

Notts Retired Members Campaign Group update



- 1 Coronavirus update
- 2 Notts Retired Members Campaign group – what we're about!
- 3 Stand Up To Racism National Demo 21st March – Free coach tickets
- 4 Pension Credit
- 5 Police and Crime Commissioner Election May 2020
- 6 Branch Annual General Meeting 24th March



11th March 2020

Coronavirus update

As the virus spreads and continues to dominate the news its important we all keep informed of the current situation – here's a link to the NHS [website](#)
Government Action Plan - What you can expect (dated 3rd March) [website](#)
There is also further information available via the Public Health Agency [website](#)

Notts Retired Members Campaign Group – what we're about.....

Locally within Notts we have begun meeting on a regular basis to organize which campaigns we can get involved with and we have looked to consider campaigning around the following issues:-

- Cuts to Public Services/ Fighting Austerity
- Protecting the NHS
- Campaigning to protect Family Centres
- Climate Change and promoting UNISON policy on Council Pension Fund divestment from fossil fuel companies.
- Improving unionisation in Schools and Academies
- Fighting Racism
- Links with Nottm City UNISON Retired members group/speakers

Next meeting Tuesday 7th April 1.00pm at [Antenna](#), Beck Street, Nottingham NG1 1EQ
It would be great if you could make it to one of our future meetings, however, if you can't but are interested in getting involved with one (or more) of the campaign issues then please get in touch with us via the branch office. Branch.office@nottsunison.org.uk or phone 0115 9810405.

Stand Up To Racism – National Demo Sat. 21st March

We have 10 free tickets for the Nottingham coach going to the National Stand Up to Racism demonstration in London on 21st March. If you are interested please get in touch asap with the branch office (maximum of 2 tickets per member).
Contact : branch.office@nottsunison.org.uk [Link to National SUTR demo leaflet](#)

Pension Credit

Are you a couple – has one of you already reached state pension age while the other hasn't?
Or is one over and one under 65?

From 15 May you will no longer be able to claim Pension Credit.

You will have to claim Universal Credit instead until you are both over state pension age and could lose around £7,000 a year. [Find out more](#)

Are you single, over state pension age and on a low income?

Are you both over state pension age and on a low income?

The government says over 1 million people who should be claiming pension credit aren't – saving the government £3 billion a year.

Should you be claiming? [Find out if you're eligible](#)

Climate Change – what can we do...

The last 18 months have seen the issue of climate change appropriately raised to centre stage. This has not been thanks to our rulers but rather to Greta Thurnberg, the subsequent world wide school students climate strikes, the Campaign against climate change and the development of Extinction Rebellion. There have been national and worldwide protests, including several excellent protests in Nottingham, drawing attention to the crucial importance of the issue.

It is clear that time is running out with the Australian wildfires and the flooding in Jakarta making concrete the scale of the crisis. The recent abject COP25 talks in Madrid highlight the inadequate response of our government and most governments across the world, to put a stop to increasing carbon emissions. Locally, there are forthcoming activities that members, retired and otherwise can get involved in. These include the continued school Students protests on 13th March.

There have also been protests against the continued investment in fossil fuels by our (Nottinghamshire) pension fund. There was a protest of 50+ at the Pension Committee at County Hall on 20 January and a further protest regarding this matter again at County Hall on 13th February. **We have invited a speaker from [Extinction Rebellion](#) to address the Branch AGM on Tuesday 24th March** regards pension fund divestment from fossil fuel, something which has been UNISON National policy for 3 years. Why not come along and listen to what they have to say!

Contact : branch.office@nottsunison.org.uk

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections May 2020

The PCC elections are taking place across the country on 7th May.

Retired members can help in the campaign by signing up for postal votes, if they do not already have one. Contact your local council electoral registration officer or download the form from their website. Ballot papers will be sent out in late April.

Many pensioners take holidays in the Spring, if you are going away when ballot papers come out and can't vote in person on 7th, you can apply for a proxy vote, allowing a close friend or family member to vote for you.

We would urge you to use your vote. UNISON would always look for candidates that have a strong record of defending public services. Despite Government cuts to police funding, Nottinghamshire have consistently recruited additional officers (147 this financial year). PCSO numbers have remained steady, knife crime is down by 8% in Nottinghamshire and 18% in Nottingham City. Burglary and sexual offences are also down.

You can find out more information regards the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner on the Nottinghamshire Police website – www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk.

Branch Annual General Meeting 24th March 5.30pm County Hall

Don't forget the AGM! **Tuesday 24th March 5.30pm** at County Hall. The agenda will be circulated shortly to all members. We will be focusing on **this years pay claim** (there will be a national speaker) **and also the environment** - how can we turn our workplaces green. Extinction Rebellion have been invited to speak on Council pension fund divestment from fossil fuel companies, and we already have one speaker confirmed regards **ZERO Waste** and how as individuals we can not only benefit the environment but also ourselves. Please put this date in your diary now!

General information/websites

Notts UNISON [website](#)

National UNISON [website](#)

TUC Pensions [website](#)

National Pensioners Convention [website](#)

WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) [website](#)

Extinction Rebellion [website](#)

Notts UNISON, 47 Loughborough Road,
West Bridgford, Nottingham Notts NG2 7LA
Tel: 0115 9810405
Email: branch.office@nottsunison.org.uk
Web: www.nottsunison.org.uk

