

# Unite the Union

## Nottinghamshire Health Branch

### Autumn 2017



#### Welcome to your Unite the Union Newsletter

Unite the Union aims to build a fuller and more influential workplace organisation, including recruiting and training more Unite Reps within Unite's Nottinghamshire Health Branch.

#### Inside this issue

Report on June's Anti-austerity March  
Landmark legal ruling  
Unite Notts Health Branch Prize Winner  
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### Threatened closure of Chatsworth Rehabilitation Unit, Mansfield Community Hospital



Contrary to the governments pledge to deal with chronic under-investment, Chatsworth Rehabilitation Unit is facing closure. Its dedicated, skilled staff work to get patients with long-term neurological conditions to where they can live back in the community.

Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust claimed the need for this service is falling, claiming only 2-4 patients a month use the service. **Usually there are 10-12 patients in the ward needing this rehabilitation, with the rest of its 16 beds filled by patients with complex discharges.** The Trust say they can't recruit a specialist consultant. But they only offered 6-month

contracts to the consultant they had, who felt he had no choice but to seek more security elsewhere. **Why not recruit a permanent specialist?**

The Trust claims there are other services in the region. Linden Lodge (City Hospital Nottingham) doesn't have spare capacity. No other service is being offered to local patients if Chatsworth closes. Our NHS England region now extends from the Welsh Border to East Anglia.

If Chatsworth closes the future of Mansfield Community Hospital is in doubt. Saddled with massive debt to pay the PFI bill for the rebuilding of Kings Mill (£1 in every £6 the Trust spends) it wants to squeeze all services it can.

**Chatsworth staff, patients, former patients and their families, together with supporters have mounted a magnificent campaign fighting to save the service: 1000's have signed a petition to retain the specialist unit.** The Trust have cancelled the original closure date, agreed a neuro-rehabilitation service is needed, agreed that the Chatsworth team will not be broken up and that no disciplinary action will be taken against staff participating in the campaign.

#### **The fight to save Chatsworth continues—your solidarity is needed!**

Sign petitions.

Put #We Are All Chatsworth posters in your window/car/pub /workplace

Get a speaker from the campaign to your community centre/local group

Send messages of support to [weareallchatsworth17@gmail.com](mailto:weareallchatsworth17@gmail.com) Follow the campaign [@weareallchatsworth](https://twitter.com/weareallchatsworth)

### Retirement of long-serving NUH Staff Side member, Keith Miller

Many colleagues will know Keith Miller as a long-standing employee at NUH, with over 40 years' distinguished service. Keith was Unite's lead NUH representative and retired at the end of August. Among his many achievements, he leaves a legacy of dedicated service as NUH's Vice Chair (originally in 1997) and Chair (2002). During this time he over-saw closer partnership working between City and QMC, discussion on numerous HR policies, and the merger of both hospital Staff Sides in 2007.

His common sense, plain talking, well-reasoned arguments, and calm negotiation skills earned him high esteem from Staff Side and HR colleagues alike. Following his retirement, Keith will continue serving as an officer (currently Chair) of Unite Nottinghamshire Health Branch.



*We wish Keith all the best for a long and happy retirement*

Join online at [www.unitetheunion.org](http://www.unitetheunion.org)

## Fund the NHS: Anti-austerity march, Saturday 4th June 2017

Members from Unite Nottinghamshire Health Service Branch were amongst the many **tens of thousands** who gave up their Saturday to attend the **Anti-Austerity #Not One Day More** march through central London to Parliament Square.

For some it was their first time of protesting, but all shared a common cause and high level of motivation. While the event was carnival-like, the message was serious, in saying that **'enough is enough'** and that the governments' divisive policies and strangulation of public services must be brought to an end. Brexit and political turmoil brought about this year's cynical snap election have left uncertainty and bewilderment. But one thing has not changed: the Tory governments' relentless anti-austerity drive, started in 2008, defined by public service cuts. **The NHS is struggling due to imposed unrealistic savings.**



Government ministers stood shoulder to shoulder in praising the emergency services for their handling of recent major catastrophes, for selflessly protecting, saving and delivering care to those that needed it. But, at the time of going to press, it appears **the government is unlikely to lift the 1% pay cap** imposed on



health service staff in 2012, or to adequately fund the NHS. **Inflation is increasing and health sector pay is decreasing in real-terms.** Services are suffering, as evidenced by failures to hit the government's own targets.

The NHS trade body, **NHS Providers**, representing hospitals, mental health, community and ambulance services have called for a **cash injection of £200-350 million pounds to avoid a crisis this winter.**

There has been a sea-change among the general public, that there is an alternative to austerity, and its divisive and toxic effects. There is renewed impetus for change. Despite global economic and political uncertainty, the general public recognise and appreciate the importance of protecting the NHS. There is growing acceptance that this will only be achieved by adequately funding all facets of our world-esteemed NHS, even if this means changing national priorities.

### **Has Austerity affected You?**

Since introduction of the 1% pay cap in 2012 NHS pay has lagged behind increases in the cost of living. In 2015, the government extended the cap until 2019/20. NHS staff have seen a fall in their effective pay by up to 15%, and for some this has meant relying on increased borrowing, agency work, or taking on additional employment. Following the Conservative's poor performance at this year's election and the change in public sentiment, some government ministers signalled they were prepared to 'scrap the cap'. But the Chancellor, Phillip Hammond, reinforced his grip by claiming public sector employees are 'overpaid'. If you don't agree with the Chancellor's view, write to your MP and let them know **you're worth a pay rise!**

### **Nottinghamshire NHS Branch EM/NG32 Meetings**

Unite has more members than any other union in the UK.

Branch meetings are open to all Nottinghamshire NHS Branch members.

**Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month** (except August) at 6.15pm at Unite's Nottingham office, 3 Victoria Court, Kent Street, Nottingham NG1 3LZ

Hot food and tea/coffee is available. For catering arrangements, please inform the Branch Secretary, Jon Dale ([ng32secretary@gmail.com](mailto:ng32secretary@gmail.com), 07779 205101), in advance if attending. Please contact Jon to be included in future Branch email circulations.

It's *your* Branch. Have a say in how it is run by becoming an active member.

Join online at **[www.unitetheunion.org](http://www.unitetheunion.org)**

## Benefits of being a Unite member

Unite provides an extensive support system & range of **membership benefits from our affiliated companies** Including trade union and professional representation & protection at work; bargaining with your employer, as well as advice, information, guidance, support & information through the Care at Work scheme, training and education.

They also extend beyond the workplace including reduced rate holidays and airport parking.

*It's possible to 'earn' back your subscriptions from the savings you make in using our affiliated companies!*



### Unite Affiliated Companies

**Unite Legal Services** First class representation & advice at work. 24 hour legal helpline. For Terms & conditions please see the Unite website or ask at your local office

- **Unite Home insurance**
- **Unite Motor Insurance**
- **Unite Life Insurance**
- **Unite Mortgages**
- **Unite PPI refunds**
- **Unite Financial Services**
- **Unite Debt Advice** — free debt advisory service for Unite members

### Your local Unite reps

#### Nottingham University Hospital

**Andrew Clayworth** — Workplace Rep, Vice-Chair of Staff Side, NUH: [Andrew.Clayworth@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Andrew.Clayworth@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Neville Bernard** — Health and Safety Rep, NUH: [Neville.Bernard@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Neville.Bernard@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Fran Bond** — Workplace Rep, NUH: [Fran.Bond@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Fran.Bond@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Andrew Butters** — Workplace Rep, NUH: [Andrew.Butters@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Andrew.Butters@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Pamela Craft** — Workplace Rep, NUH: [Pamela.Craft@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Pamela.Craft@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Adam Dorsey** - Workplace Rep, NUH: [Adam.Dorsey@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Adam.Dorsey@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Andrew Harwood** — Health and Safety Rep, NUH: [Andrew.Harwood@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Andrew.Harwood@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Tony Karlonas** — Health and Safety Rep, NUH: [Tony.Karlonas@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Tony.Karlonas@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Jennifer Simmons** — Workplace rep

**Daniel Tomlinson** — Workplace Rep, NUH: [Daniel.Tomlinson@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Daniel.Tomlinson@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Patrick Vesey** — Workplace Rep, NUH: [Patrick.Vesey@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Patrick.Vesey@nuh.nhs.uk)

#### NUH Estates

**Matthew Button** — Workplace rep

**Wayne Smith** — Workplace rep

#### Nottingham Citycare Partnership

**Lisa Beard** - Workplace rep

**Jennifer Maxwell** — Workplace rep

**Elaine Hallam** — Workplace rep

#### Sherwood Forest Kingsmill Hospital

**Jonathan Cox** — Workplace rep

**Elizabeth McCormack** — Workplace rep

**Stephen Oliver** — Workplace rep

#### Skanska Rashleigh

**Cleveland Anderson** - Workplace rep

**Andrew Fernley** - Workplace rep

**Jeff Hancock** - Workplace rep

**Ian Prothero** - Workplace rep

#### Nottingham Healthcare NHS Trust

**Yusef Ali** — Workplace rep

**Alex Marks** — Workplace rep

**Jennifer Maxwell** — Workplace rep

**Sarah Stafford** — Workplace rep

**David Ward** — Workplace rep

**Lynne Worker** — Workplace rep

## UNITE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Unite offers a range of membership categories

**ENHANCED:** This is the category that most people opt for because it includes valuable protection for you and your family

**Full time** £3.50 per week (£15.71 per month)

**Part time** £1.83 per week (£7.93 per month) Upto 21 hours/week

**Low pay** £2.25 per week (£9.74 per month)

**BASIC:** Entitles you to core union benefits. No additional protection

**Full time** £3.25 per week (£14.06 per month)

**Part time** £1.70 per week (£7.37 per month) Upto 21 hours/week

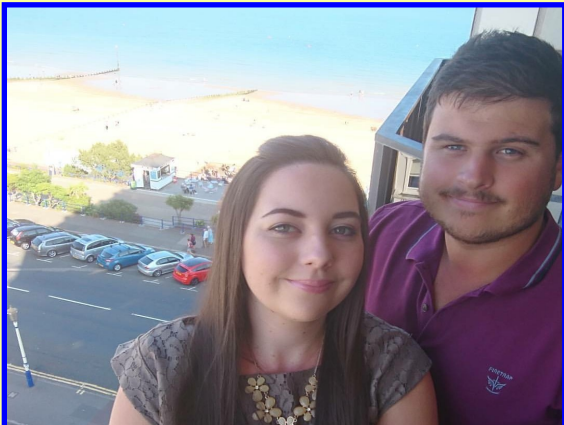
**Low pay** £2.00 per week (£8.66 per month)

**Special Rates for Apprentices & Low Paid staff** — visit the link below for more details, or speak to your Unite rep:  
<http://www.unitetheunion.org/growing-our-union/joinunite/>

**Contact Unite:** Unite the Union, 3 Victoria Court, Kent Street, Nottingham NG1 3LZ Tel: 0115 9476784

Join online at **[www.unitetheunion.org](http://www.unitetheunion.org)**





### Kate Robinson— Winner of Weekend Away Prize Draw

The lucky winner of a fabulous weekend away at The View Hotel Eastbourne, was **Kate Robinson**, Assistant Technical Officer at Sherwood Forest Hospital. The competition was open to all Nottinghamshire Branch members, to say thank you for switching to Direct Debit payment of monthly subscriptions.

Kate said '**Me and my fiancé had a brilliant time! The hotel was great and very modern. Breakfast and dinner in the restaurant was delicious, with lovely views overlooking the sea. We could not have asked for better weather either for a much needed break. The photo shows we had a wonderful view.**'

*Look out for future exclusive Prize Draws open to Unite Nottinghamshire Health Branch members*



### NHS 69th Birthday Celebrations at Kings Mill Hospital

Kings Mill Hospital's Unite lead rep, **Liz McCormack (Position in picture)**, was among staff celebrating the **NHS 69th Birthday** on 5th July. Unite Notts Health Branch provided bowls of fruit to staff to mark the event. Unite has more than 100,000 health service members and national officer, Sarah Carpenter, is leading a national campaign for a fully-funded NHS, to deliver safe and high-quality services to patients.

Let's make sure there really is something to celebrate.

**If you'd like to be involved in fighting to save our NHS**, contact a Unite rep or attend your Notts Health Branch meeting.

### Barts health staff take strike action against Serco

Unite is supporting low-paid, hard-working domestic, catering and portering staff employed by Serco at Barts Health NHS Trust. The dispute centres around staff requesting a 30p per hour pay increase and an end to job reductions at its London hospitals. Private contractor, Serco, won the £600m contract last year and made a profit of £82m in 2016.

### Supreme Court's momentous judgement: government's Employment Tribunal fees are illegal

The government introduced new Employment Tribunal fees in 2013, claiming that the fees were fair and affordable. In a momentous ruling, the Supreme Court overwhelmingly rejected the governments justification for introducing the new fees. The highest court in the land found the government had acted unlawfully by preventing access to justice and served to infringe our statutory rights. Moreover, the 2013 law 'failed to consider the public benefits flowing from the [tribunal] enforcement of rights which Parliament had conferred'. Consequently, the government's actions were destined to 'infringe constitutional rights'.

The judges also ruled that the fees were indirectly discriminatory against women. Government will refund all fees collected since introduction.

Nottinghamshire Health Branch is pleased to affiliate to

### Labour Research Department

The **Labour Research Department (LRD)** is an independent London-based research organisation providing detailed, high quality news and information to trade unionists. LRD was established 100 years ago, in 1917. LRD performs independent and commissioned research and analysis in employment-related areas, and via its expert legal affiliates, provide interpretation of legal cases and new legislation for union reps to assist their members. It is best known for publishing its annual **Employment Law book and specialist publications** that are indispensable to union reps.

By collecting and analysing data from a wide range of national and local sources, LRD has become an authority on Earnings and Pay, and inflation, and compiles monthly tables that are invaluable for union negotiations with employers. LRD provide national and international information about the trade union movement and campaigns that are impacting on our members, with the aim of achieving equity and justice.



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