

**Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole**

**Trades Union**

 **Council** 

*uniting the community*

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2015**

**[www.bcptuc.org](http://www.bcptuc.org)**

## Introduction

The Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Trades Union Council (BCP TUC) has continued throughout 2015 to consolidate its activities and finances in a number of key areas outlined in this report. Work is still being done to recruit more and more branches into the organisation, ensure decent attendance at meetings and to re-establish the trades council as the hub of union activity in the area, as well as linking with other organisations in the community as a way of spreading our values and influence beyond the workplace. Despite all the current constraints faced by the trade union movement and local activists, this annual report shows that steady progress is being made.

## Events

Throughout the year the trades council has either organised or supported a number of local events/activities:

**Holocaust Memorial Day** – For the past few years, members of the trades council have attended local events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January at the Lighthouse Centre for the Arts, Poole. The memorial day has been observed on January 27 – the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp – every year since it started in 2001 and commemorates not only the Holocaust but other genocides around the world.



**Tolpuddle Martyrs' Trail** – In March, the trades council was represented at the launch of a new interactive trail around Tolpuddle celebrating the martyrs and the campaign that secured their freedom.



## Tolpuddle Martyrs' Trail

Monday 30th March, 12 noon  
under the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Tree

You are invited to the launch of the new audio-visual trail of Tolpuddle. Narrated by Maxine Peake with performances by Dorset Equity actors, the trail guides visitors through the historic village.



The trail has been funded by:



**Workers' Memorial Day** – On 28 April 2015, the trades council laid a wreath at the war memorial in Bournemouth Gardens to commemorate all those who had died at work, under the banner: “Remember the dead, fight for the living”.



Trades Council members mark WMD in 2015

**Campaign for a Living Wage** – Throughout 2015, the trades council has continued to campaign in support of the living wage through the Living Wage for Dorset organisation. Over the year, a number of both local and national employers have signed up to the campaign.

Part of the campaign last year was to send a Living Wage pledge to all the candidates standing in the local constituencies ahead of the general election. Responses were received from a handful of Green, Lib Dem and Labour candidates – but unsurprisingly none of those who were actually elected were prepared to sign the pledge. According to the Dorset County Council, 1 in 4 Dorset workers earns less than the Living Wage. In 2014, 23% of workers in the whole of the UK were earning less than the Living Wage. In Christchurch the figure was 19%, in Poole it was 21%, but in Bournemouth the figure was 25%. Throughout the coming year, the campaign will seek to get more support and raise the profile of the issue with the general public.

**Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival** – As ever, the trades council had a presence at this year's event in July, with different members active on stalls, in workshops and stewarding the site.

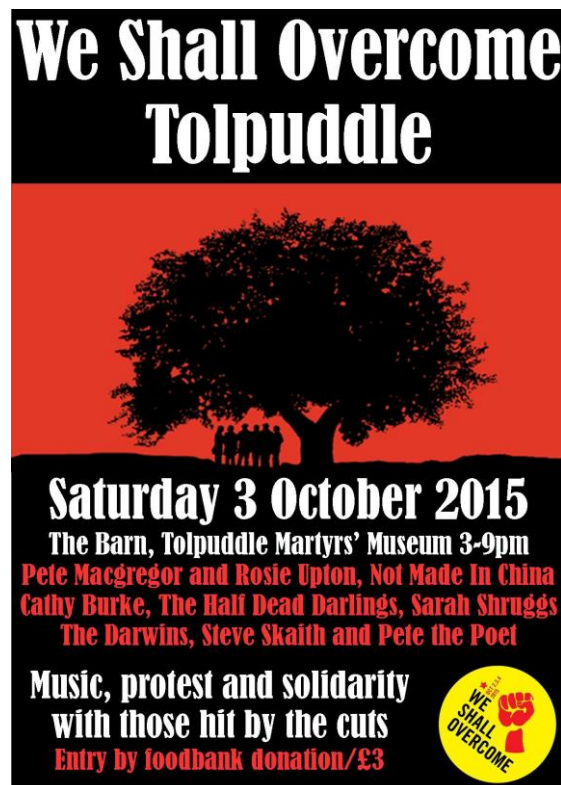


One of the many banners at the 2015 Tolpuddle Festival

**One World Festival** – The Dorset One World Festival is a free community event celebrating diversity in Dorset; founded by Khalique Miah to promote multiculturalism after he was the victim of a racist attack in the town. Last year, the Festival took place at the Borough Gardens in Dorchester; attracting over 3,000 people and the trades council had a successful stand at the event.



**We Shall Overcome** – The trades council sponsored and helped organise an event at new Barn on the site of the Tolpuddle Museum, as part of the We Shall Overcome musical movement that took place over the weekend of 2-4 October 2015. Funds were raised and sent to a local foodbank and homeless charity to show solidarity with those hit by austerity. It is hoped a similar event will take place in 2016.





**Dorset People's Assembly** – On 20 June, members of the trades council attended the national People's Assembly event in London. Throughout the year, the trades council has also supported the local Dorset People's Assembly and its activities. This important work will continue throughout 2016.



The head of the People's Assembly demo on 20 June 2015

**People's March for Climate Justice and Jobs** – On 28 November, members of the trades council supported the Bournemouth March for Climate Justice and Jobs, supported by Friends of the Earth and the Green Party.



**Trade Union Bill** – The trades council helped co-ordinate a public letter from local organisations in opposition to the government's Trade Union Bill currently going through Parliament. In a democracy, the right of people at work to be represented by a trade union is fundamental. Unions have a proud record of keeping workplaces safe, improving training, promoting equality at work, securing better pay and pensions and ensuring workers voices and concerns are heard by government – despite Britain already having some of the strictest trade union laws in Europe.

Under the proposals, unions that ballot for stoppages of work will need to meet new ballot thresholds that no government is elected by and have to submit details of what

they are planning to publish on social media to the police and employers, two weeks in advance or face a £20,000 fine. Those supervising striking workers will have to wear arm bands and carry a letter of authorisation and employers will be able to use untrained agency workers to come in and break the strike by undertaking the work.

The plans would break international labour laws and have been condemned by human rights organisations, employers and even Conservative MPs.



**Don't bomb Syria demo** – On 2 December, the trades council banner was present at the impromptu demo called by the Dorset People's Assembly in Bournemouth to oppose the pending decision by the UK Parliament to authorise the bombing of Syria. The event was well attended and achieved good local publicity.



**Affiliations**

This year, the trades council has received affiliations from the following branches:

CWU Bournemouth and Dorset Amalgamated Branch  
 FBU Dorset Branch  
 GMB Bournemouth B40 Branch  
 NUJ Bournemouth & Dorset Branch  
 RMT Dorset Rail Branch  
 UCU South Region Retired Members Branch  
 UNISON Bournemouth Local Government Branch  
 UNISON Dorset County Local Government Branch  
 UNISON Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospital Branch  
 UNISON Dorset Health Branch  
 UNITE Aerospace and Shipbuilding Branch  
 UNITE Siemens Branch  
 UNITE GPMU Branch

**Officers**

At the AGM in January 2015, the trades council elected four officers as follows:

President – Neil Duncan-Jordan (NUJ)  
 Secretary – Shelley Wilson (UNISON)  
 Treasurer – Steve Attwill (UNITE)  
 Vice President – Gareth Drinkwater (UNISON)

**Statement of Accounts 2015 (Unaudited)****Opening Balance:**

January 1 2015		<b>5952.14</b>
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**Income:**

		<b>1914.75</b>
Affiliations	717.75	
Fundraising	1197.00	
Donations	0.00	

**Expenditure:**

		<b>1132.97</b>
Living Wage Campaign	865.57	
Workers' Memorial Day	35.00	
Affiliations	0.00	
Donations	200.00	
Expenses	32.40	

**Closing Balance:**

December 31 2015		<b>6733.92</b>
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**Represented as:**

General Fund	6618.19
Dispute Fund	115.73

Increase in reserves for 2015:	781.78
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