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More information and news

can be obtained from these websites. We suggest you have a browse.

UCU National Website:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk>

AgeUK: <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/>

68 is too late: www.68istoolate.org.uk

National Pensioners Convention (NPC):

<http://npcuk.org>

East Midlands NPC:

<http://leicesternpcgroup.btck.co.uk/>

Your branch has its own website at

<http://www.ucu-em-rmb.org.uk>

Follow your Branch on Twitter:

@ucu-em-rmb

Branch meeting Wednesday April 25th 2018

11.00 – 13.00
(Speaker at 12.00)

**Speaker: Matt Carr, author of
*Fortress Europe, on,
Small Island? Immigration & its
Discontents.***

The Gothic Warehouse,
Mill Road, Cromford, DE4 3RQ



USS Pensions Dispute – Stop Press

The main article in this newsletter was written before the UUK offer was made. Subsequently an offer was made, which was put to consultation, which closed at 2pm on Friday 13th April.

The result was as follows:

Total balloted: 53,415

Total votes cast: 33,973

Total number valid votes: 33,913

Turnout: 63.5%

Yes to accept the UUK offer 21,683 (64%)

No to reject the UUK offer 12,230 (36%)

This represents the highest turnout in any national ballot or consultation of any kind in UCU's history. In line with the decision of members the union will suspend its immediate industrial action plans **but keep our legal strike mandate live** until the agreement between UCU and UUK is noted by USS. More information can be found at www.ucu.org.uk/article/9429/UUK-proposal-and-letter-of-clarification and related web pages.

1. Update on the USS Industrial Action in pre-1992 Universities

We are sure that colleagues will have been keeping up with news of the successful action that has been taking place in more than 60 institutions. This has probably been the biggest sector-wide action in Higher Education ever. It is certainly the biggest that I can remember. So far, there have been 14 days of strike action, with more being planned. Working colleagues are now taking action short of a strike. You will be aware, no doubt, that the action so far has brought Universities UK, the employers' organisation, to the table at ACAS. It even brought a **marginally** improved offer, which was rejected following a meeting of branch representatives. Across the country branch meetings overwhelmingly rejected the employers' proposals.

We must congratulate our HE colleagues for the fight they have put up, through ice and snow, to defend their pensions. Our local Universities in Leicester, Loughborough and Nottingham have been at the forefront of the national struggle. Universities UK (UUK) has now recognised that the way that the USS is valued needs review. But UCU members have made it quite clear that what is needed is a much improved offer. Any review would need to enjoy the confidence of the sector or be doomed.

Sally Hunt, UCU General Secretary, has said, "UUK really need to work much harder to win the trust of university staff. We remain available for talks, but

what is really needed is a much improved offer which retains a decent, guaranteed pension income in retirement, and addresses our concerns about the valuation of the fund."

Alastair Jarvis, CEO of UUK has said in a published article: "I am personally truly sorry that the situation has reached this point. The time I do not spend seeking a solution, I spend in reflection on what could have been done differently to avoid this dispute that has done damage to students' academic experience and to the sector, which does such extraordinary, life-changing work." We have to ask him, as our Loughborough colleagues have done: "In that case why did Universities UK refuse to negotiate in the two months leading up to the strikes?"

We do not have the answer to this question, either. In the meantime, we understand that talks between UCU and UUK will continue but the chances are high of there being further strike action after Easter.

East Midlands RMB Committee Members have tried to do their bit to support the strike in many ways. Most visibly, a delegation visited the picket line at Nottingham. A visit to Loughborough was arranged but had to be postponed as this coincided with the branch needing to consider the proposal that had arisen from the ACAS talks. Twitter is now part of the branch's communication strategy (see separate article) and we have encouraged and will encourage members to donate to the fighting fund. We are in discussion with the Leicester and Loughborough branches concerning other ways in which we can assist. Watch this space.



UCU uses its fighting fund to support members involved in disputes, including the provision of strike pay where appropriate.

With the recent strikes in USS Universities over the attack on pensions, there are great demands on the fighting fund now and there will be in the near

future, especially with the likelihood of further action. As retired members, we have limited scope for supporting our working colleagues in practical ways. However, one thing that many (we appreciate not all) of us can do is to donate to the Fighting Fund.

Please go to: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/fightingfund> for more information and to donate. It will be very much appreciated, especially by those on part-time and precarious contracts.

Rob Kirkwood.

2. Pension news from Chris Mason.

Chris Mason, UCU Pensions Official addressed the February Branch meeting. Chris thought, from what he had heard, that the triple lock was likely to remain in place for the immediate future, partly because the government will want to see how the new flat rate state pension beds down and also because they didn't really have the parliamentary time to do anything about it. Eventually it probably will be replaced by some other mechanism, as yet unknown.

Defined Contribution (DC) pensions are really just savings schemes. A Collective DC (CDC) is designed to give 1/80 annual accruals income on retirement but this is not guaranteed – if there is a problem with performance it is the employees who are bearing the risk, not the employers. Royal Mail and the CWU are currently negotiating a CDC scheme because the CWU have agreed that the Defined Benefit scheme should close as it is in their interest for the RM to remain profitable so that they keep their jobs and this would be better than a DC plan. Such a scheme will require a change in the law but the Parliamentary Select Committee liked the scheme and the Pensions Minister said he was 'interested'. Chris described the CDC as being similar to an endowment plan, i.e relatively stable, but inferior to DB schemes.

On the issue of pension freedom, it now seems to be widely accepted that this change in the law was a mistake and it seems likely that the problems will be resolved by changes to the regulatory rules in the future. In the meantime, CDC members would still be permitted to take out their pensions as a lump sum.

Chris was able to reassure UCU members currently receiving a pension that their pensions would not be affected by any changes to the scheme. The TPS is underwritten by the government and the USS is still taking in more money than it is paying out.

The theoretical hole in the USS pension scheme is the result of the way the investment fund is valued. There is a difference between valuing it as a going concern and on liquidation – there would only be a problem if all the benefits due under the scheme had to be paid at the same time. Interestingly, given that interest rates are now rising, the method of valuation being used would show the USS to be in surplus in as little as 5 years time. This is probably why the universities are so keen to get rid of DB as quickly as possible. They don't like the current system because they have to show this 'deficit' on their balance sheets and that affects their ability to borrow. Some of the larger universities have huge reserves.

The current strike action is being well supported nationally and it seems that the employers have been taken aback by the level of support. A few of them are supportive of our case, e.g. Loughborough, Warwick and now Imperial College. Nationally, UCU has increased membership by about 3,000 during this action.

Helen Chester

3. The crisis in Adult Social Care

The crumbling of adult social care threatens to become an avalanche. A new report from the Nuffield Trust and The King's Fund think tanks has revealed satisfaction with social care services was 23% in 2017 and dissatisfaction increased by 6 percentage points to 41%. Responding to the findings, Cllr Linda Thomas, vice chair of the Local Government Association's (LGA) Community Wellbeing Board, said the increased dissatisfaction with social care services was the result of 'historic underfunding'. She continued: 'Government needs to provide genuinely new money to address immediate pressures as part of the £2.3 billion funding gap facing social care by 2020'.

The crisis was underlined by the recent National Audit Office report. One in 10 councils with social care obligations will have exhausted their reserves within the next three years if the current rate of expenditure continues. The NAO said a growing number of these councils were managing to balance their books only by using financial reserves to cover overspends on social care services. It estimates that 10% of single tier and county councils have less than three years' reserves left if they continue to deploy them at current rates, leaving them vulnerable to unexpected cost pressures and potential insolvency. "The pattern of growing overspends on services and dwindling

reserves exhibited by an increasing number of authorities is not sustainable over the long term". The NAO report estimates that authorities saw a reduction in centralised funding of 49.1% from 2010-11 to 2017-18, placing them under significant financial pressure if they were to continue fulfilling statutory duties. Despite the reduced services, many local authorities still overspend each year to foot the bill of social care for their area, the report concluded. Auditors found that total overspending on services by social care authorities in 2016-17 amounted to £1.023bn, depleting local government financial reserves at a phenomenal rate.

The problems of Adult Social Care are a direct consequence of Government cuts. But privatisation also plays a role. In 1979, 64% of residential and nursing home beds were still provided by local authorities or the NHS; by 2012 it was 6%. In the case of domiciliary care, 95% was directly provided by local authorities as late as 1993; by 2012 it was just 11%.

This is not some abstract ideological point: repeated studies showed that local government provision was better, trained and retained staff and, not coincidentally, paid staff more. The private sector appears to be in a fragile state which is not entirely due to lack of funding.

A [recent report by](#) the Competition and Markets Authority warned that some providers "may be carrying unsustainable levels of debt, and therefore may be at risk of financial distress". In the event of a financial failure, "there could be a risk of disruption to residents while local authorities step in to ensure continuity of care provision." Within the last few months, cracks have started to show at some of the country's biggest providers, some laden with high levels of debt thanks to a succession of not-so-careful owners. A recent study by healthcare analysts Lang Buisson found that [929 care homes](#), housing more than 30,000 older people, have closed in a decade, some for financial reasons and others due to serious failings in care.

[Research by consumer group Which?](#), ranking providers of homes for the over-65s by the percentage deemed inadequate or in need of improvement, shows that private equity backed firms are rated among the worst. HC-One was placed 32nd of 54, with 29% of the 98 homes included in the study deemed not good enough. Four Seasons was 43rd with 35%. Orchard Healthcare, owned by private equity group Alchemy Partners, came in 49th, with nearly 45% of its 44 homes providing care that was not satisfactory. This still leaves a mystery why the

notoriously non-altruistic private equity companies continue to invest.

When care home provider Southern Cross collapsed in 2011, residents of its 750 homes were put in jeopardy. The firm's former owner, the Blackstone private equity group, walked away with estimated profits of £500m, leaving cash-strapped local authorities to pick up the pieces. There have been examples where conglomerate owners run the care home section at a loss, then make loans at a very high rate of interest. When the care homes section implodes the conglomerate achieves priority debtor status and sells the buildings and the land to come away with a massive profit. An example of this is the failing [Four Seasons](#) care homes owned by Terra Firma, the investment vehicle of Guernsey-based financier Guy Hands. In a Deloitte-inspired scheme, revealed in the Paradise papers, it was envisaged a gigantic profit of £890m would be realised via costly loans.

At the risk of sounding like a Tory Minister, it's not just a case of chucking money at it! The whole of the care industry, both residential and domiciliary, needs putting back into the public sector.

[Julian Atkinson](#)

4. Cradle to Grave Conference, 10th February 2018

UCU's annual 'Cradle to Grave' conference took place recently at the TUC in Great Russell Street, London. This event has become a staple in the FE and HE calendar now and benefits from an excellent venue. 'Cradle to Grave' has changed character somewhat from its earlier years, when it was held in the Ambassadors Hotel, being nowadays more of a rally with a series of speakers and rather limited time for contributions from the floor; in the past it was a more intimate space for discussion and workshops on all aspects of post-16 education. It is sad that this side of things has become less to the fore, but there was still plenty of food for thought in the seminars and plenary sessions.

A major theme was the 'commodification' of education, raised by many contributors, beginning with the opening speaker, journalist Zoe Williams, who also supported the idea of a mass campaign to 'save education' along the same lines of the current battle over the NHS.

In the seminar - 'What kind of education do we



stand for' Gordon Marsden MP, Shadow Minister for FE. (and an historian by profession) was upfront in identifying the challenges we face from a hostile Conservative government and how Labour will offer an alternative vision for education across the sector. He spoke of the current "...chronic underfunding" of FE and the need to oppose the "neo-liberal consensus" with its "narrow, marketized approach" and instead to emphasise the role of "public good". Gordon sees education as a 'continuum' and of reviving the idea of Life-long learning and of a 'National Education Service'. Professor Kevin Orr later added to these points, particularly on the long-term squeeze on FE finances.

Diane Reay followed. Originally from a mining community, she worked as an inner city primary school teacher for 20 years prior to becoming Professor of Education at Cambridge. Her recently-published book *Miseducation*, tells how current policy is excluding working class learners and needs to be challenged. Diane pointed to the decline of social mobility with (for example) a glaring lack of working class and BAME learners in Oxbridge and Russell Group universities – an issue also passionately taken up by Kerhinde Andrews of Birmingham University later. Diane spoke of the "...generation of over-credentialed graduates", with around 60% of graduates in non-graduate jobs, including her own niece, with a First in Law and a £62,000 debt, but presently working in a shop. "Systemic change" is required.

In the final plenary, Simon Marginson (UCL) showed how the UK compared badly to other European states when it comes to funding education and Dr Faiza Shaheen, from the Centre for Labour and Social Studies, explained how a decade of austerity had left educators 'firefighting' to save what we can rather than expanding lifelong learning to match people's needs.

UCU general secretary Sally Hunt finished off with an account of how the current USS dispute arose from what Sally described as "...the worst offer I had seen in 20 years of negotiating for university and college staff." She went on to continue the attack on the marketisation of education and the reduction of learner/teacher relationship to a 'transaction'. Sally welcomed Gordon's earlier comments and praised Labour's 'transformative' approach to policy and for being the only party that saw FE as "...not just an apprenticeship factory", and promising to "press for detail" on the exact letter of Labour's plans.

So overall, a theme of a battle to save education in both HE and FE from the grip of 'market forces' but a recognition of the potential for this battle to take place and perhaps of turning the tide against decades of neo-liberal ideology.

[Duncan Harris and Judy Wills](#)

5. TUC Dying to Work campaign

In 2012 breast cancer victim Jacci Woodcock received a terminal diagnosis. Anticipating her employer would be empathetic and supportive, Jacci was horrified to find that when she approached her HR department she was instead being hounded on grounds of capability by her employer. They would simply have preferred her to no longer be there. However, like many with terminal illnesses Jacci was keen to carry on working for personal, therapeutic and financial reasons and asked her union, East Mids GMB, for support. Jacci and the GMB realised that the protections of the Equality Act were insufficient in themselves and the upshot of this was the TUC Dying to Work Campaign.

In brief, the campaign aims in the first instance to get employers to sign a Charter with recognised unions committing them to provide support, security, and peace of mind to employees with terminal conditions so that they can end their lives with dignity, have a degree of choice in how they manage this period, and make considered financial decisions. One key issue here is that employees under pressure to leave could lose death in service benefits. The hope is that those employers who sign the Charter will then agree to change policies and procedures appropriately. The final grail is to achieve amendments to the Equality Act itself. Currently certain conditions are automatically defined as a disability, a cancer diagnosis included, but of course employers can use the caveat of 'reasonable practicality' and their own capability procedures to avoid anything that they might

regard as inconvenient for them. The campaign therefore seeks to extend the Act to include specific provision for terminal illness.

The campaign to date has made good progress, though it's fair to say that so far the main momentum has been in this region. It has attracted the support of over 50 MP's, several health-related organisations and charities, and unions, including UCU. Several FE and HE institutions have signed up, alongside many other large public sector bodies and, perhaps crucially, some large employers such as E-on.

Members can find more details and materials from the dedicated website at www.dyingtowork.co.uk Packs and support can be obtained from the TUC Regional Office in Birmingham, where Lee Barron, Regional Sec is leading the campaign. 0121 236 4454.

Retired members who have maintained close relations with their working branches might want to help and cajole if those branches have not yet approached their employers to agree to the Charter. Members could also browse the website to determine whether their local MP has signed up as a supporter and, if not, ask them to do so. The campaign can also be helpfully raised at Trades Councils, Labour Party and so on.

Paul Wilkinson

6. Suffragettes remembered

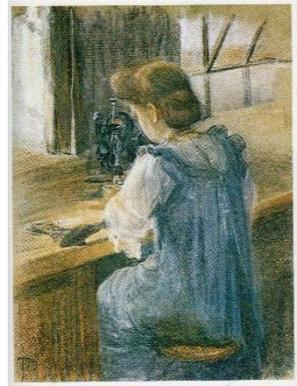


So, here we are 100 years later, celebrating the courage of our predecessors, who they were and what they did, on the anniversary of the "Representation of the People Act" February 1918. The Suffragette movement did not of course spring from nowhere but built on generations of feminist ideas in history. For example, in the sixteenth century Christine de Pizan wrote of a mythical city where women ceased to be excluded from education, deprived of power, or subject to male disapproval and calumny!

Likewise Mary Wolstoncraft and the women of the French revolution called for equal rights with men.

Some historians and academics also suggest that writings of women like Fanny Burney and Jane Austen raised topics such as the importance of education for girls and the expansion of literature as a profession for women.

In 1903, Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters got together with a small group of women in her house in Manchester to found "The Women's Social and Political Union" (WSPU) which campaigned for women's suffrage. The youngest daughter Sylvia, was an artist and had studied both in Manchester, London and abroad. She travelled around the UK visiting and painting pictures and portraits of women working in industry. In the East Midlands, this included Leicester, where she held meetings for the WSPU and painted the women at work in the shoe trade.



This one she did at the factory and is probably of Alice Hawkins.

Alice was born in Stafford in 1863. The family moved to Leicester where she left school at 13 to work as a shoe machinist. From her early teens, Alice realised that women's working conditions were inferior to men's. In her early twenties she started work at the Equity Shoe Factory which had been formed as a workers' co-operative that actively encouraged workers to participate in political organisations; for which they were even allowed time off when necessary.

She attended her first meeting of WASPU in 1907 in Hyde Park marching to the House of Commons to demand votes for women. Mounted police charged and Alice was arrested and imprisoned. She later served five other jail terms in Leicester and Holloway.

Following Sylvia Pankhurst's visit, the formation of the Leicester section of the WSPU was formed leading to her and her colleagues beginning a tireless campaign of speaking at factory gates, market squares and villages throughout the county and parts of Northamptonshire, urging women of all social backgrounds to support the cause. She was strongly supported by her husband Alfred, a committed socialist, who also attended many

political meetings, on occasions heckling Winston Churchill about votes for women asking him how he dare stand on a democratic platform? On one occasion in Leicester Market, a man shouted to Alice, "Get back to your family" to which she replied "But here is my family, they are here to support me". Alfred and their teenage children were standing by her side.

When the First World war broke out, Alice's time as a suffragette ended although after the war and for the rest of her life, she continued to support local trade unions and the labour movement. Nowadays she is much appreciated as part of the social history of Leicester. Her statue was recently unveiled in the city (although sadly it was made by a male artist).

Sylvia Pankhurst eventually split from her mother and sister over differences of opinion about their campaigning approach, especially after her sister Christabel apparently suggested she should set fire to Nottingham Castle in order to emulate the reformers of a century earlier!

Eventually the Great the Reform Bill of 1918 was passed and greeted in The Guardian editorial of the day, which stated: "The adoption of women's suffrage ... represents the greatest triumph in our day of a generous good sense" and "It will rest now largely with women themselves to develop all that is best in themselves and most helpful to the community" !

Ref:
<http://www.alicesuffragette.co.uk/alice-life.php>,
"Sylvia Pankhurst, Artist and Crusader" an intimate portrait by Richard Pankhurst.

[Judy Wills and Rowena Dawson](#)

7. 1918 - 2018 National Justice Museum (NJM) - Nottingham

Currently the NJM is showing an Exhibition called "A Right to Vote" which tells the story of the history of franchise in the UK. The main emphasis of the Exhibition is to mark the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918, which gave the vote to women for the first time - specifically women over 30, with property. If the vote had been given to women aged 21 - the voting age for men at the time - there would have been more women voters than men, as so many men of voting age had been lost in World War One.

The Exhibition explores the journey taken by national and local women in support of this cause.

The Exhibition tells the story of Suffragettes and Suffragists. Certain pioneers in the pursuit of "Votes for Women" are identified such as Dame Millicent Fawcett (1847 - 1929) who was also a great pioneer in promoting Education - for girls and women. She devoted her life to establishing equality for women. She was a co-founder of Newnham College, Cambridge. She started her own campaigns for equality when she was just 19 and continued her campaigns for the next 62 years. She led the all women Government Commission sent to South Africa after the Boer War to investigate why so many women and children had died in the Concentration Camps established by Lord Kitchener. Approximately 27,000 women and children had died. Most of them had died of typhus. Millicent Fawcett immediately set to work establishing better hygiene facilities and getting far more nurses in attendance.

The Fawcett Society and The Women's Library were set up in 1926, to promote the education of women. This became the The Fawcett Library in 1957 and moved to the London School of Economics in 2013.



Dame Millicent Fawcett

The NJM also identifies some of the anti- suffrage members, such as Lord Curzon - of Kedleston - who was a co-founder of the anti- women's suffrage league (WNASL) set up to oppose women being granted the parliamentary franchise. He was against the idea of women voting as he believed, "It might lead to the disruption and even to the ruin of the Empire"...

Another pioneering woman identified at the NJM Exhibition is Dame Ethel Smyth (1858- 1944) - musician and composer, a contemporary of Brahms whilst studying music at Leipzig. She was determined to be a composer but she decided to put her own career on hold in pursuit of women's suffrage. She took direct action for the cause, was arrested and sent to Holloway Prison, where, when her friend Sir Thomas Beecham came to visit her, he found her conducting her well known anthem

"March of the Women" with a toothbrush, from the bars of her prison cell, to prisoners exercising in the yard. Her other compositions have not received the same sort of recognition as the pieces composed by her male contemporaries.

These two women were pioneers of Women's Franchise and Women's Education. The Fawcett Society, in this Centenary Year of 2018, is standing together for the rejection of misogyny, violence and sexism and is demanding change, whilst taking this year as an opportunity to remember the suffrage campaigners of the past and their struggle over many years - including women's right to vote. Their persistence in spite of many barriers and setbacks also became a need to inspire future generations. The Fawcett Society stands for stronger gender equality and is continuing to work to achieve this.

The NJM free exhibition flags up the need for equality and the need to continue to debate issues about who else should have the right to vote today - such as 16 year olds, refugees, prisoners... An exhibition that addresses the sacrifices pioneering individuals have taken and an exhibition that addresses current issues affecting "A Right to Vote". Go along, take your family, friends and grand- children to have a look at this exhibition. It will be at the NJM until 24th June.

[Rosemarie Nightingale](#)

8. Anti-Union dirty tricks at Coventry

[Support your colleagues facing anti-union dirty tricks at Coventry.](#)

For most of us union recognition and the right to have your union negotiate with your employer is something we take for granted. Too often our employers try to evade this responsibility, but they rarely attack it outright.

Your colleagues in the Coventry University (CU) Group are on the sharp end of some of the most disgusting anti-union behaviour ever seen in our sector and they need our help.

The CU Group is a wholly owned subsidiary company of Coventry University. Staff teach higher education on cheaper degree courses, in return for which they are paid less than their university colleagues, they have inferior terms and conditions, heavier workloads and no proper occupational pension scheme. They are also barred from having an independent union to represent them.

They've been campaigning for UCU to be recognised for the last year and now they have more than enough support to win statutory recognition. But on 8 March, their employer revealed that, without their knowledge, it had registered its staff association, the Staff Consultative Group, as a union and signed a recognition agreement with it.

This 'Staff Consultative Group' is not an independent trade union but a 'listed' company union. It has no support from staff. But because of a loophole in trade union law, it is now impossible for UCU to lodge an application for statutory recognition.

This was no accident. It was a deliberate and planned move to deny UCU access to statutory recognition. CU Group board meeting minutes obtained through freedom of information requests, show that the group considered this as a way of preventing the union from applying for recognition in March 2016.

It was a grubby, secret stitch up.

UCU will not sit back and let Coventry University behave in this shameful way. Our members there need our support.

[Please sign the petition here.](#)

Those of you on Twitter, please tweet the University at @covcampus using the hashtag #CovUniShame and call on them to stop the union busting and recognise UCU properly.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

[Sally Hunt, UCU general secretary](#)

9. UCU EM RMB takes up Twitter

It became clear very early on in the USS strike action that Twitter (and other social media) were vital tools in communicating what was happening within the Union and further afield. It was about time your branch was part of it, if only to make UCU's voice even louder. Hence @ucu_em_rmb was born. If you use Twitter, you will understand that we now have our own Twitter account. We have spent a lot of time following our local branches, who have been taking action: @UoNUCU, @LboroUCU and @leicesterucu, as well as some others and (a special favourite of mine) The Dinosaur of Solidarity, @of_solidarity, who is dedicated to "Trying hard to protect the future of USS Pensions." Who isn't?

Please start to use Twitter, if only for this. It has made intra-UCU communication so much quicker and helped foster a feeling of solidarity between our striking members. It has also provided a great deal of entertainment.

Another feature of Twitter, is that one can, serendipitously, find gems of advice and insight, such as these, extracted from a tweet from @NEGSaunders about the action:

- I was SO much more tired than I recognised.
- Structures CAN be challenged effectively.
- Twitter is awesome for sharing important information quickly.
- I really want a Dinosaur of Solidarity suit!
- More about pensions than I hoped to need to know at my age.
- The world won't end if I don't answer emails right away.
- I have a lot of really awesome colleagues all across the university and the country.

Rob Kirkwood

10. UCU Retired Members Branch

Our branch has been meeting since 2008 and now has over 300 members. Our aims are listed below. We meet three times a year, often in places of interest to make part of a day out. Meetings focus on important issues for UCU pensioners and provide a chance to talk with other retired members.

A termly newsletter with articles of interest to retired UCU members is e-mailed to all branch members for whom we have addresses and to UCU branch secretaries in the East Midlands and to other RMBs.

Please let us have your personal e-mail address and let us know if it changes.

RMB Roles and Functions

- To represent the interests of retired members within the union.
- To represent the interests of retired union members within the wider union and pensioner movements.
- To provide a forum within the union for retired members to come together to consider and debate matters of mutual interest.
- To provide a resource of collective memory, advice and expertise in support of the union, in particular to those still in active employment.
- To provide active support, where appropriate, by involving the broadest section of the branch in support of the wider interests of the union and its members, including support for those still in active employment.

For more information

please contact Julian Atkinson

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telephone: 01773 532105

website: www.ucu-em-rmb.org.uk

twitter: @ucu-em-rmb

East Midlands Branch officers and committee

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East Midlands regional UCU committee
representatives: Brian Hambidge, Rob Kirkwood