

**The
Bun**
BOLTON UNISON NEWS

YOUR UNISON NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2008

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UNISON 2008 PAY CAMPAIGN

It's time to **CATCH UP & MATCH UP**

AS HOUSING, FOOD, FUEL AND OTHER COSTS GO THROUGH THE ROOF

UNISON MEMBERS SAY

“We can't afford your 2.45%!”

The average family food bill is now 20% higher than a year ago. Fuel prices have reached record levels and house prices in Britain are the highest in the world. Inflation estimates vary, but according to the retail price index inflation is now running way in excess of 4%. After consultation with branches around the country, UNISON has taken the difficult decision to hold an industrial action ballot for it's members employed in Local Government & allied services across England, Northern Ireland and Wales. UNISON is urging every branch and every member to return their ballot paper and give a decisive yes vote in favour of action. If agreed strike action is due to be commence with 2 days in July. **UNISON now believes that only effective strike action can force the employers back to the negotiating table and improve this year's offer.**

**pay
matters**

UNISON MEMBER MEETINGS

**Tuesday 10th June 5:30pm — 6:30pm &
Thursday 12th June 12:30 — 1:30pm**
Both at the Lancaster Suite, Bolton Town Hall

Agenda:

- 2008 Pay Ballot
- Single Status/Pay & Grading
- Any other urgent business

MEETINGS OPEN TO ALL UNISON MEMBERS.

Non members can join by downloading a membership form at www.unisonbolton.org or by contacting the branch office: Tel 01204 338901/2 Email admin@unisonbolton.org

OUR SCHOOLS ARE NOT FOR SALE!

BOLTON LEADS THE FIGHT AGAINST ACADAMIES

UNISON members at the Within's Secondary School in Brightmet, have voted overwhelmingly to seek the unions support for a strike action to protect their terms and conditions and to remain Local Authority employees. This follows successful strike action taken by NUT members at the school. Staff, students & parents are campaigning against the establishment of Academy Schools. UNISON & the teaching unions believe that Academies are yet another form of privatisation in this case of schools, staff and our children's education.

COMPUTER KEYBOARDS DIRTIER THAN LOO SEATS



Which? Computing magazine has published research showing that computer keyboards can harbour more filth than the average toilet seat. Keyboards were found to hold millions of bacteria including E coli and other bugs which can cause diarrhoea and vomiting. The chief culprit for contamination was people eating at their desks and dropping crumbs which lodge between keys and encourage the growth of millions of bacteria. Other causes included the shared use of keyboards and poor personal hygiene, e.g. not washing hands after using the toilet. Dust which traps moisture, also provides ideal conditions for the growth of bacteria. Which? Computing said: "if you don't clean your computer, you might as well eat your lunch off the toilet. The magazine recommends that PCs are given a "spring clean", suggesting that computers be shut down and unplugged before being gently dusted with a soft, lint-free cloth and wiped with an approved computer cleaning fluid. A vacuum cleaner can be used to clean vents, but contrary to internet myth, keyboards should not be put in the dishwasher, the magazine said.

PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

By Ian Kilcullen



We are arranging a photographic competition, sometime in late August, details to be confirmed. If people are interested please contact Ian Kilcullen sports and social officer by phone 01204 338901 or please email branch office (admin@unisonbolton.org).

CARE SYSTEM CRITICISED IN TRAGIC ROAD DEATH CASE

A Bolton Judge criticised a private care agency and the care system after a care worker knocked down and killed an 81 year old war veteran while speeding between visits. The court heard that in December 2006, the worker drove at 42 to 46pmh when he hit the elderly man as he was crossing the road. Had the worker kept the 30mph speed limit, he could have stopped in time. The Judge said: "You had been to see one patient and you were rushing to see another. The company you worked for gave no leeway between you seeing one patient and another. It was a very poor system, but ultimately you have to take the responsibility because you were the driver." The worker had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing. The court also heard how the elderly man, was shopping at 7.30am on December 23, when the collision occurred.

CATCH THE FLAME 2008

FAIR PLAY OLYMPICS CAMPAIGN



The big winners of this years Olympics will be the sportswear companies due to make huge profits through sponsorship and global TV coverage. This will be in stark contrast to the pay received by many of the workers involved. Chinese workers glue sports shoes together for as little as £1 a day. Catch the Flame is a campaign backed by trade unions around the world. The aim is to pressure sportswear companies, sporting bodies and governments around the world, to support measures to tackle the exploitation and abuse of workers in the sports goods industry.

To see a list of supporter organizations, please see: <http://www.playfair2008.org>. You can register your support for the campaign at: <http://www.catchtheflame.org>.



UNISON Travel Loyalty Club

Exclusive travel club savings & value added benefits
Air fares, cruises, short breaks - sun or city
Sandy beaches or far away culture



Your ONE STOP TRAVEL SHOP!

SHOCK PRICE RISES AT THE SUPERMARKET



FAMILIES SPENDING 20% MORE ON FOOD

Official figures have recently confirmed the ever increasing cost of buying basic foods at your local supermarket. Figures recently published by price comparison website, mysupermarket.co.uk has shown that families are now spending 20% more on food that they were a year ago.

Examples of average increases on key items include:

- **English Cheddar up 26%**
- **Bread up 20%**
- **Milk up 21%**
- **Chicken up 25%**
- **Potatoes up 20%**

Other rises have been even higher:

- **Sainsbury's 500g Pasta up 81%**
- **Asda Dozen Free Range Eggs up 47%**

LOW PAID WORKERS HIT HARDEST

According to the Guardian Newspaper recently local shops and markets are now often cheaper for fresh produce than local supermarkets. The increased cost of food has a massive impact on living standards. Low paid workers are hit the hardest as their weekly food bill is often a much higher proportion of living costs than it is for others.

ARE YOU A UNION MEMBER?



DON'T DELAY - JOIN TODAY
SUPPORT THE 2008 PAY CAMPAIGN

Bolton branch : Tel: 01204 338901/2
UNISON *direct* :Tel: 0845 355 0845



JULY 2008 UNISON



BOOK QUIZ

OPEN TO ALL BRANCH MEMBERS

Can you name the authors who wrote these books?

- 1) CASINO ROYALE
- 2) BRICK LANE
- 3) DEATH ON THE NILE
- 4) JAWS
- 5) KES
- 6) HITCH HIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
- 7) PRIDE & PREJUDICE
- 8) ANGELAS ASHES

MARCH/APRIL QUIZ WINNERS

Malcolm Spencer & Allison Thornton
(both at Parking Services)

Congratulations to you both!
£10 vouchers are on the way.

BOLTON UNISON LIVE MUSIC EVENT SATURDAY 14TH JUNE



HARD TIMES & HARD TRAVELLIN'

Will Kaufman plays the music of
Woody Guthrie at Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood Street, off Bradshawgate.

UNISON DISCOUNT

By Andrea Egan

*Vanity Hair and Beauty.
616 Bury Road, Brightmet
Tel: 01204 375675*

*Vanity is offering Bolton
UNISON members 15% Dis-
count until September 2008.*

To benefit from the 15% Discount simply inform the staff when you are booking that you are a unison member. When attending your appointment you must produce a recent Bolton Council wage slip showing Unison deductions or a current Unison membership card.

*Rachael's nails £20 full set
Beauty Treatments 15% off
Holistic therapy 15% off*

Treatments available

- Aromatherapy – full body (1 hr) £28
- Back & shoulders £16
- Hopi ear candles (30 mins) £20
- Indian head message (45 mins) £16
- La Stone therapy - Full body (75 mins) £45
- Reflexology – Feet 1 hr £22
- Sports Massage – Full Body 1 hr £25



2008 PAY CAMPAIGN

UNISON MEMBERS ASKED TO GIVE THEIR SUPPORT

Vote **YES** in the **Ballot**



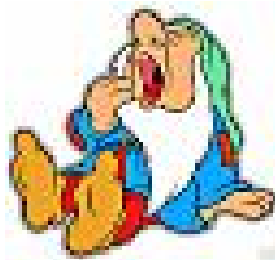
LIE DETECTORS TO MONITOR SICKNESS ABSENCE?

Some employers are considering lie detectors to monitor sickness absence. Havering council has piloted "Voice Risk Analysis" to decide if staff are genuine when they phone in sick. Trade unions argue that staff are increasingly facing a bullying culture where employers always

NO MORE SOFTLY SOFTLY... POLICE DEMAND RIGHT TO STRIKE

86% of the Police Officers in England & Wales have backed calls for "full industrial rights" including the right to strike the Police Federation announced recently at it's conference in Bournemouth.

HI - HO, HI - HO, WE'RE OFF TO THE PANTO!



Saturday 6th December.
Tickets available £5 each.
UNISON members only.
First come first served.
Contact Delroy 336902
Or Ian 338901 for details.