



STRIKE NEWS FROM AROUND THE SOUTH WEST



Bristol

16th July – March and Rally at College Green – 2000 march through Bristol (including Union Street!) to a Rally at College Green. There was a great sense of solidarity was reportedly larger than the one in London. A photo of the march adorns the front cover of Thursday's Morning Star!!



75% of Council Buildings Closed, all libraries closed, 60% of schools closed

Cornwall



Picnic in Truro

Cornwall County – Many libraries closed. Pickets at buildings across the County. Leisure centre in Penzance closed. Schools and libraries closed. Picnic held in Truro in the park.

North Cornwall – Decision made to close offices in 4 locations. Switchboard taking emergency calls only. Half the usual lorries left from Bodmin & Bude refuse depots. Managers in Housing Dept would not cross picket line.

Kerrier - 16 July - Picnic at Boscawen Park after picketing.

Carrick, Penwith and Caradon all the main offices were picketed.

17th July – Helping the Community – Community Service 'Litter Pick' at Perranporth Beach.



Devon



Exeter Central Library

Devon County Council - Libraries in Exeter and Barnstaple closed. Good turnout at County Hall. Mary Arches Car Park staff on picket line. Okehampton College seriously reduced pickets at both entrances.

Exeter City Council – Picketing at each workplace.

Exeter – 17th July – March and Rally assembling at 10.30am at the Civic Centre, 12 noon marching to the Mint Methodist Church Hall for the rally.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR PICTURES

Free Parking in Exeter as no parking fines being collected! 1

West Devon Council – Council offices at Tavistock and Okehampton pickets at all entrances. Postman would not cross picket line. 12 pickets at Tavistock College – again, postman would not cross picket line. NUT not covering duties of UNISON members. Tavistock Library closed.



Tavistock Library closed

Mid Devon District Council
Sincerely regrets that due to industrial action by some of its staff, it is unable to attend to personal visitors to the offices at Market Street Crediton On Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th July 2008

Emergency contact phone numbers
9.00 to 5.00pm 0800 023 2281
after 5.00pm 01884-255295

Mid Devon Council – Council offices closed for 2 days at Tiverton and Cridton. 70% of staff out. Library closed and general switchboard shut.
17th July – joining the Exeter rally

North Devon – Massive turnout at Works Unit Refuse Collection. 30/40 people outside, Civic centre pickets on every entrance – 50% of staff out. Revenue & Benefits – pickets outside, very few staff going in. Library closed. Housing Advice – no pickets but sign saying limited service.



Works Unit Refuse Collection, Barnstaple



Revenue & Benefits Office, Barnstaple



Civic Centre, Barnstaple

Plymouth – 16th July - 250 at the March and Rally. Dozens of schools closed. Turnout amongst UNISON and Unite 90%.

17th July – UNISON were due to lobby Yvette Cooper MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury who was visiting Tamar Science Park, Plymouth, today pulls out at last minute!!



Plymouth



Torbay – 16th July

Rally outside Torquay Town Hall attracted 400 members – 40% approx. turnout. Main entrance picketed from 8am. Almost 60% of strikers were school support staff – almost half of all our schools members in Torbay area! At least 5 schools closed. Social Workers, Schools Support Staff gave interviews to the local paper (Herald Express).

17th July – Your pay rise won't buy an ice cream but your union will!! – The crowds arrived eating their free ice creams

and got started building sandcastles!!



Paignton – Sandcastle Building



Exeter – March and Rally 17th July – almost 1000 people marched from the Civic Centre to the Mint Methodist Church for the rally. Speakers included a domestic worker, branch officials and regional staff



Dorset

Dorset County – 16th July – March and Rally at Dorchester about 60 attended. Pickets at County Hall

Weymouth & Portland – Council offices picketed from 7am. Social Services solid support here. Up to 60% not in work.



Weymouth & Portland Social Services

Poole & District – Poole Refuse Depot excellent turnout. Support from GMB members. 6 out of 80 lorries went out. 8 schools closed. Rally in Poole Park.



Rally in Dorchester



Poole Refuse Depot

← Sign at Recycling Centre, Poole

Bournemouth

Pickets at Town

Hall and other key workplaces. March and Rally from at the Town Hall. 200 attended. 15 schools closed.



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Gloucestershire

Cheltenham – Closure of waste operations depot, main Council offices, Art Gallery and Museum. No waste collection or street cleaning for 2 days. Close to 100% UNISON members out at depot and recycling. Recycling banks not emptied. Rogue waste bin lorry on the loose!! (possibly an agency worker) – even managers are not sure how it got out!!



Gloucestershire County – 10 schools closed. Libraries closed. Non-essential children's services seriously reduced. 75% of HR staff are out. Other departments closed in Shire Hall. March and Rally – 200 to 300 on the march in Gloucester, including a New Orleans Jazz Band!



Cheltenham Offices CLOSED



Gloucester Rally

Gloucester City

Picketing main offices and GL1 main leisure centre.



Gloucester City



Stroud – Handful of pickets. CWU supported and would not cross the picket line.

Tewkesbury – Tewkesbury Depot closed.

South Gloucestershire – Kingswood Centre, South Glos closed – first time for 23 years!

Somerset

Somerset County – Library closed, all entrances to County hall picketed. Several schools closed. Approx. 250 attended the march and rally. Speakers were Belinda Burton, Steward, Nigel Behan, Branch Secretary, Vicky Boroughs & Ken Oasgood, Regional Staff. Picnic 17th July.



Taunton Deane – All entrances to Taunton Deane office picketed. Members attended the March and rally to County Hall (see above).

North Somerset – Closure of 6 libraries, the museum and 2 special schools. 50% of staff out.

South Somerset – Picket line at Council offices. 60% turn out

Bath & North East Somerset – all main buildings picketed. All libraries shut except one on reduced hours. Refuse transfer centre closed. No refuse collections for 2 days. Park & Ride shut.



Wiltshire

Swindon – Recycling service cut by half, Council meetings cancelled. Pickets at all main offices.



Salisbury – 40% out on strike. There were morning pickets at Churchfields Depot and the Sarum Centre (Wilts County Council). Some services have been affected in the District but none brought to a halt.

**WE
DESERVE
MORE!**

The sun was shining and the atmosphere was jovial. But at picket lines and marches and picnics and rallies across the South West the message was serious:

UNISON members made their feelings known to the Local Government employers. Loudly and clearly they said:

“No more pay cuts. We deserve more!”

Ian Ducat, Regional Secretary