

BARNSELEY BRANCH NEWS

PROTESTS WILL GREET TORIES' SPENDING ANNOUNCEMENT

The GMB along with other trade unionists and campaigners are planning demonstrations on the 20th October in Barnsley and 23rd October in Sheffield to show our opposition to Tory spending cuts.

The Tories comprehensive spending review is being unleashed on 20 October. The government's cuts package will devastate public services, jobs and the lives of the poorest.

"We want to show the widespread opposition to the cuts," said GMB Branch Secretary Henry Rajch "The more people who join us the better. In Barnsley the cuts will have a devastating effect. We need to organise our opposition and work with others in a joint fightback".

The Wednesday October 20th protest called by Barnsley TUC starts in Barnsley Pedestrian Precinct at 12.00.

The Saturday October 23rd Demonstration meets outside Sheffield Town Hall at 12.30pm with GMB Regional Secretary Tim Roache among the speakers.

The economic crisis for which we are paying the price was caused by greedy bankers and their recklessness. There are alternatives to cuts. For instance, every year it is estimated more than £120 billion in tax is evaded by the rich. We must force the Tories to find alternatives to the horrific policies they plan to impose upon us.

If you are ever called into a meeting with management regarding your attendance or on a disciplinary matter, we recommend you always take a GMB representative with you.

Branch Contacts

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BRANCH MEETINGS

We now meet at
The Metrodome Barnsley
5.00pm
8th Nov and 6th Dec 2010

Then in 2011

10th Jan 7th Feb 7th Mar
4th Apr 9th May 6th June
4th July 1st Aug 5th Sept
3rd Oct

**All GMB B12 Branch Members
are welcome to these meetings**

COUNCIL CUTS MEETING

**Monday
OCTOBER 25th
4.30pm
BARNSELEY LIBRARY**

**All BMBC staff who are
GMB members or not in a
trade union are invited to
this meeting to discuss
the cuts to services and
jobs in Barnsley.**

NON UNION MEMBERS

**You really do need to be in the
GMB – JOIN NOW
Contact the Barnsley Branch
Office at**

**9 Regent St
Barnsley
S70 2EG
01226 772980
07570 873442**

London Demo Against Racism - free coach seats for GMB members

A national demonstration against racism, fascism and Islamophobia takes place on **Saturday 6 November** in central London.

The demo has been called by Unite Against Fascism and is backed by the TUC.

A coach for the demo leaves Barnsley at 7.30am and we have reserved seats.

If you would like to go ring 01226 772980 and we'll send you tickets

Millionaire Tories' war on poor

The Tories have said they are sharing the pain of the cuts and targeting the better off.

Yet recent changes to child benefit will see an average of £93 a week taken from 50,000 unemployed families.

The Tories are the real scroungers. George Osborne, the man leading the assault, is worth £4.3 million and lives off a trust fund generating a fortune every year for doing nothing.

He will inherit a knighthood from his father Sir Peter, the 17th Baronet of Ballentaylor, and is the heir to the Osborne & Little £90-a-roll wallpaper company

GMB MEMBER'S DETAILS

To make sure we meet legal requirements when holding ballots would you kindly let us know if you move home or change your name. Thank you

LOCAL GOV. PENSIONS UNDER ATTACK

Lord John Hutton has published an interim report into public sector pensions. Hutton's 176 page report makes these key recommendations:

- Increase the percentage of pay workers contribute towards their pensions
- Raise the retirement age
- Scrap the final salary pension scheme
- Create a "new model" for public sector pensions

Hutton admits that the average public sector pension is far lower than media hype suggests and is far from gold plated.

Women working in local government can expect an average annual pension of a shocking £1,600. They are expected to spend their retirement living on a pension from work of less than £5 a day.

Recent government changes to the way annual pension increases are calculated has lowered what workers can expect to receive when they retire. Annual pension increases are now based on the Consumer Price Index rate of inflation (CPI)—which excludes housing costs—rather than the Retail Price Index (RPI)

Hutton talks of people "living longer" as though that is a terrible problem – this is a disgrace. We should celebrate it. Council manual workers though are still only predicted to live until the age of 65 – meaning they're likely to die before they get any pension whatsoever.

There is no "Black hole" in our pension scheme. SYPA hold assets of £120 billion.

And the argument that public sector pensions are too inflated compared to private sector pensions is not a reason for lowering them—it is a reason for improving pension provision for private sector workers'.

Our message to the government is -

**We cannot afford to pay more
We do not accept ending our Final Salary Pensions
We will not "Work till we drop"**

GMB LEARNING CENTRE FOR SMITHIES DEPOT

Representatives of the GMB Barnsley Branch are currently in talks with Barnsley Council to arrange the opening of a Learning Centre at Smithies Lane Depot.

The GMB will provide the computers and training staff while the Council will make a room available.

Initially computer courses will be set up for complete beginners to more advanced ECDL type classes but it's hoped as more take part other courses can be organised

Join online at www.gmb.org.uk/join