

CITIES OF LONDON & WESTMINSTER TRADES COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10

The Trades Council has built on the growth in the previous 2 years and the pattern of business meetings with special open meetings 3 or 4 times a year. We have also been producing *Trades Council News* and working with unions on key issues. In the past year we have, for example, done work in support of the postal workers, civil service disputes including the Land Registry and National Gallery. We have been building up the delegates to the Trades Council and developing links with a number of branches. Successful open meetings were held with Jeremy Dear General Secretary of the NUJ and Chair of the TUCs trades council committee (June) and Clive Bryant Chair of PCS London & SE Region. (October).



JEREMY DEAR AT MEETING JUNE 2010

With the continuing economic crisis and the intent of all major parties to attack wages, conditions and jobs of workers to pay for it the TC has been busy and the situation is going to intensify in the coming months.. As part of that battle we have linked with PCS London & SE to hold a public meeting on March 25 against these attacks in the run up to the General Election. We have also successfully had a motion adopted by the GLATUC to go to the Annual Conference of Trades Councils.

We have been holding ordinary meetings at the PCS Offices in the Communities Dept for most of the year but have had to redeploy to the UK Trade & Investment building.. The open meetings continued at the Civil Service Club in Whitehall.

CLWTC has been well represented at the monthly meeting of the Greater London Association of Trade Union Councils which brings together all London trades councils. 2 of our delegates sit on the GLATUC EC – one, Roger Sutton, as an officer the other, Jim Smith, as EC member and both are part of the GLATUC delegation to SERTUC. Tony Thorpe and Chris

Miles have attended GLATC meetings as delegates. A motion from CLWTC to GLATUC on public services was adopted as 1 of the 2 London motions to the ACTUC in 2009 and was successfully moved at the Conference. We have supported the programme of work that comes from the Annual Conference of Trade Union Councils; the anti-racist anti-fascist programme from SERTUC. We have continued to support the London May Day celebrations.



KELSO COCHRANE MEMORIAL

The Trades Council supported an important memorial event 12 noon on Saturday 16th May 09 by Kelso Cochrane's graveside in Kensal Green Cemetery London W10. It was organized by local people with a Unite Branch playing a co-ordinating role. The event was to mark the 50th anniversary - and re-affirm the unity of black and white against the poison of racism. The Trades Council made a donation and took the banner to the event. It was followed by a March down to Ladbrooke Grove where a social event took place with film and speeches.

Each July we hold events to mark the anniversary of the Pentonville 5 – the dockers imprisoned in 1972 and freed by mass working class action. We took on this responsibility 1n 1975 as the TC saw it as a crucial part of trade union and London history which needed to be commemorated. Every 5 years we hold a large scale meeting – the last in 2007 at the TUC. In 2009 it was marked by showings of the film *Arise Ye Workers* with a supporting presentation to local organisations and the gathering of records about the event.

We have given our support to the fights for better pay and conditions for the many service staff who make the city work – cleaners, security staff, delivery drivers and the like. We have supported initiatives to assist migrant workers in the face of exploitation by employers.

We continue to deal locally with the right wing Tory administration at Westminster City Council and the undemocratic City of London Corporation. The latter has its consultative structure City Together and we have been involved in the Transport body and are now attending the main consultative body. Westminster City Council continues its divisive policies following on from the creation of an Academy at Pimlico School and the outsourcing of council services. We have re-established links with the Labour Group on the Council and are receiving information from them. In the year we raised objection to the proposal to charge for parking motor bikes and scooters.

The true nature of Boris Johnson's Mayoral policies have become clearer and his proposals in regard to transport developments and the city economy have been backward steps. However, he was forced to reverse direction on the Western Extension to the Congestion Charge and has had to confront the rapacious and inefficient private companies working on the tube and rail system as they suck money out of London.



LAND REGISTRY LOBBY HOUSE OF COMMONS JANUARY 2010



NATIONAL GALLERY STOPPAGE FEBRUARY 2010

As stated in this report last year “everything has been overshadowed by the growing financial crisis. With job losses accelerating and more companies hitting the dust, the billions being poured into the banking and finance system raise massive questions. Most obvious is why were we told there was no money for health, education, pensions etc etc when this can be found for the bankers? Why are those at the bottom losing jobs and income whilst those at the top escape with massive gold plated pension and pay-off packages?There is the unifying cry across London, the country, Europe and the world – don’t make the workers pay for a crisis they had no part in creating, make those who profited now pay for what they created”

That remains the key issue.

Roger Sutton Secretary
Jim Smith President

detail and photographs of events in the year are covered on our website –
www.clwtc.org