

Unite Retired Members' Branch, Glasgow
Action Sub-Committee
8 November 2018

10 members present. Apologies were received from Ian Findlay and David Edwards.

Disputes: The disputes and strike action by teachers over pay, the Glasgow council workers over equal pay and the UCU members dispute were mentioned and it was felt that individual Branch members should be encouraged to join any demonstrations. It was further felt that Branch messages of solidarity should be considered.

Members were encouraged to join the Anti-Racist March and demonstration on Saturday 24th November: 10.30 for 11.00 starting on Glasgow Green.

Now that the Campaign for unchanged travel pass entitlement had been successful (at least for now), it was felt that attention should be switched to maintaining the free TV license for over 75s as there were strong indications that the BBC are considering raising the qualifying age to 80. It was felt that a demonstration outside the Glasgow BBC building should be considered in collaboration with the Scottish Pensioners Forum. It was agreed that Maureen Gardner should be approached to see whether the SPF had any such plans and whether they would be interested in a joint demonstration.

It was felt that the Branch discussion on efforts to save the Inchgreen dock at the last Branch meeting had been useful and that it was important that we were kept up-to-date on developments.

It was reported that David Edwards was looking at the continuing project to get Awards for All funding for Branch research on Glasgow's links to the slave trade and linkage with the experience in Liverpool.

It was suggested that a conducted walk around slave trade associated buildings, streets, memorials, etc. in Glasgow tailored to the physical abilities of retired members would be instructive and the Branch members should be asked who would be interested in such a walk, possibly led by Steven Nolan.

There had been a poor response to the call for members interested in further education courses, but, arising from suggestions, it was felt that a brief course on legal issues relevant to Retired Members would be useful. This could cover wills and the power of attorney, the Equality Act 2010 with particular attention to age discrimination, post Brexit legal implications, etc. David Paterson undertook to see whether the Union would consider such a course if numbers justified it

The STUC has responded to the proposal that members should take part in the Unions into Schools STUC project and a preliminary meeting has been organised for 19 January. Three members have volunteered so far.

Questions were asked about the Union's power switching offer which is, it is understood, to be a competitive energy package for members. It was agreed this should be brought up at the Branch and if Bernie Beagan would be willing to tell us about his experience with it.

Proposals for future speakers had been made at the last ASC meeting and it was pointed out that it was planned to have a speaker from the Fire Brigades Union at the January meeting where decisions could be made on future speakers.

A discussion took place on the difficulties of recruiting in the Gig economy and it was wondered how successful Brian Simpson had been in recruiting in the hospitality industry since he addressed the Branch and if our members could assist.

The next meeting will be on the third Thursday in January (17th) at 10.30am. This is to allow the Song Club to hold its session at 12.30pm.

Thankyou to Bill Newman for taking this minute.