Service Combine, Colleagues from Air Command, the Bicester & Stafford sites & Jerry Hicks.

Evening Meeting

On the evening of the march a meeting, hosted by Unison and the teaching unions, was held in the Civic Offices to build a campaign to stop the privatisation of schools through academy status.

Professor Mike Haynes from Wolverhampton University then spoke on how the Con-Dem cuts are being driven by a desire to take back gains made by working people since the war - The NHS, free education, public services & the welfare state- rather than on any sound economic judgments

Donnington leads the way

Of the three events held on the 7th our rally was certainly the most colourful

Telford's Day of protest

As we held our Rally, around 70 colleagues from PCS were taking part in a lively debate at Telford Town Centre. Members from workplaces such as HMRC and MoD discussed alternatives to the Con-Dems cuts & better ways of dealing with the country's economic problems.

Speakers pointed out that each year more than £120 billion of tax goes uncollected, evaded or avoided by large companies and wealthy individuals. By just collecting this tax we could avoid public service cuts. The meeting called for a drive to cut waste and government spending on civil service consultants – both of which cost us millions of pounds each year.

and successful. In the week leading up to the event we got coverage in the Shropshire Star & on Radio Shropshire, giving Unite the opportunity to put out the message our members are not bowler hat wearing fat cats with gold plated pensions.

The march itself was featured on the front page of the Star, covered throughout the day on Radio Shropshire & made Beacon Radio news bulletins. A live video of the event was steamed on the Star's Website, which also carried interviews with marchers.

Demonstrate at the Tory Conference 3 October. Demonstrate at the Tory Conference 3 October

Lobby of Parliament

Unite Representatives from DSG, JSCS, the MGS and MoD fire service at Donnington joined hundreds of fellow trade unionists on the 9th Sept to lobby Parliament about the proposed changes to the CSCS.

The 'Superannuation Bill', which has already received its 2nd reading in parliament, has been described by Cabinet Office Minister Frances Maude as a "blunt instrument". At a packed meeting, held in one of the Commons committee rooms', Union Reps heard Tessa Jowell MP say that the Tories want to use the bill as a "negotiating vice" to squeeze concessions from the union members.

Referring to the Donnington march & rally, Jack Dromey MP told unions that a "Unity of approach is absolutely key" to stopping the changes to the CSCS, he said we must "build a mass movement" against Con Dem Cuts

Hit the Streets

Shadow Defence minister, Kevan Jones MP, told the meeting that the 25-35% cuts in defence budget proposed by the Con-Dems can only be reached through cutting head count. He urged the meeting "don't wait until October (spending Review), make your voice heard now"

Holding up the front page of the Shropshire Star, Unite Assistant General Secretary Gail Cartmail called on the meeting to "take to the streets" as they have in Telford".

Brett Davis, DSG Donnington Convenor, told the meeting that the events in Telford had been a success because of the commitment of the Stewards & members. He argued everyone present should organise something similar in their own workplaces & communities.

Upcoming Events

**13-16 September
Launch of the TUC Campaign "All Together for Public Services"**

**Sunday 19 September
TUC Lobby of Lib Dem Conference in Liverpool Assemble from 12 Noon**

**Sunday 3 October
Demonstrate at Tory Party Conference Birmingham; Assemble 12 Noon**

Where Next?

The Donnington Rally & Telford day of protest have caused ripples throughout the Union & been held up as a model of organisation for others to follow.

Members across the Donnington site had recognised the need for unity to defend our Jobs Services & Pensions, however, they were frustrated that nationally unions didn't seem to be pulling together & were also concerned that our message against the cuts was not getting a hearing.

On 7th Sept we proved that Unions can coordinate actions to achieve greater impact and by doing so get our message into the media, thus helping to grow support in our communities. We now need to build on this success local action got local coverage, the unions now need to organise national action to get national coverage.

Get to Brum

Everyone on site needs to be booking seats on the FREE coaches to the demonstration at the Tory Conference on 3 Oct. it's a great opportunity for us to really rock the government & send a signal that we will fight over CSCS and Jobs.

Trade Union Branches across Telford are co-ordinating transport & working hard to fill the coaches. See your union rep to ensure places for you your family and your friends.

Spot the Difference

During the last government, Tory MP for the Wrekin, Mark Pritchard signed parliamentary Early Day Motion (EDM) **251 CIVIL SERVICE COMPENSATION SCHEME.**

At that time Mr Pritchard had "deep concern at proposed changes to the CSCS", which he believed "would leave many civil servants worse off". *Comrade* Pritchard urged "Government urgently to re-examine these disappointing and unfair proposals before they are implemented".

The Member for the Wrekin has informed us, that now the Tories are in Government; he no longer signs EDMs as he feels they have no effect.

Given Mr Prichard's earlier concerns, one might have expected him to use his seat in parliament to some effect by opposing his governments Superannuation Bill, which introduces even harsher cuts to the CSCS than proposed by the previous government.

Unfortunately Mark now seems to have gotten over his earlier reservations about "civil servants being worse off" and his concerns over "disappointing and unfair proposals" as he voted to support the Bill at its second reading.

Mr Pritchard's Constituent's may want to take this matter up with him, see your shop Steward for details how.

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www.unitetheunion.org