

Summer 2016

# SOLIDARITY

*The quarterly newsletter of One Fund For All*

## ***Stand and Deliver!*** ***Agencies Commit Daylight Robbery*** ***Throughout the County***



***Modern Day Dick Turpin rides into Chesterfield representing the agencies that rip-off workers with bogus charges and insurances***

***Continued from page 1***

## ***Agency Work Rip-off—The Evidence***

Dick Turpin rode into Chesterfield on Monday 13 June at noon. Starting under the Crooked Spire in Rykneld Square and mounted on Black Bess; Dick Turpin loomed large over a gathering of Unite Community activists campaigning to highlight the activities of unscrupulous employment agencies. One of these agencies is based in Chesterfield. Unite the Union delivered evidence from workers at Sports Direct to a Parliamentary Committee concerning the deductions made from wages. Employees unable to open a bank account are clobbered with a £10 cost of being issued a charge card plus a monthly £10 administrative charge and 75p for every transaction with a 10p cost of a text to confirm.

‘The agencies - Best Connection and Transline—are committing daylight robbery here in Chesterfield’ said Luke Primorolo, Unite Regional Organiser with responsibility for Sports Direct at their Derbyshire HQ, ‘there is no excuse for their profiteering at the expense of vulnerable workers.’

The Union provided evidence of insurances deducted from wages taken without the workers consent. Agency workers are supposed to be temporary workers but Unite have seen many employees that have worked on Agency status for a long time, some as many as six years.

### **Government Gangmaster**

‘Colin Hampton, Unite Community Activist in North Derbyshire, said ‘What’s worse about this robbery is that it is encouraged by the Government. Most people on becoming unemployed are forced by the Department for Work and Pensions to sign up to at least two agencies in order to obtain benefits. The Government acts like a gangmaster, a recruiting sergeant for unscrupulous agencies profiteering, living off the earnings of sweated labour. Our first demand is that no one should be forced to join up to these firms for risk of not being able to obtain benefits.’ Colin went on to say, ‘They don’t have to worry about the quality of what they do because they have a ready supply of forced labour. There is real potential for corruption here.’

Following a meeting in Rykneld Square, where the singing of Stand and Deliver took place (see p3) Dick Turpin and Black Bess rode down in to the market place and up to the Glumangate HQ of Best Connection where he ‘robbed’ the workers outside their door.

### **Pay Back the Workers**

Unite the Union will use the opportunity to voice their demands. ‘In the first place the agencies need to be made to pay back the money that they have robbed from the workers. This is the back pay from the admission that they were paid less than the minimum wage. Next, the Gangmasters Licensing Authority should be extended across all sectors of the economy and a more vigorous licencing, regulatory and enforcement regime put in place,’ Luke Primorolo continued ‘and, most importantly, the use of agency workers should be more strictly governed to stop this abuse. Agency workers should be only used to cover exceptional peaks of work, or work of an unusual nature, and the length of assignment should be limited before workers are entitled to a permanent contract.’

The Chesterfield Unite Community branch will continue to monitor the situation and will lobby local MPs to push for the necessary changes in legislation.



I'm the dandy highwayman, who you're too scared to mention  
You spend your cash on signing up to us at Best Connection  
We devils take your money just for making a transaction  
You'll find it tough but we don't care cuz that was our intention

Stand and deliver, your money or your life  
We will make a killing on all your toil and strife

We're the dandy highwaymen, pimping for Mike Ashley  
We make our stash, steal your cash, hoping you act rashly  
So what's the point of robbery, and holding up the stages  
When all we do, is turn the screw and take it from your wages

Chorus repeat

We're the dandy highwaymen and we've loads of excuses  
Of free market philosophies where only migrants loses  
We're the dandy highwaymen and here's our intention  
Throw aspirations overboard and join our feckless nation

Chorus repeat

Even though we fool your souls your income will be mine

Get diddly squat squat squat  
Get diddly squat squat squat  
Chorus repeat



**Dick Turpin robs the workers coming out of Best Connection on Knifesmithgate**

## Campaigns

### Join Unite Community

Anyone can now join a union whether in work or not. People not in the workplace need to make their voices heard by coming together in their communities. Young and old, sick, disabled or carers—or maybe you are out of work and struggling with the system and feel you are on your own. Well YOU ARE NOT on your own. The North Derbyshire Unite Community Branch will help you work with others to raise issues of concern and there are lots of added benefits and services too.

[www.unitetheunion.org/communitybenefits](http://www.unitetheunion.org/communitybenefits)

The branch has been up and running for two years and has hit the headlines with a number of direct actions and campaigns. We started with a TENT TOWN protest against the despised Bedroom Tax when we camped in the centre of Chesterfield. Following local outcry regarding the hated Work Capability Assessment we organised a 'United Nations' raid on the Chesterfield Medical Assessment centre run by ATOS to highlight the human rights abuses taking place where the sick and disabled were being denied benefits as a result of their flawed assessments.



***Our UN investigator arrives with our troops outside the Lordsmill St Centre***

>>>



## Campaigns



We collected food in solidarity with the many now needing to use the local foodbanks but protested at the launch that only by coming together can we banish foodbanks to history.



In March this year we had our second Day of Action against Benefit Sanctions. Following our die-in outside Chesterfield Jobcentre where people lay in shrouds to represent the deaths and suicides caused by sanctions, we staged a tight-rope walk outside the Shirebrook JC+ . Our unemployed hero juggled his bills and rent whilst walking the tightrope of benefit sanctions trying to avoid falling into destitution.

The Branch has been at the forefront of the campaign against the exploitation of Sports Direct workers by the employer and the Agencies working on their behalf. Members of the branch attended the Sports Direct AGM and raised the many grievances and issues of the warehouse workers. Joined by Unite

Community members from Nottingham and Derby we staged a protest outside the Warehouse dressed in Victorian costume with a banner saying this is a Workhouse not a Workplace. This has been followed up by the 'Daylight Robbery' Dick Turpin activity in Chesterfield aimed at the agencies Best Connection and Transline that are ripping off workers through bank card charges and bogus insurances.

**Get Involved Join Unite Community today—see overleaf**

**News**

## **Forget–Me–Not Song to raise awareness for Action Mesothelioma Day**

This year Derbyshire Asbestos Support Team (DAST) will commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Action Mesothelioma Day.

Originally designated by the British Lung Foundation in 2006, Action Mesothelioma Day placed Mesothelioma, still a Cinderella cancer, on the public agenda. It is an important day which brings families together to remember loved ones and to reflect and celebrate life, as well as campaigning for **ACTION**.

Every year the Asbestos Support Groups' Forum, of which DAST is a founder member, develops a theme. This year it is to campaign for further research. There is much to be hopeful for; already this year has seen the UK host the International Mesothelioma Interest Group (iMig) in Birmingham. A prestigious meeting of scientists and clinicians from around the world 'working to understand, cure and prevent Mesothelioma'.

DAST's Action Mesothelioma Day event will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 from 11am – 1pm at the Quad in Derby. Speakers will include Dr Hadfield – Respiratory Consultant from Chesterfield Royal Hospital; Colin Smith, diagnosed with Mesothelioma, who, in his early working life, was exposed to asbestos through work. However, in the last five years of his working life he became an asbestos management consultant. Finally, David Lees, who will talk about self-compassion and mindfulness meditation.

The event will also debut "Forget-Me-Not" the words of which were written as a poem by DAST volunteer, Audrey Carlin. It has now been set to music by Simon Ball who will perform it on the day. The inspiration for the poem came from stories of hard working people whom DAST meet every day. It tells the life story of a joiner, who along with his mate, a plumber, are diagnosed with Mesothelioma. The song ends with a positive message about campaigning for their moral and human rights and research to prevent future ill-health.

The event will close with a period of contemplation and bubble demonstration to reflect on the lives of all those who have been made ill or died from mesothelioma.

DAST is also encouraging sponsorship of messages and welcomes Trade Union Branches or individual members to send a message on a "bubble". The messages, which will be hung on the "reflection tree" on Action Mesothelioma Day, can reflect on members who have died of the devastating cancer, Mesothelioma; a message of support for the day or a message about the Union's proactive approach to protecting today's workers. No minimum sponsorship is requested.

Please send messages to [Joanne.gordon@asbestossupport.co.uk](mailto:Joanne.gordon@asbestossupport.co.uk) or telephone DAST on 01246 380415 to ask for a message bubble.

**Action Mesothelioma Day, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016, Quad, Market Place, Cathedral Quarter, Derby, DE1 3AS 11am – 1.00pm.**

# Join Unite Community

**Tear off this page and send it in.**

**Please complete, place in envelope and send Freepost to: Freepost Plus RSCC-JGAL-GRJA, FAO Colin Stuart,  
Unite the Union, Unite House, 128 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8TN**

## About You

Surname

Forenames

Male ☐

Female ☐

Mr /Mrs /Ms /Miss

Date of Birth

Address

Postcode

Home Tel

Mobile Tel

Email

**Membership subscription is to paid by direct debit.**

**For assistance to open a bank account please contact [community@unitetheunion.org](mailto:community@unitetheunion.org)**

## Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by direct debit



Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Originator's Identification Number

9 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7

Membership Number (office use)

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Unite the union Direct Debit monthly from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Unite the union and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank Building Society.

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Branch Sort Code

Bank/Building Society account number

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account

I wish to pay monthly on 7th ☐ 14th ☐ 21st ☐ 28th ☐ or annually ☐



Please read Data Protection notice

You have the right at any time to stop us using your details for third party marketing purposes. If you do not wish us to communicate with you or share your contact data for these purposes, please tick this box ☐ Please note that this will preclude you from receiving our special offers or promotions.

I agree to abide by the Union's rules. I authorise the payments above.

Signature(s)

Date

## Where to get advice

<b>ALFRETON</b> Alfreton House High Street  Tuesday 9.00am—12.00pm Wed, Thur 9.00am-12.00pm 1.00pm-4.00pm	<b>BOLSOVER</b> Bainbridge Hall Carr Vale  Monday 1.30pm—4.0pm	<b>BRIMINGTON</b> Community Centre High Street  Monday 9.0am—12.0pm	<b>CLAY CROSS</b> Adult Education Centre Market Street  Monday 9.30am—12.30pm
<b>CLOWNE</b> 48 Mill Street  Tuesday 1.00pm—3.30pm	<b>CRESWELL</b> Limestone House Elmton Road  Thursday 1.00pm—3.30pm	<b>ECKINGTON</b> Business Centre Market Street  Monday 1.30pm—3.30pm	<b>GRASSMOOR</b> Community Centre New Street  Thursday 10.00am -12.00pm
<b>HASLAND</b> Unit 2 Penmore Business Centre, Hasland Road  Wednesday 1.30pm-3.30pm	<b>HEANOR</b> Salcare Ray Street  Friday 8.30am-12.30pm	<b>NORTH WINGFIELD</b> Community Resource Centre  Thursday 1.00pm-3.30pm	<b>PINXTON</b> Village Hall Kirkstead Road  Tuesday 1.00pm—3.30pm
<b>SOMERCOTES</b> Parish Hall Nottingham Road  Monday 1.30pm-4.00pm	<b>STAVELEY</b> Library  Mon and Thurs 9.30am—12.30pm	<b>CHESTERFIELD</b> 1 Rose Hill East  <b>Mon—Fri</b> <b>9.30am—1.00pm</b>  <b>01246 231441</b>	<b>SHIREBROOK</b> 44 Patchwork Row  <b>Mon—Thurs</b> <b>9.00am—11.30am</b>  <b>01623 748161</b>

## Help us Go Green!

If you are able to receive your issue of Solidarity via email, please send your address to:

[info@duwc.org.uk](mailto:info@duwc.org.uk)

For more regular updates you can follow us on Twitter [@derbyshireuwc](https://twitter.com/derbyshireuwc) and we also have a Facebook page.

## Don't Forget...

To remember Derbyshire One Fund For All in your will, or to ask for donations in lieu of flowers at your funeral.

Let our future be your legacy.

## If you should need the advice and representation services of DUWCs

### Welfare Rights Team:

Andrew Parkes  
[andrew.parkes@duwc.org.uk](mailto:andrew.parkes@duwc.org.uk)  
Glynn Power  
[glynn.power@duwc.org.uk](mailto:glynn.power@duwc.org.uk)  
Katrina Hudson  
[katrina.hudson@duwc.org.uk](mailto:katrina.hudson@duwc.org.uk)  
Tim Wilkinson  
[tim.wilkinson@duwc.org.uk](mailto:tim.wilkinson@duwc.org.uk)  
Justine Bark  
[justine.bark@duwc.org.uk](mailto:justine.bark@duwc.org.uk)  
Paul Marklew  
[paul.marklew@duwc.org.uk](mailto:paul.marklew@duwc.org.uk)

### Co-ordinator:

Colin Hampton  
[colin.hampton@duwc.org.uk](mailto:colin.hampton@duwc.org.uk)

### Administration:

Lynn Bagshaw  
[lynn.bagshaw@duwc.org.uk](mailto:lynn.bagshaw@duwc.org.uk)

Not forgetting our wonderful team of volunteers including Shirley Peirson

**Tel Chesterfield: 01246 231441**

**Tel Shirebrook: 01623 748161**

[info@duwc.org.uk](mailto:info@duwc.org.uk)

[www.duwc.org.uk](http://www.duwc.org.uk)