

SUMMER 2023  
EDITION

ISSUE 2

# Solidarity

The One Fund For All Newsletter

## DERBYSHIRE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' CENTRES ANNIVERSARY BASH



Saturday July 15th, 2023  
1:00pm onward  
Chesterfield Labour Club  
Indian Food from 2pm-4pm (with vegan options)

Past and present volunteers, trustees, workers and supporters of the DUWC are invited to celebrate our 40th Anniversary at our Summer Social!

RSVP to [colin.hampton@duwc.org.uk](mailto:colin.hampton@duwc.org.uk)

## Solidarity Highlights

DUWC's 40th  
Anniversary  
Celebrations

Support for Former  
Mineworkers

Holiday Hunger  
Campaign

DAST: Action  
Mesothelioma Day

Where to Access  
Our Advice and  
Support



01246 231441

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

JOIN DUWC'S  
CELEBRATIONS TO  
MARK 40 YEARS OF  
SERVICE

## DUWC CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANIVERSARY

On June 28th Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centres (DUWC), along with the Derbyshire Law Centre, Links CVS, and DAST (Derbyshire Asbestos Support Team) threw its doors open for an open day to formally mark the 40th anniversary of the Centres.

Since 1983, we've been supporting local people and we are proud to still be fighting for your voices, 40 years down the line. The first centre was established in Chesterfield in 1983, after work carried out by trade unionists in the area, and a Portakabin on the doughnut roundabout was the first building occupied by the group, who quickly established themselves as the first independent advice centre in the town. A fine reputation was soon gained by Gordon Smith, Marian Brooks, and Doug Herring, who helped support the many people put out of work by the policies pursued in the 1980s, and the subsequent pit closure programme. Colin Hampton was appointed Coordinator in January 1985 and remains in post today.

Since 1983, much has changed, but DUWC's core mission of supporting local people and fighting for their voices to be heard remains the same. Now, arguably more than ever, our service is relied upon by thousands of people from Chesterfield, Bolsover, North-East Derbyshire, and Amber Valley.



### DUWC COORDINATOR COLIN HAMPTON:

"THE PEOPLE WHO SET UP THIS ORGANISATION IN THE EARLY 1980S NEVER ENVISAGED THAT IT WOULD STILL BE NEEDED FORTY YEARS LATER. ALTHOUGH THE PROBLEMS ARE DIFFERENT TODAY, OUR OFFICES ARE STILL FULL OF PEOPLE NEEDING HELP AND ADVICE TO NAVIGATE THE COMPLEX BENEFITS SYSTEM, AND MAXIMISE THEIR INCOMES THROUGH THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.



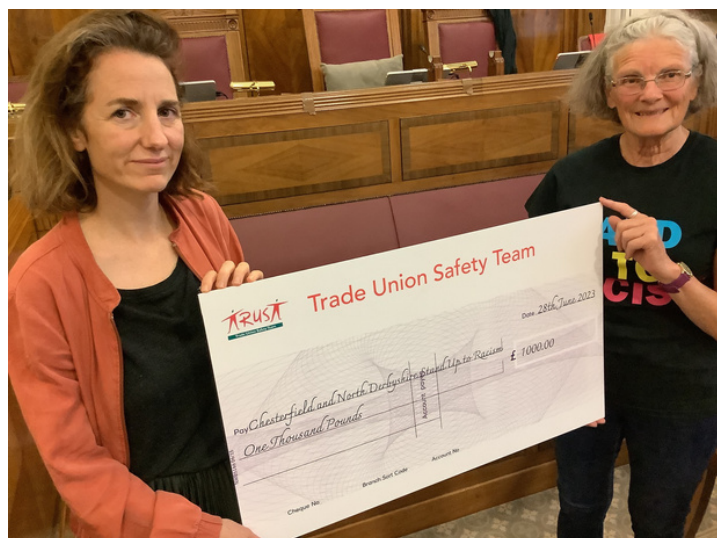
## DUWC CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The open day was a huge success, attended by staff, volunteers, trustees and local supporters, including a number of councillors and key decision makers from across the region.

Visitors could speak with current advisors to learn more about the welfare rights advice we provide, and browse our exhibitions to see 40 years of history in action.

At 3pm, Assistant General Secretary of the TUC Katie Bell unveiled our mural, charting DUWC's incredible history. The mural will now be on permanent display in the Chesterfield office for anyone to see. We also have a number of smaller versions of the mural, which will be sent out to DUWC outreaches so that everyone across the area can appreciate the wonderful history of the organisation.

After the open day had concluded, Kate Bell delivered the annual John Knight Memorial Lecture in the Chesterfield Town Hall. Kate spoke about the work she does at the TUC and how TUC campaigns can be strengthened by working with community based organisations such as TRUST and the DUWC. Following the lecture, Kate handed out the John Knight Memorial Award of £1,000 to Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Stand Up to Racism group who have done so much to support refugees and fight racism over the past twelve months.



TRUST COORDINATOR JEREMY HAGUE:

KATE'S THEME OF THE BENEFITS OF COLLECTIVE ACTION AND THE NEED FOR A GROWING AND DIVERSE UNION MEMBERSHIP WAS A WORTHY LEGACY TO THE REASON WHY THE TRADE UNION SAFETY TEAM (TRUST) WAS SET UP BY JOHN KNIGHT.

## DUWC CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

To round off the 40th anniversary celebrations, DUWC are hosting a Summer social event, open to all past and present volunteers, supporters, staff and trustees. Partners and families are also welcome! If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Colin via [colin.hampton@duwc.org.uk](mailto:colin.hampton@duwc.org.uk)

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## SUPPORT FOR FORMER MINEWORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

As previously reported, DUWC has been awarded a grant of nearly £40,000 by CISWO—the Coal Mining Charity—to enable us to support former mineworkers and their families across Derbyshire and maximize their incomes during the ongoing cost of living crisis. We are focusing particularly on Attendance Allowance - a non-means tested benefit which many former mineworkers would qualify for.

We have already made good inroads with former mineworkers, and are keen to ensure that we reach as many affected people as possible, so please share this information with anyone you feel may qualify. Matt Hunt (bottom right), DUWC Assistant Coordinator spoke recently to Bolsover District Council's TV Channel at Pleasley Pit to spread the word.



**DERBYSHIRE UNEMPLOYED  
WORKERS' CENTRES**

### EX-MINERS & FAMILY MEMBERS

- Have you reached state pension age?
- Have you had a health condition for at least 6 months?

If you are not currently claiming Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment you may be entitled to **Attendance Allowance**

**Attendance Allowance is worth more than £60 a week and is not means tested, nor affected by income or savings.**

#### CONTACT DUWC:

01246 231441

MON—FRI, 8.00AM–4.00PM

EMAIL [INFO@DUWC.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@DUWC.ORG.UK)

DUWC IS FUNDED BY THE NORTH  
DERBYSHIRE MINER'S WELFARE  
TRUST



**ciswo**  
THE COAL MINING CHARITY

#### DUWC ASSISTANT CO-ORDINATOR MATT HUNT:

ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE IS A MASSIVELY UNDER-CLAIMED BENEFIT ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF FORMER MINEWORKERS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE ENTITLEMENT. OUR MISSION OVER THE COMING MONTHS IS TO REACH THESE INDIVIDUALS AND MAXIMISE THEIR INCOMES.



## HOLIDAY HUNGER CAMPAIGN

As the Summer holidays approach, and the cost of living crisis shows no signs of abating, the issue of Holiday Hunger is once again on the agenda for many families.

Though some children from low-income families can access free school meals during term time, there is not an equivalent widespread service available in the holiday period. The real-term value of benefits is 6% lower than before the pandemic, and wages have stagnated, all while the inflation rate for food and drink has rocketed to 18.3%, making even the essentials a challenge for thousands across Derbyshire.

Without the guarantee of one cooked meal a day, children across the country face a summer of struggle and malnutrition. Holiday Hunger has knock-on effects for families, such as social isolation, as they are unable to enjoy the time off together and do family activities like others. Low-income children will come back to school at a disadvantage to their peers, as evidence shows they will have difficulty concentrating and following lessons.

DUWC will be taking this issue up over the Summer period, campaigning for better provision for low-income families. Unfortunately, this is not the first time we have campaigned on this issue, but we will continue to stand up for vulnerable families in the region.



## DAST ACTION MESOTHELIOMA DAY ON FRIDAY JULY 7TH!

The Derbyshire Asbestos Support Team (DAST) are holding Action Mesothelioma Day on Friday 7th July. Here's how you can take part.

On Friday 7th July, you can mail in a picture/video of yourself holding a few words about what Meso means to you, so that we can flood our social media with blue on the day. You can also consider making a donation. All proceeds will be split between DAST and the June Hancock Mesothelioma Research. You can find more information by contacting DAST's fundraiser Maggie Braley via [Funding.officer@dast.org.uk](mailto:Funding.officer@dast.org.uk).



On the same day you are invited to join DAST on an informal meet at the National Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire. Members of the DAST team will be there to greet you when the site opens at 10am - look out for the big blue umbrella! Remember to wear blue! Please let us know if you are planning to come by emailing Imogen at [admin.assistant@dast.org.uk](mailto:admin.assistant@dast.org.uk) or telephoning 01246 380415. We will then be able to send out further information on our plans for the day.

Entry to the National Arboretum is free, but parking is charged and there are also charges for activities such as the land-train. You can reserve a place via the website <https://www.thenma.org.uk/> or by phone 01283 245 100. If you cannot access transport for the day for whatever reason please let us know.

**JOIN THE DAST TEAM ON ACTION MESOTHELIOMA DAY, FRIDAY 7 JULY**

**Be Bold Wear Blue Day!**  
plus  
**Meeting at the National Arboretum, Staffordshire**



EMAIL IMOGEN AT [ADMIN.ASSISTANT@DAST.ORG.UK](mailto:ADMIN.ASSISTANT@DAST.ORG.UK)

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE SHARED BETWEEN DERBYSHIRE ASBESTOS SUPPORT TEAM AND THE JUNE HANCOCK MESOTHELIOMA RESEARCH FUND

<b>Alfreton</b> Alfreton House, High Street	<b>Belper</b> Strutt Centre, Derby Road	<b>Bolsover</b> Bolsover Library, Church Street
<b>Brimington</b> Community Centre, High Street	<b>Clay Cross</b> Social Centre, Market Street	<b>Clowne</b> Community Centre, Recreation Close
<b>Cresswell</b> Limestone House, Elmtun Road	<b>Eckington,</b> Business Centre, Market Street	<b>Grassmoor</b> Community Centre, New Street
<b>Hasland</b> Working Men's Club	<b>Heanor</b> Buxton Rooms, Town Hall	<b>New Houghton</b> Community Hub, Rotherham Road
<b>North Wingfield</b> Community Centre	<b>Pinxton</b> Chruch Hall, Kirkstead Road	<b>Shirebrook</b> 54 Patchwork Row
<b>Somercotes</b> Parish Hall, Nottingham Road	<b>South Normanton</b> Food Bank, St Michael's Church	<b>Staveley</b> Library, Hall Lane

**For a full list of  
our opening  
times, please  
visit our  
website at:  
[duwc.org.uk/ne  
arest-office](https://duwc.org.uk/nearest-office) or  
call us on  
**01246 231441****



**CHESTERFIELD**  
1 Rose Hill East  
Mon—Fri  
9.30am—1.00pm

Call  
01246 231441  
Mon-Fri  
8.00 am—4.00pm

**COORDINATOR**

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

**ASSISTANT COORDINATOR**

Matt Hunt  
[Matthew.hunt@duwc.org.uk](mailto:Matthew.hunt@duwc.org.uk)