

# CITIES OF LONDON & WESTMINSTER TRADES COUNCIL

## NEWS AND EVENTS MAY 2008

### MAY DAY MARCH – ADDRESSED BY PRESIDENTS OF PCS & NUT,

The traditional London May Day March held on May 1<sup>st</sup> was addressed by BILL GREENSHIELDS NUT President and JANICE GODRICH PCS President plus LES WOODWARD GMB REMPLOY, INCI Turkish & Kurdish Community Groups, PETE McPARLIN POA National Executive Officer, Mehmet Aksoy Kurdish Federation = Fed-bir Kurdish & Rurkish Community. ELIZABETH O'HARA SHELTER STRIKERS and TONY BENN,. Banners from PCS, CWU, RMT, ASLEF, GMB, TGWU, NUT, UNISON, POA and several Trades Councils could be seen as it marched from Clerkenwell Green to Trafalgar Square. CLWTC activists were involved in the organisation and stewarding of the March.



BILL GREENSHIELDS NUT

JANICE GODRICH PCS



March enters Strand      Shelter Strikers

## SUCCESSFUL DAY OF ACTION ON APRIL 24



### TALK OF THE STAFFROOM

Across England and Wales, from the smallest to the largest school, both rural and urban, the NUT has made teachers' pay the talk of the staffroom. This has been necessary because the last three years of pay cuts threatens to continue.

### ACTION OF LAST RESORT

Young teachers, particularly badly hit by the erosion of their pay plus increases in

loan repayments have embraced the campaign, Fair Pay For Teachers. For many NUT members this was their first strike and was the first national strike called by the Union in 21 years.

### **FIRM STAND REQUIRED**

Teachers throughout education recognised a union taking a firm stand on their behalf. As a result of the campaign thousands of new members have joined. The action was not taken lightly and all were clear that the motive was to act now in order to protect children's education in the future.

The events on the 24th were colourful, celebratory and united. At each event, a moment of reflection was held for Steve Sinnott, our General Secretary, who died on 5 April 2008 and whose leadership and effort had contributed to the day's resounding success.

### **A BROAD CAMPAIGN**

The NUT has published Our Next Steps which can be read on [www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk)

Our Next Steps draws on the many different strengths and forms of activity which teachers can use to support the campaign Fair Pay For Teachers.

We invite all to play a part in this campaign.

### **Acting General Secretary Christine Blower says:**

"The NUT welcomes the many who have recently joined the Union to support the campaign. My thanks go to all those who took action. The campaign continues and all teachers including those who felt themselves unable to take strike action will have opportunities to take part in a range of activities to support the campaign to improve teachers' pay. To all, we say "get involved" – it's your Union. The NUT thanks the public and parents for their continuing support. Fair Pay For Teachers."

from [www.nut.org.uk](http://www.nut.org.uk)



## **SUPPORTING APRIL 24**



## **United action proves its worth**

25 Apr 2008

MESSAGE FROM

**Mark Serwotka, general secretary**

**Janice Godrich, national president**

Congratulations to all of our members, activists and staff who helped to make 24 April such a marvellous success. PCS members' participation in the strikes was higher than in previous stoppages. Press coverage was widespread, and PCS took part in joint rallies and demonstrations up and down the country.

The mood was fantastic, and the cooperation between PCS, NUT and UCU proved that together we are greater than the sum of our parts. It was a great way for us to lead up to annual conference in May, when we will be discussing where to go next with our campaigning, over pay in particular. Let's hope that in the meantime, the government recognises that it must take our issues seriously, and reconsiders its policy on public sector pay.

## **Union members in protest over loss of London health and safety Jobs**

28 Apr 2008

PCS members at the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) London headquarters are today staging a protest in response to a decision to close the office and move their jobs to Bootle in Liverpool. General secretary Mark Serwotka will address staff before presenting a petition to the chief executive urging him to think again about the decision.

Last week a report released by the government raised concerns over the move that will see the loss hundreds of experienced staff. Of the 320 staff in scope for the move, over 60 staff have already left and only 12 have expressed an interest in relocating, meaning that HSE will lose the competence, knowledge and know-how of a further 250 staff over the next two years. So far only 28 staff have been recruited in Bootle.

The union warned that this could result in key parts of the organisation being under-staffed and lacking experience for a number of years. Currently London based policy, legal, communication and support staff play a vital and active role

in efforts to keep people healthy and safe at work. Staff have come together to sign the petition, worried that HSE is losing thousands of years worth of experience at a time of rising fatalities, accidents and ill health.

The protest coincides with the annual International Workers' Memorial Day which commemorates all those who have died, suffered ill-health or been injured at work. Hundreds of trade unionists will be marching from Tate Modern at 11am to HSE's London headquarters on Southwark Street and then on to a City Hall rally. Marchers will be calling for a zero tolerance of preventable workplace injuries and deaths, tougher regulation and increased resources for the HSE to undertake their crucial role in regulating workplace safety.

PCS HSE branch secretary Chris Hurley said, "Management say that savings from moving out of London will enable HSE to improve inspection rates across the country. In fact, London HQ only accounts for 1.5% of total budget. Also, the original business case assumed that 40% of staff would go to the North West. In fact it's less than 4%. This loss will devastate the organisation. It is time for management to think again before it is too late."

from [www.pcs.org.uk](http://www.pcs.org.uk)



24 April 2008

## Rail Fares Shake-Up Unfair on passengers

Gerry Doherty, leader of the TSSA rail union, has condemned next month's rail fares shake-up which will see the scrapping of refunds on advance ticket sales.

"This will hit the people who can least afford it, families, the young and the elderly who can only afford to travel by booking well in advance. They should be compensated if forced to change their plans, not penalised.

"These changes are meant to make travel easier. They should not be used as an excuse by the rail companies to increase profits by scrapping refunds and doubling the fee for changing journey times from £10 to £20.

"Once again, passengers are being taken for a ride on the most expensive railway network in Europe."

from [www.tssa.org.uk](http://www.tssa.org.uk)



## Prospect calls on Ministers to act on HSE report

21/04/2008

*Responding to a report from the Work and Pensions select committee into the Health and Safety Executive, the union representing 1,500 HSE staff welcomed MPs' concerns over the lack of HSE resources and called on ministers to heed the findings.*

Michael Macdonald, Prospect negotiations officer responsible for the HSE, said: "The committee highlights the vital role of inspectors and the need to coordinate other HSE activity around effective inspection. It successfully identified the correlation between inspection and improvements in health and safety performance."

However HSE inspector and Prospect branch chair Neil Hope-Collins added: "If our members are to reduce the current unacceptable level of death and injury at work then they need to be out and about in enough numbers to make an impact.

"We welcome the call for additional resources to be directed at construction and off-shore sectors; this work is highly skilled and there simply are not enough inspectors to tackle the hazards workers face in these industries."

While applauding the call for more resources for occupational health interventions, Prospect remains unconvinced that moving occupational health out of the HSE would be successful.

The union will be urging ministers to act on the findings. Macdonald said: "Unfortunately the government ignored large chunks of the last select committee report, in particular the criticisms of HSE's resources.

"We hope that James Purnell and Lord Bill McKenzie, as the responsible ministers, take a more constructive view of these latest findings and work with

key stakeholders to respond to its recommendations. Workers' safety is so vital that it deserves a well-reasoned response from government, rather than just filing it in the too-difficult-to-do box."

Prospect took the lead in trade union submissions to the inquiry, making two written submissions and presenting oral evidence.

HSE funding has dropped dramatically as a proportion of government spending over the past 20 years and is planned to drop further over the next three years as total spending is frozen at current levels and eroded by inflation.

from [www.prospect.org.uk](http://www.prospect.org.uk)



## **RMT rejects BBC 'nonsense' on 'unsafe' Tube drivers**

*Publication Date: May 5 2008*

**THE BBC's assertion that 20 per cent of Tube drivers are unsafe is sensationalised tabloid-style nonsense and completely unhelpful, London Underground's biggest drivers' union says today.**

The claim, based on an interpretation of TfL figures on driver "re-training" by 5 Live's Donal MacIntyre programme, and reported on the BBC website, is "out of touch with the reality of running a railway," RMT says.

"Safety is the most important issue for RMT, but is simply nonsense for the BBC to claim that 20 per cent of Tube drivers are unsafe," general secretary Bob Crow said.

"First of all we have a senior management that knows less and less about running a railway, subject to more and more targets by people who know even less than them, to the extent that they have become obsessed with statistics on signals passed at danger.

"A Tube driver will pass hundreds of thousands of signals in a working year, so the proportion of SPADS is tiny, but in any case Tube trains have fail-safe systems designed to stop them on the comparatively rare occasions when they do happen.

"The whole point about the SPAD policy we negotiated with LUL was to do away with the blame culture, encourage drivers to report them, and to put in place a system that gets to grips with why they happen.

"The number of drivers re-trained in any one year partly reflects management's obsession with SPAD statistics, but it also demonstrates that, in its own terms, that policy is working.

"The BBC's sensational reporting also masks the fact that the "re-training" might mean something as simple as studying the layout of one or two of several hundred signals on each line.

"Our driver members regularly seek additional technical training to help them do their jobs better, but London Underground shows no interest in providing it, so it might make more sense to put 20 per cent of senior managers through re-training each year," Bob Crow said.

from [www.rmt.org.uk](http://www.rmt.org.uk)

## GLA ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2 CONSTITUENCIES THAT COVER OUR AREA



## WEST CENTRAL Constituency assembly results

Candidate	Party	Votes	Votes %	Majority
Kit Malthouse	Conservative Party	86,651	52.08%	51,381
Murad Qureshi	The Labour Party	35,270	21.20%	
Julia Stephenson	Green Party	16,874	10.14%	
Merlene Emerson	Liberal Democrats	15,934	9.58%	
Paul Wiffen	UK Independence Party	3,060	1.84%	
Alex Vaughan	English Democrats	1,858	1.12%	
Explo Nani-Kofi	Left List	1,630	0.98%	
Abby Dharamsey	Independent	962	0.58%	

## Turnout and Technical Information

	2004	2004%	2008	2008%	%difference
Electorate	352,653		343,182		
Papers counted/turnout	124,424	35.28%	166,379	48.48%	13.20%
Good votes	116,101	93.31%	162,239	97.51%	4.20%
Rejected votes *	8,323	6.69%	4,140	2.49%	-4.20%
Blank (no votes cast) **	0	0.00%	3,660	2.20%	2.20%

- \* "Rejected votes" refers to ballot papers where the vote has not been counted because the ballot paper has not been filled out correctly. This may be because the voter has marked more than one preference in one column, because the voter identified themselves on the ballot paper, if the voter's intention is unclear or if the voter has spoiled his or her paper in any way.
- \*\* "Blank votes" refers to ballot papers where no choice has been marked, and no vote has been counted. (This data is only available for 2008.)

## Combined results

Party	Votes 04	Votes 04%	Votes 08	Votes 08%	Votes % change
UK Independence Party	7,219	5.80%	3060	1.84%	-3.96%

<b>Party</b>	<b>Votes 04</b>	<b>Votes 04%</b>	<b>Votes 08</b>	<b>Votes 08%</b>	<b>Votes % change</b>
Green Party	10,762	8.65%	16874	10.14%	1.49%
Left List	**		1630	0.98%	
Conservative Party	51,884	41.70%	86651	52.08%	10.38%
The Labour Party	21,940	17.63%	35270	21.20%	3.57%
Independent	**		962	0.58%	
English Democrats	**		1858	1.12%	
Liberal Democrats	17,478	14.05%	15934	9.58%	-4.47%
Respect	4,825	3.88%	*		
Christian Peoples Alliance	1,993	1.60%	*		

- \* Party did not put forward a candidate in 2008
- \*\* Party did not put forward a candidate in 2004

## CITY & EAST Constituency assembly results

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Votes %</b>	<b>Majority</b>
John Biggs	The Labour Party	63,635	33.97%	31,553
Philip Briscoe	Conservative Party	32,082	17.12%	
Hanif Abdulmuhit	Respect (George Galloway)	26,760	14.28%	
Robert Bailey	British National Party	18,020	9.62%	
Rajonuddin Jalal	Liberal Democrats	13,724	7.33%	
Heather Finlay	Green Party	11,478	6.13%	
Thomas Conquest	Christian Peoples Alliance and Christian Party	7,306	3.90%	
Michael McGough	UK Independence Party	3,078	1.64%	

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Votes %</b>	<b>Majority</b>
Graham Kemp	National Front	2,350	1.25%	
Michael Gavan	Left List	2,274	1.21%	
John Griffiths	English Democrats	2,048	1.09%	
Julie Crawford	Independent	701	0.37%	

## Turnout and Technical Information

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2004%</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2008%</b>	<b>%difference</b>
Electorate	437,298		470,863		
Papers counted/turnout	146,196	33.43%	187,348	39.79%	6.36%
Good votes	130,909	89.54%	183,456	97.92%	8.38%
Rejected votes *	15,287	10.46%	3,892	2.08%	-8.38%
Blank (no votes cast) **	0	0.00%	2,698	1.44%	1.44%

- \* "Rejected votes" refers to ballot papers where the vote has not been counted because the ballot paper has not been filled out correctly. This may be because the voter has marked more than one preference in one column, because the voter identified themselves on the ballot paper, if the voter's intention is unclear or if the voter has spoiled his or her paper in any way.
- \*\* "Blank votes" refers to ballot papers where no choice has been marked, and no vote has been counted. (This data is only available for 2008.)

## Combined results

<b>Party</b>	<b>Votes 04</b>	<b>Votes 04%</b>	<b>Votes 08</b>	<b>Votes 08%</b>	<b>Votes % change</b>
British National Party	**		18020	9.62%	
UK Independence Party	17,997	12.31%	3078	1.64%	-10.67%
Green Party	8,687	5.94%	11478	6.13%	0.18%
Christian Peoples Alliance and Christian Party	**		7306	3.90%	

Party	Votes 04	Votes 04%	Votes 08	Votes 08%	Votes % change
Left List	**		2274	1.21%	
Conservative Party	23,749	16.24%	32082	17.12%	0.88%
The Labour Party	38,085	26.05%	63635	33.97%	7.92%
Independent	**		701	0.37%	
English Democrats	**		2048	1.09%	
Liberal Democrats	18,255	12.49%	13724	7.33%	-5.16%
National Front	**		2350	1.25%	
Respect (George Galloway)	**		26760	14.28%	
Respect	19,675	13.46%	*		
Christian Peoples Alliance	4,461	3.05%	*		

- \* Party did not put forward a candidate in 2008
- \*\* Party did not put forward a candidate in 2004

## Mayor results for West Central

Candidate name	Party	1st choice votes	1st choice %	2nd choice votes	Total votes
<a href="#">Boris Johnson</a>	Conservative Party	91,515	54.83%	16,068	0
<a href="#">Ken Livingstone</a>	The Labour Party	47,705	28.58%	16,889	0
<a href="#">Brian Paddick</a>	Liberal Democrats	13,829	8.29%	46,700	0
<a href="#">Siân Berry</a>	Green Party	5,438	3.26%	25,199	0
<a href="#">Richard Barnbrook</a>	British National Party	1,883	1.13%	5,128	0
<a href="#">Alan Craig</a>	Christian Peoples Alliance and Christian Party	1,591	0.95%	4,687	0
<a href="#">Gerard Batten</a>	UK Independence Party	912	0.55%	7,018	0
<a href="#">Lindsey German</a>	Left List	900	0.54%	2,111	0
<a href="#">Matt O'Connor</a>	English Democrats	426	0.26%	4,403	0

<b>Candidate name</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>1st choice votes</b>	<b>1st choice %</b>	<b>2nd choice votes</b>	<b>Total votes</b>
<a href="#">Winston McKenzie</a>	Independent	260	0.16%	3,007	0

## Mayor results for City and East

<b>Candidate name</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>1st choice votes</b>	<b>1st choice %</b>	<b>2nd choice votes</b>	<b>Total votes</b>
<a href="#">Ken Livingstone</a>	The Labour Party	94,921	50.61%	28,029	0
<a href="#">Boris Johnson</a>	Conservative Party	49,666	26.48%	21,177	0
<a href="#">Brian Paddick</a>	Liberal Democrats	12,724	6.78%	37,331	0
<a href="#">Richard Barnbrook</a>	British National Party	10,214	5.45%	11,986	0
<a href="#">Alan Craig</a>	Christian Peoples Alliance and Christian Party	4,906	2.62%	7,975	0
<a href="#">Siân Berry</a>	Green Party	4,817	2.57%	21,119	0
<a href="#">Gerard Batten</a>	UK Independence Party	1,916	1.02%	6,698	0
<a href="#">Lindsey German</a>	Left List	1,851	0.99%	4,099	0
<a href="#">Matt O'Connor</a>	English Democrats	882	0.47%	4,871	0
<a href="#">Winston McKenzie</a>	Independent	566	0.30%	2,861	0