



BRISTOL TRADES UNION COUNCIL

Founded 1873

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE 2022 AGM ON
WEDNESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY





BRISTOL TRADES UNION COUNCIL
(Founded 1873)

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2022

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	SHEILA CAFFREY	NEU
VICE PRESIDENT	SUZY CHEEKE	UCU
TREASURER	TOM MEWIES	PCS
SECRETARY	SIMON CREW	UNITE
EQUALITIES	SOFY CREW	UNITE
COMMUNICATIONS	ALEX KEMPSHALL	UNITE

EXECUTIVE

SHEILA CAFFREY	NEU
SUZY CHEEKE	UCU
SIMON CREW	UNITE
SOFY CREW	UNITE
IAN FLOWER	USDAW
ALEX KEMPSHALL	UNITE
HUGH KIRKBRIDE	UNITE
MIKE LUFF	UNITE
BRIAN MEAD	UNITE
TOM MEWIES	PCS
ROGER THOMAS	PCS

AFFILIATED UNIONS AND BRANCHES

ASLEF BRISTOL
CWU BRISTOL & DISTRICT AMAL
FBU SOUTH WEST
GMB AVON AND WESSEX
GMB BRISTOL WATER
GMB WALES & SOUTH WEST REGION
GMB WESSEX WATER
NEU BRISTOL
NUJ BRISTOL
PCS ARMS
PCS DWP AVON
PCS DSG SOUTH WEST
RMT RETIRED MEMBERS
UCU UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
UCU SOUTH WEST RETIRED MEMBERS
UNISON SOUTH GLOS
UNISON UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
UNISON UWE
UNITE BRISTOL COMMUNITY
UNITE BRISTOL RETIRED
UNITE FIRST BUS
UNITE BRISTOL GPM & IT
UNITE FILTON AEROSPACE
UNITE HOUSING WORKERS
UNITE BRISTOL FINANCE & LEGAL
UNITE BRISTOL HEALTH
UNITE BRISTOL PORT COMPANY
UNITE SW OFFICERS
UNITE BRISTOL TRANSPORT & FOOD
UNITE BRISTOL SERVICING, ENERGY & CONSTRUCTION
UNITE UCATT
UNITE SW/8174
UNITE LE/372
USDAW A038

34 Branches (27) affiliated on approximately 23000 (20000) Members and were represented by 70 (43) Delegates.

Figures in brackets are for 2020

ATTENDANCE AT BRISTOL TRADES UNION COUNCIL MEETINGS 2021

	ATTENDEES	APOLOGIES
JANUARY	16	3
FEBRUARY	22	4
MARCH	27	6
APRIL	23	4
MAY	20	8
JUNE	20	2
JULY	14	7
SEPTEMBER	17	3
OCTOBER	15	2
NOVEMBER	15	3
DECEMBER	12	6

ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SHEILA CAFFREY	13
SUZY CHEEKE	3
SIMON CREW	13
SOFY CREW	4
IAN FLOWER	9
ALEX KEMPSHALL	13
HUGH KIRKBRIDE	8
MIKE LUFF	11
BRIAN MEAD	0
TOM MEWIES	5
ROGER THOMAS	13

Secretary's Report

2021 was another unique year for the Trade Union movement with the Covid 19 pandemic, lockdowns, working from home, Brexit and threats of mass redundancies that have completely changed the world of work. Bristol Trades Council has continued to fight for our members during these difficult times.

Some events of the year

In January the speaker at our meeting was James Collett President of Gloucester Trades Council. Members agreed a statement of support for the Colston 4. Working with other Trades Councils we held another Key Workers Summit with sessions entitled "Organising in Covid" and "Know your rights at work". A Mapping Group met to help increase affiliations.

In February we had a successful AGM where we updated our rulebook. 4 delegates represented us at the Annual Trades Council Meeting and the President and Secretary were elected to the SWTUC Regional Council.

In March we organised the first meeting of the Bristol May Day Committee for many years. At our meeting the speakers were Tim Northover, GMB organiser and reps from Bristol Water, delegates congratulated them on their successful strike ballot and agreed to support their strike. This was the best attended meeting for several years. Members agreed an emergency motion opposing the Police & Crime Bill and condemning police violence to demonstrators and press in Bristol.

In April our Workers Memorial Day event, Chaired by the Vice-President was particularly moving as GMB Reps from Wessex Water remembered their colleagues killed in Avonmouth. The Bristol Water dispute was successful we supported their picket. We held another Key Workers Summit. At our meeting Dave Warren of Swansea Trades Council spoke on the DVLA dispute.

In May our May Day event attracted the largest turn out for many years, speakers were the President, Hannah David (Chair SWTUC), Brendan Kelly (RMT) and Mike Wollacott (Labour Party). Guest speaker at our meeting was Jamie Melrose (UCU).

In June the speaker at our meeting was Nick Ireland (USDAW), we supported a UNITE picket at St. Mungos, the President reported on the Trades Councils Conference.

In July there was another Key Workers Summit, several members attended a NSSN discussion on Freeports, speaker at our meeting was Richard Capps (Weston Trades Council) who discussed the Bristol Airport expansion.

In August the Secretary represented us at the Cop26 Coalition planning meeting. The executive met and had a more strategic meeting, agreeing we would organise celebrations for our 150th Anniversary in 2023.

In September speakers were Gareth Lowe (Regional Environment Lead UNITE), Stuart Melvin (Peace & Justice Project) and Loz Hennessy (Climate Officer Bristol NEU) on COP26. We agreed to sponsor the Bristol Radical History Group pamphlet "The Cry of the Poor".

In October members took the banner to the Clarks Strike picket, the subject of our meeting was unemployment speakers were Tim Nelson (Bristol Unemployed Workers Centre) and Amy Sage (Youth Fight for Jobs).

In November many members attended the Bristol COP26 protest which was the biggest demonstration in Bristol for some time. The President spoke and the Secretary and several other delegates acted as stewards. Going forward members agreed to elect a Climate Officer, the Cry of the Poor leaflet was published and Keith Evans (UNITE) wrote a well-received review on our behalf. Members supported the UCU strike action.

In December members held a wide ranging discussion on the Mayoral referendum coming up in May, in a meeting where there was 36 years' experience of being a councillor in total, it was unanimously agreed to support abolishing the position of Mayor of Bristol.

REPRESENTATION

South West Trades Councils Meeting: Sheila Caffrey, Simon Crew, Tom Mewies, Roger Thomas.

South West TUC Regional Council: Sheila Caffrey, Simon Crew. (Roger Thomas substitute).

South West TUC Regional Executive: Sheila Caffrey, Simon Crew

South West TUC Women's Committee: Sheila Caffrey

Trades Councils Conference: Sheila Caffrey, Suzy Cheeke

University of Bristol Court: Simon Crew

Bristol Unemployed Workers Movement: Roger Thomas

Glos Strikes / Key Workers Summit Organising Group: Sheila Caffrey, Simon Crew, Keith Evans, Ian Flower, Roger Thomas.

Bristol May Day Committee: Sheila Caffrey, Simon Crew, Sofy Crew, Roger Thomas.

Bristol COP26 Coalition: Simon Crew

NSSN Steering Group: Simon Crew

APPRECIATION

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this successful year for Bristol Trades Council. Thank you to our President Sheila Caffrey for the capable way she chairs our meetings and to the members of our executive who have been a great help in the work of the Trades Council. A number of members are standing down from their positions and deserve to be mentioned.

Alex Kempshall has been much more than a Communications Officer, his commitment has raised the profile of the Trades Council and helped spread news of our events and workers in dispute to support.

Tom Mewies has been a dedicated activist in the Trades Council over the last few years and played an important role in achieving the higher attendance and affiliations we have seen recently.

Hugh Kirkbride is standing down from the executive I'm sure officers will still be able to count on his invaluable knowledge of the movement.

Finally Sofy and I will be moving out of Bristol in the next few months, I will still be a delegate and happy to take on other roles but am standing down as secretary. I ask all delegates and affiliated branch members to consider become officers or Executive Committee members to continue to grow the trades Council as we reach our 150th year.

