



Nottinghamshire. Mansfield & Nottingham Trades Union Council

Best Wishes to the
NUM Nottinghamshire Area
at its Celebration Social .

Fraternal Greetings
To all who attend
The 30th Anniversary of
The Great Miners Strike
1984-85

President: Liam Conway

Joint Secretaries Paul Martin Sharon Vasselin
Contact details:- Notts TUC www.nottstuc.org

Follow us on Twitter:- @NottsTUC

Friend us on Facebook:- <http://www.facebook.com/NottsTUC>.

NUM Nottinghamshire Area 30th Anniversary of the Miners Strike

Photo Courtesy of The News Line



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Price £1.50

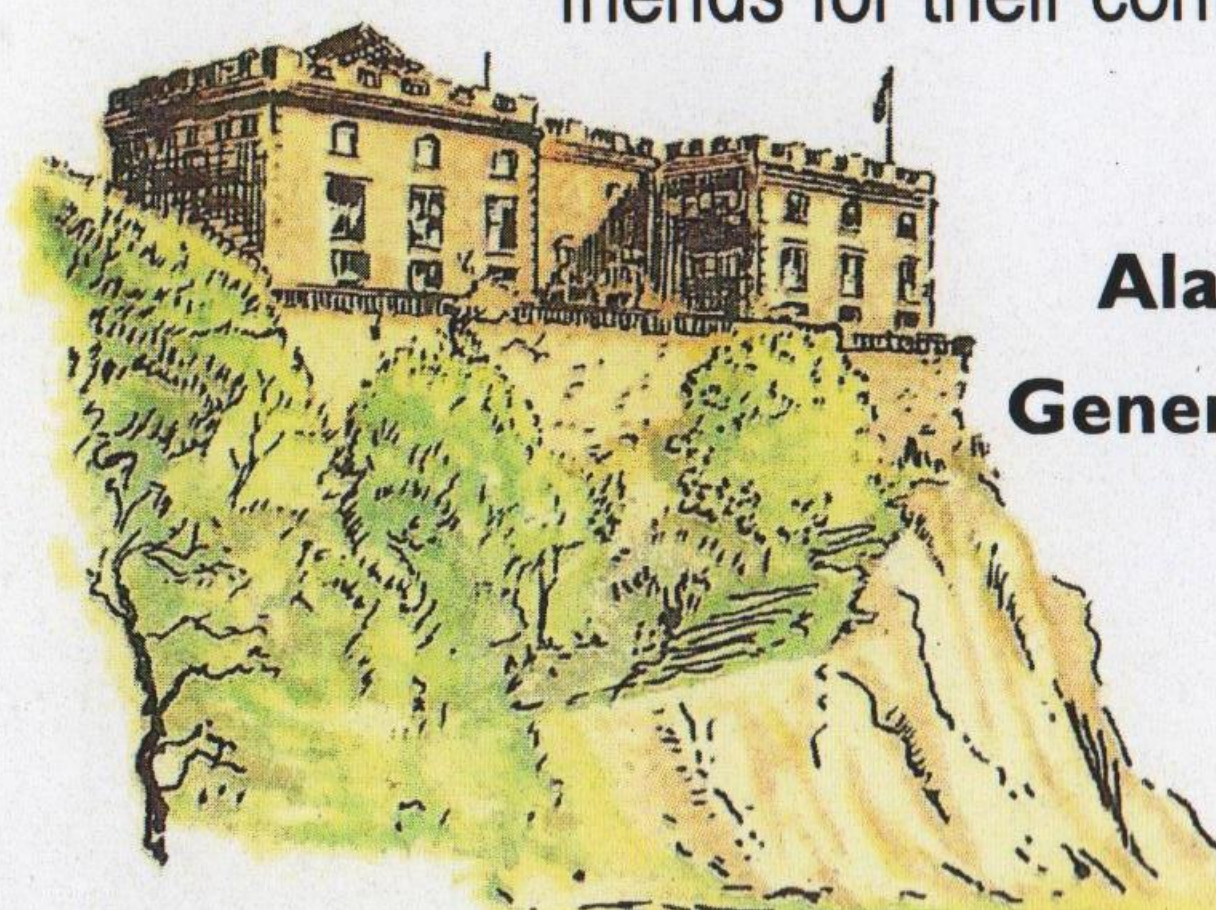


NATIONAL UNION OF MINEWORKERS

30 Years on from the great Miners Strike 1984-85 and the continued support for the NUM Nottingham Area and its loyal followers is immense.

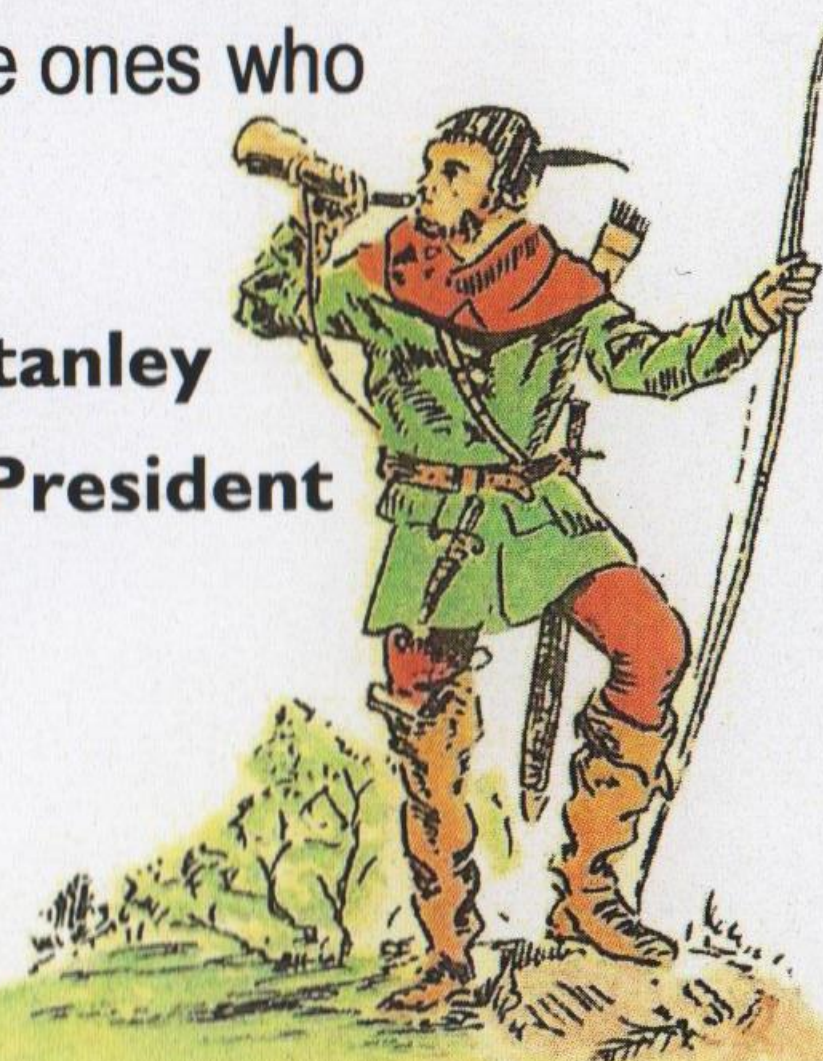
Sadly not all those who participated in supporting the union and the strike are with us today.

On behalf of the NUM Nottingham Area I pay tribute to the miners families and friends for their continued support and also remember the ones who are no longer with us.



Alan Spencer
General Secretary

Keith Stanley
Honorary President



30 Years On

I am proud to be writing this article in our Anniversary Programme in my role as Area General Secretary of this proud union, one I took over from my predecessor Keith Stanley, who in turn carried on where Henry Richardson who was General Secretary when the Nottingham Area reformed in 1985 retired. I think I can speak for us all, it was an honour in 1984 and it is an honour in 2014 to represent an Area that has and still is looking after its members, both past and present, some 30 years after our area office and all our funds were stolen with the help of a Tory Government by a scab organisation back in 1985.

They may have stolen our assets but they have not stolen our immense pride to be part of a Union that has, and always will, look after its membership. The latest example being the reinstatement of concessionary coal/cash-in-lieu to all the miners who had it taken from them when UK Coal became insolvent in July 2013. This battle was won by the National Union of Mineworkers, with help from our mining MPs, and the TUC. Help which is not available to that other organisation as they are not recognised by either the Labour party or the TUC.

Many of the advertisements in this Programme come from Trade Unions and Labour Party MPs and their members who are proud to be associated with the National Union of Mineworkers. We in turn are proud to be associated with them, it was a link that was not broken 30 years ago and it is a link that is still in place now.

Back in 1984 I stood along with thousands of other miners throughout the country to

try and stop the decimation of our coal industry. We were not fighting for wages, we were fighting to preserve our industry, not just for ourselves but for future miners, the youngsters of our communities. Sadly not everyone thought as we did, some listened to the propaganda from the Coal Board and the Tory Government who told them that the planned closures would not affect the Nottinghamshire Area.

How wrong they were, out of the 36 coal mines and over 36,000 miners before the strike in this area alone, we are now down to 1 coal mine with less than 800 men. A sad loss of a proud working class industry, an industry that supplied the power stations that kept the industry and people of this country working. A loss to our communities, a loss of hope for the younger generation resigned to a future without employment. The Headstocks have long gone with their hopes and aspirations.

In fact cabinet papers have now been released, papers that prove we were right all along when we said there was not 20 pits to close but over 70. The cabinet papers disclose secret meetings with Thatcher and McGregor which involved the increasing of coal stocks in 1983 to prepare for the planned closures of over 70 pits and the planned introduction of the army, although we knew they were already there on the picket lines

Thatcher not only lied to the public she lied in Parliament. She should be stripped of her peerage and her statue removed, and the miners who lost over a years wages and pensions should have them reimbursed. These papers are just the tip of the iceberg in proving that this woman and I use that term loosely, planned to dismantle the coal mining industry in this country.

It wasn't just the mining industry Thatcher attempted to destroy because we all know the government orchestrated the strike, but all the other industries employing good honest working class people. She tried to smash

the unions that fought for the rights and safety of their members. Even now Thatcher's understudy has brought in anti union legislation attacking the rights of the working class of which I am proud to belong.

Although we may have been weakened in numbers since they closed the mines, we fought back and are still here, which is more than can be said for Thatcher. She will be now employed stoking up the fires of hell and lets hope its with British mined coal.

We warned the Government back in 1984 that the destruction of the coal industry would weaken the energy policy of this country. There was an important role for coal to play and if this were reduced the people of this country would pay a heavy price in inflated fuel costs.

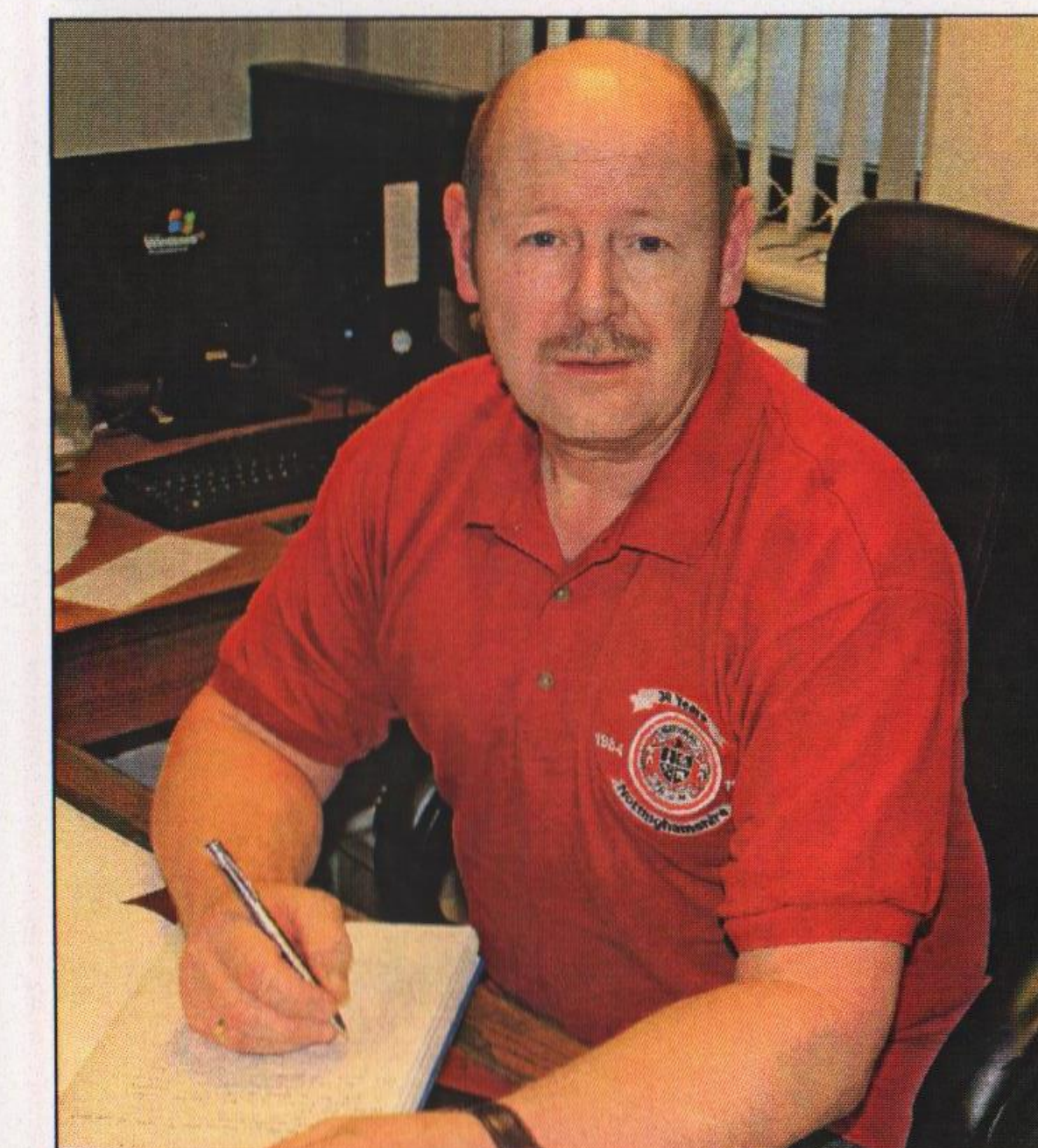
Recently the government announced the decommissioning of some of our coal fired power stations and there are plans for the building of nuclear stations to replace them. How long will that take and at what cost to the environment.

Surely it makes more sense to use the coal beneath our feet and burn it in our coal fired stations fitted with, and using the clean coal technology that is available and has been for over 30 years.

The fact is that we now import over 60 million tonnes of coal mostly from unstable countries, where workers toil in terrible conditions without the safety infrastructure that our miners have in place and on wages that keep both them and their families in poverty. How can we and this country support this.

There is coal in abundance below our feet, lets put pressure on this government to invest and mine this coal before we lose the experience of a proud workforce. Lets nationalise the industry and put the profits back into the country. It worked in 1945 and it can work now.

Alan Spencer
General Secretary





FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO ALL WHO ARE ATTENDING THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NUM SOCIAL EVENING ON 12TH APRIL 2014

Nicky Wilson
National President

Wayne Thomas
National Vice President

Chris Kitchen
National Secretary

30 Years on where has it all gone,

A reflection of the Miners' Strike 1984/85.

Starting in the pits in 1982 fresh from school in the only job I had ever wanted to do, proudly following in my father's footsteps as he had done in his, I remember the personnel manager saying you have a job for life here lad. Look after it, keep your head down, watch what you are doing and do what you are told and there will be a job for your son in years to come.

Between 1982 and 1984 I followed what at the time seemed his good advice and although there was a sense that things were changing it never crossed my mind that the pit would close, there had always been a pit.

I never noticed the overtime ban as there was not much overtime worked at Wheldale and my only experience of strikes was the odd shift for local disputes, for that reason the start of the great strike of 84/85 seemed like an adventure. As a 17 year old I was not political or active in the NUM. Life was simple you supported others and they supported you. That was what being in the NUM was all about. Others were facing the threat of their pit being closed and were asking for our support, there was no need for any more than a token picket as you don't cross a picket line no matter what.

I picketed throughout the strike in Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire, North Wales and Lancashire at the pits, power stations and workshops. As the strike went on the sense of adventure I felt in the beginning faded away as I realised what we were fighting for; our jobs, communities and way of life. Getting to the picket lines got harder as the police put up roadblocks to prevent us but that justified what we

were doing, the more they tried to stop us the more we knew we were right.

The 1984/85 Strike was not an industrial dispute, it was a political dispute. We were not fighting the National Coal Board, we were fighting Thatcher's Tory Government with all the resources they had at their command.

I have the greatest respect for everyone who stood firm throughout the strike, especially in Areas where they were in the minority but I will never forget or forgive those who scabbed.

You do not need a ballot to do what is right. Make no mistake we were right when backed into a corner by Thatcher and MacGregor we had two choices, roll over or fight. We made the right choice. If you fight you have a chance, no matter how slim, of winning. If you roll over they will walk all over you.

The release of cabinet papers in January of this year only prove what we knew and there are more to

come as this year goes on. The strike was the only reaction to a vindictive act of industrial vandalism from an evil woman intent on imposing her capitalist ideal against decent ordinary working people. The intention was to destroy the NUM that was the vanguard of the Trade Union movement and pave the way for a privatisation programme to line the pockets of the Tory elite. A privatisation programme that has brought this country to its knees with private energy firms inflating the price of energy as only one example, there are many more.

The scabs should hang their heads in shame, but those of us that stood firm throughout the strike, the Striking Miners, our families and all those who supported us in the great strike of 84/85 can walk with our heads held high. We fought for our Union and to protect our way of life, there is no shame in that.

Chris Kitchen

General Secretary

National Union of Mineworkers

(and proud to be)



We Were Right

Who would have thought that some 30 years after the miner's strike of 1984/85, celebrations would be taking place to mark the occasion? When I first met the Yorkshire flying pickets at the pit gates of Newstead Colliery in South Notts early March 1984 and agreed to come out on strike to fight the pit closure programme, I never realised that it was to be the beginning of an epic year of resistance. No one at the beginning of the strike believed that the dispute would last a full year. Even after a year on strike I had this awful feeling that we were going back prematurely as we had unfinished business. There was still a pit closure programme in place. Nottinghamshire more than any other area became the worst place to be during the strike, especially if you were a striking miner because of the Police State set up by Thatcher's government to keep the Nottinghamshire mines working.

The situation in Nottinghamshire was dire with so many miners burying their heads in the sand not prepared to support miners in other areas fight the pit closure programme. It did not surprise me though as the Nottinghamshire miners had already rejected support for one of its own mines Teversal Colliery back in 1979.

I could never understand the Nottinghamshire miners who continued to work that year thinking that the pit closure programme was going to pass them by. I could never understand the selfishness of the younger miners who worked when there were miners who were nearing retirement age on the picket line fighting for the future of this selfish brood.

I wonder if any of the miner's who refused to come out on strike are now suffering as a result of the extreme costs of energy to their homes. I wonder if any of them realise or even regret the role they played in 1984. Breaking away from the NUM at the

end of the strike helped the Tory Government, to successfully privatise the fragmented workforce in the coal industry. I wonder if they also feel ashamed of themselves at the way that profit before security of supply mentality of the coal owners was accepted by the breakaway union speeding up the demise of the coal industry. I wonder if because of the pit closures any of those miners who worked through the strike are now out of work, with all their redundancy money spent with the prospect of an even bleaker future facing them, have any regrets.

If they are part of the statistic of growing figures of people facing fuel poverty then they have only themselves to blame, unfortunately they will have dragged the miners who did strike for the future of the industry along with them.

The size of the coal industry now along with the warnings from the NUM years ago about a monopolised energy market proves that the miners on strike were right then and have continued to be right throughout the 30 years.

During the last 30 years I have spoken many times up and down the country about the plight of the Nottinghamshire striking miners. I have always maintained though that the problems for many Nottinghamshire strikers began after the strike when they returned to work. The viciousness of the NCB management who were totally against them, aided and abetted by the backside licking UDM branch officials was a bitter pill to take. However the resolve of the NUM members was tremendous.

The men and women who were brave enough to defend their jobs along with the support of their families and

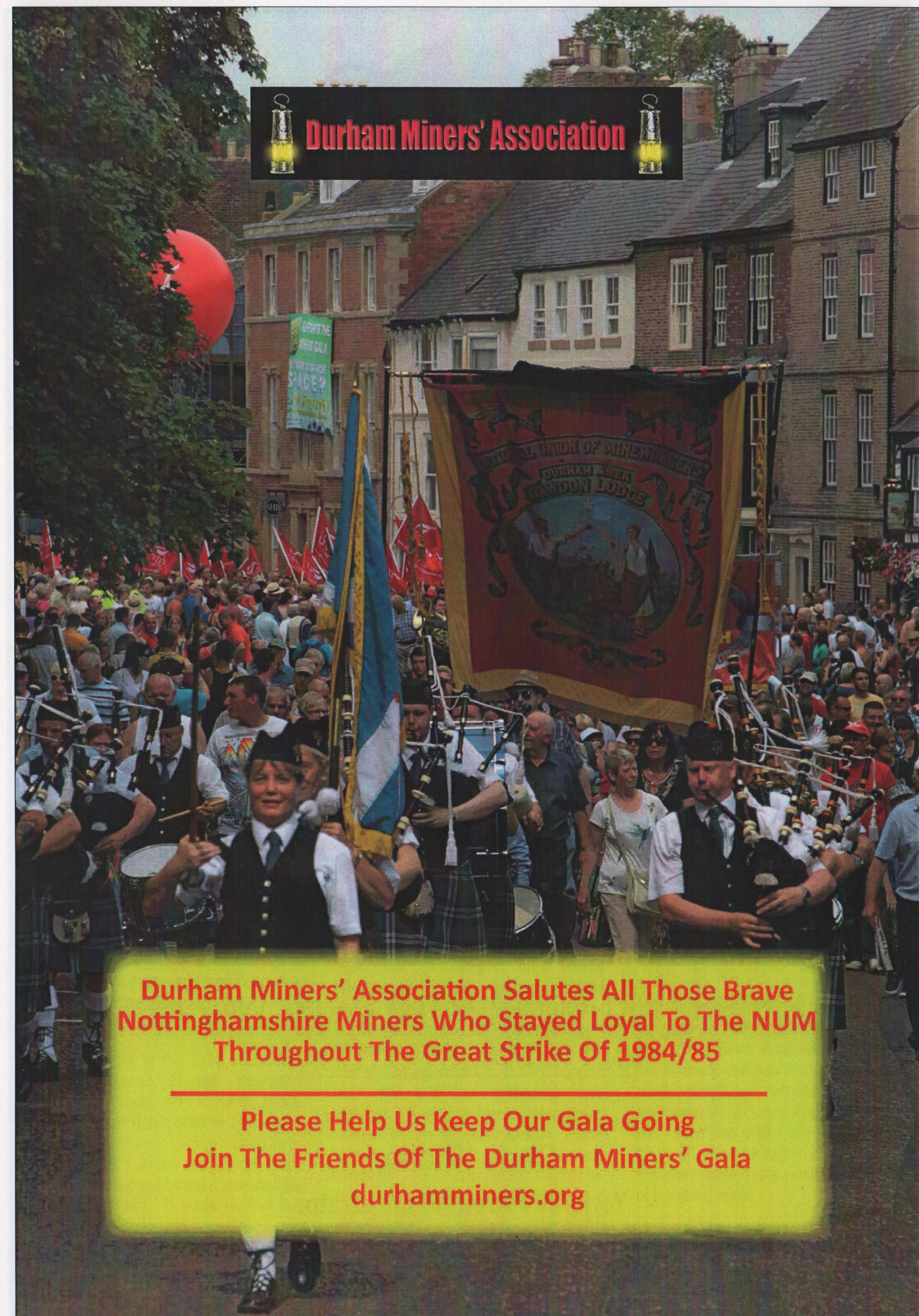
friends are now legends in the history of the trade union movement. The sacrifice that these marvellous people made will never be forgotten.

I was privileged to be elected onto the branch committee during the strike and from there I gradually moved up the ladder holding positions of Delegate, Branch Secretary, Area President, Area General Secretary, National Executive Committee member, National Vice President and now Honorary President of the NUM Nottingham Area. Never have I turned down the opportunity to herald nothing but the very best of praise to my comrades, colleagues and friends in the Nottinghamshire coalfield. Each and every-one of them are heroes and heroines.

The Nottinghamshire NUM has stood the test of time and remained resolute throughout against the might of the establishment, the hatred of the Tory Governments, the spite of the Management teams at the NCB, British Coal and the privatised coal owners. We are still here alive and kicking and I for one am proud to be part of the bravest group of people ever. Long live the NUM Nottinghamshire Area.

Keith Stanley

KEITH STANLEY
NOTTINGHAM NUM
HONORARY PRESIDENT



Durham Miners' Association Salutes All Those Brave Nottinghamshire Miners Who Stayed Loyal To The NUM Throughout The Great Strike Of 1984/85

Please Help Us Keep Our Gala Going
Join The Friends Of The Durham Miners' Gala
durhamminers.org



The Yorkshire Area of the NUM sends fraternal greetings to all Nottingham NUM members past and present, who took part in the historic struggle of 1984/85.

As we reach this landmark anniversary we salute the loyalty shown by the Nottinghamshire Area NUM and the resolve displayed in fighting for their Union, their communities and their jobs.

We can only admire your resolve given the circumstances you found yourselves in, in Nottinghamshire.

**HISTORY WILL CONFIRM THE CAUSE WAS JUST
AND REMAINS SO TODAY.**

Chris Kitchen
Yorkshire Area Administrator

Women's Support Group

Who would believe that it is 30 years since the 1984/85 miners strike? That was the year that changed my life forever. It's a year that I look back on and remember the highs and lows. Although there was grief and hardship we also had fun and laughter and I also remember the many great people I met at that time.

From the first meeting in our house with me, Hilary Whitehead, Chris Simpson, Chris Winnals, Jill Davis and Mrs Chisolm we decided then to start the Annesley & Newstead Women's Support Group and everything escalated from there.

The women who sat in our living room on that first day were not into politics, we just wanted to find a way to support our husbands, who were fighting to save their jobs, pits and our communities.

I was appointed as the Secretary Treasurer for the group. Everything I spent, every person I corresponded with, every tin of beans, every tin of tomatoes, every food item purchased was written down and recorded in my famous Blue Book.

The year consisted of shopping, packing food for the much needed food parcels for the striking miners. We organised jumble sales to raise funds, and Chris Simpson along with Janet Allen attended meetings in the area. We all went on the many marches letting the world know we supported the cause. I would never have dreamt of doing this in my life but when I saw the vast numbers of other women in other groups all supporting their husbands or sons it was overwhelming.

Another highlight of the strike was when we were allowed to use Newstead Welfare's kitchens on a daily basis. Everyday either Bob Collier or Eric Eaton (Newstead Strikers) picked up Chris, Hilary and I at 4.30 am and almost every day we were stopped by the police and the car was inspected. It made us feel like criminals.

Our task was to cook breakfast for the night pickets coming off their shifts and the

day pickets coming on. Part of my job was to make sure we had enough food to feed everyone who came in. Talk about loaves and fishes especially when the Yorkshire lads came for the mass picketing. Hilary, Chris, Cassie Stanley and Doreen Brierley and on occasions Jeanette Hackett were cooking up to 60 meals a day hoping we had enough food. The corner shop in Newstead did a roaring trade as we usually had to buy more from them. After breakfast was done Chris Hackett used to take us shopping for the food parcels. Then it was a matter of the girls going back to my home measuring stewing meat into pound bags, cutting luncheon meat, weighing potatoes and portioning out canned food so that all were treated equally. If we had enough money left over we tried to do a kiddy bag every month. The kids loved it. On one occasion a young striking miner came and asked for a kiddy bag. He had never claimed his food parcels as he did not know he was due to them. Of course we gave him a kiddy bag and added him to the food parcel list.



Chris Simpson & Nichola, Mrs Nicholay from The Notts Communist Party, Vera Darlington, Hilary Whitehead, Evelyn Stanley And Janet Allen At The Newstead Picket Line.

Newstead & Annesley had great support from the St Alban's and Hemel Hempstead support groups. One woman in particular Vera Darlington from the Hemel Hempstead group became a great friend through correspondence and weekly telephone calls. The support from her and her colleagues was fantastic. It was at Hemel Hempstead where I did my first ever speech. Hilary and I went along to one of their meetings, I never dreamt that I would be speaking to so many people, but I did it and was proud to do so, on behalf of our group.

During that year our group had a

wedding (my brother in law Chris on strike and Cassie were wed) and two strike babies were born as we called them. One of them was my niece Cassianne. It was a fantastic time and a very welcome distraction.

Another fantastic moment was when Mrs Ferguson a grandmother of a striking miner (She donated money every week to our group) invited us to the Old Peoples Xmas Party at a Centre that she was in charge of. We attended had a wonderful time and gained tremendous support from the old folk there. When we got back to my house we found it full of toys donated by SOGAT the print union from London. We were overwhelmed and felt very humble that total strangers could do so much for our children. We were up till midnight sorting out the right toys for the right child and all had to be ready for next day for the Striking Miners Kiddies Xmas Party. It was an unforgettable day never to be forgotten. After that March soon came around and it was decision time for the miners. A NUM Conference decided to return to work with dignity, therefore that was it, the strike was over. Our tasks in supporting the miners on strike, was over. It was a sad time for our group but we all knew that no one could take away what we had achieved during that unforgettable year.

My husband Keith who was one of the Strike Committee for the Newstead Group helped me organise and encouraged me to participate in everything I did that year. I look back now and realise it was that year that brought me out of my shell

Had it not been for the Miners Strike I would never have met so many wonderful people and never done what I did. I had two fantastic children Richard & Lisa who never complained throughout that year, they were so proud of their Dad and still are. I am also glad that I was able to be part of the struggle supporting my husband Keith. I was proud to be the wife of a striking miner.

EVELYN STANLEY



National Union of Mineworkers

The NUM Northumberland Area

extends fraternal greetings

to all Supporters of

the great miners strike of 1984/85.

Denis Murphy

Allan Stewart

Jimmy Sawyer



ASHFIELD UNISON BRANCH

**30 years on and we know who was
right about pit closures.....**

All the best to Notts NUM on your commemoration

Ashfield UNISON Branch

c/o UNISON Office

Ashfield District Council, Urban Rd, Kirkby in Ashfield, Notts, NG17 8DA

Tel: 01623 457 580 Email: unison@ashfield-dc.gov.uk

30 Years of Memories

It is hard to believe that 30 years have been and gone since our Historic Strike began in 1984, although when I look back at photographs from the strike they don't lie. Scotland as in some other Areas certainly knew what was coming as we already had 6 collieries closed. Following the withdrawal of the "unofficial" hit list of Closures in 1981 which had led to a spontaneous walkout in the Areas, the NCB had refined their plans and drip-fed in the closures.

The great majority of NUM members welcomed the fact the Union was taking action to try and halt the decimation of our Industry and destruction of our communities and it is a tribute to the Miners and their Families that they sustained the struggle for so long. The strike was supported in my view because our Union and its members knew the alternative was to meekly accept the Government and NCB's decision to destroy our jobs and throw us on the scrapheap.

Despite the criticism of the strike I have never wavered in my belief and never will

that it was the right action to take, we can look back and say perhaps some things could have been done differently but the principled decision to take strike action was correct. We can never forget the tremendous support and solidarity we received from so many Trade Unions, Organisations and the General Public throughout that year long dispute to help us sustain the action and support our Families.

Our Communities have never recovered from the decimation of our Industry and in my role as Vice-Chair of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust we have seen the evidence of this since its formation in 1999. It is ironic that Thatcher is still praised by a few as having been a great Prime Minister, our Legacy from her is the small remains of a once great Industry that had done so much to make Britain Great, Coalfield Communities suffering from deprivation and lack of opportunities, a Country that still produces over 40% of its Electricity from Coal but imports over 60% of that Coal that we could be employing Miners to do. There is no greatness in her Legacy but

only vindictiveness and the lunacy of the closure of our coal mines that could still be creating employment and benefit for our Nation.

I finish by reflecting on the pride I feel about being part of that Historic struggle, the role of the Miners wives and Families as without them standing shoulder to shoulder with us it would not have happened, of the laughs and humour we had in times of hardship, of the solidarity and comradeship we gave and got which meant we were never alone and of my memories of sharing my home with the striking Nottinghamshire Miners and wives from Sutton in Ashfield who attended our Scottish Miners Gala in Edinburgh 1984 as we proudly marched through the City.

We were right then and remain right to this day.

Yours in Solidarity.

Nicky Wilson
President,
National Union of Mineworkers.



NUM Scotland Area

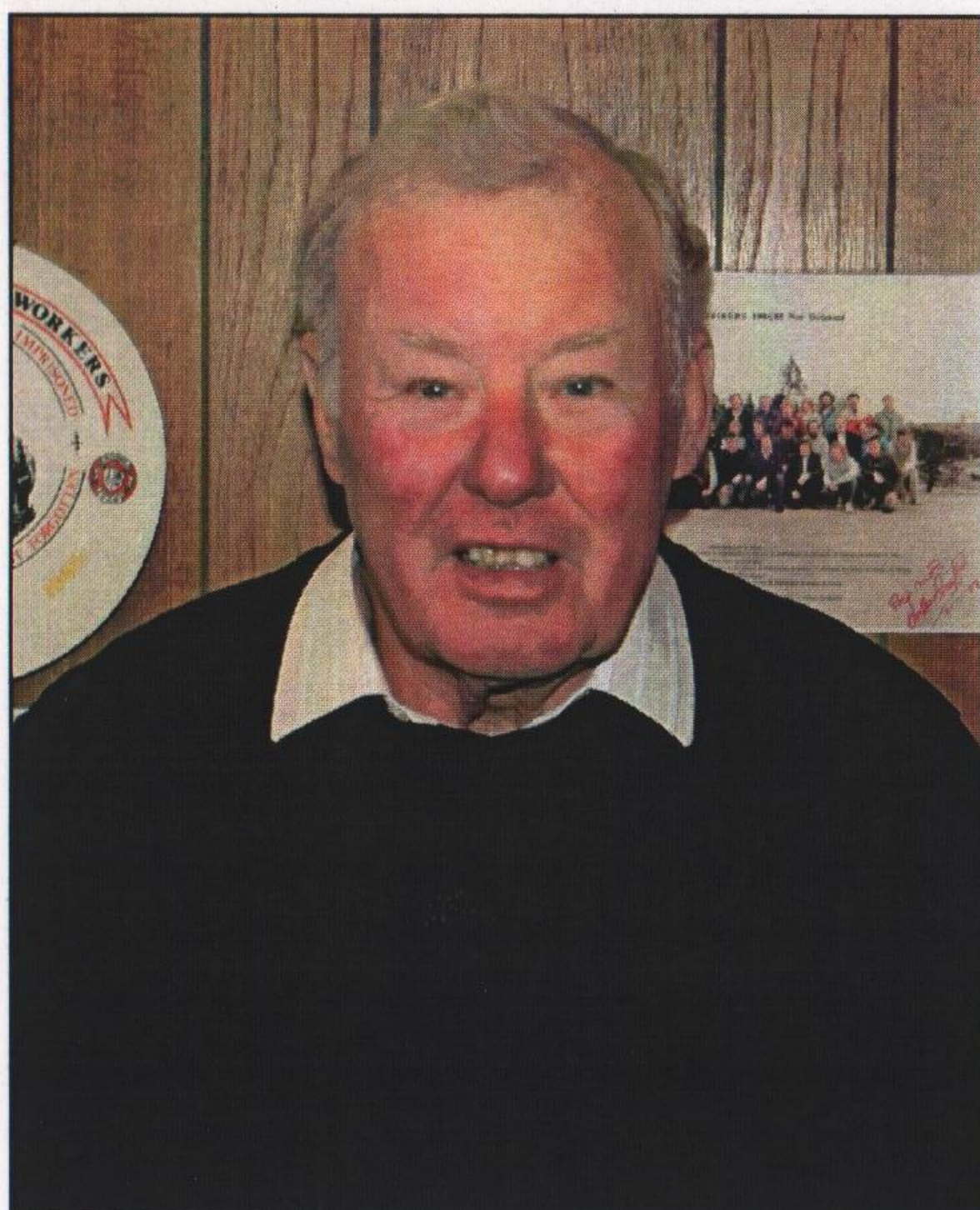
The NUM Scotland Area was proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with the striking Notts Miners in 1984/5 in our Historic struggle and that remains the position today to retain and expand our Coal Industry.

Yours in Solidarity

Nicky Wilson

President

30 Years On



It is with a sense of pride and humility that I make this contribution on the 30th Anniversary of the Great Miners Strike, paying my respect to all those loyal N.U.M. members who were involved in the dispute who shall never be forgotten. They sacrificed everything in their efforts to save their jobs, marriages, homes and even their lives.

Since the end of the strike, many leading members became branch officials of the NUM and have sadly passed away. We should always remember them and all others who are no longer with us who stood loyally behind the NUM.

We should also remember and pay tribute to the Women's Action Group who fought bravely along with their husbands, fathers and brothers under great provocation, arrested and taken to Court - having to witness the effect it was having on their families. They can look back with pride on how they stood with their heads held high having supported in the soup kitchens and on the picket lines, helping the miners in the great struggle against adversity from the 'establishment' of the day - namely 'Thatcherism'.

I have been asked many questions over the past 30 years, mainly on my opinion of what were the highs and lows after the end of the strike.

On the 'low's', it was always the breakaway and the injustices meted out to the Nottinghamshire Area and it's

members by the High Courts who transferred all our assets to the U.D.M. which included capital, investments and properties such as houses, Berry Hill's Offices, the Convalescent Home and land at Berry Hill, all valued at about £5 million at the time.

There is no question that the Judges were making political decisions and not judiciary ones in line with the thinking of Thatcher's Government to destroy the NUM and strengthen the position of the U.D.M.

It was a travesty of justice that this was the case, due to the fact that miner's contributions plus 10,000 retired miners who didn't want their subscriptions going to the breakaway Union were denied a say on the issue.

There wasn't any previous case-law which could be called upon to make any comparison, only that the assets should be apportioned to the respective numbers of each organisation based on member's wishes. Not only were the total assets transferred to the UDM but also the contributions of all working miners in Nottinghamshire were handed over too.

In reality, this meant that the Notts NUM had no members and no capital in which to carry out the day to day business, plus no property to work from - we had to go to the Sheffield NUM Headquarters.

We had to start from scratch and begin recruiting members back into the NUM, which wasn't easy as the National Coal Board put every obstacle conceivable in our way to prevent recruitment taking place at colliery level. They even dismissed members of the NUM for handing out signing-on forms to have their contributions paid to the NUM. We weren't allowed access to notice boards or given office space at Colliery level. We were also denied holding meetings in Miners Welfares and were forbidden to stand for election on Welfare Committees.

The Area Officials had no access to

consultation procedures at Area level or Local level with Coal Board Officials. In effect we had no recognition whatsoever.

What was also disconcerting was the lack of support for our efforts from some of the Labour MP's and local Councils.

Such were the efforts of the Board along with the Government to try and destroy the Notts Area of the NUM, but it had the opposite effect - we became more determined and resolute to succeed. The morale became stronger and the recruitment grew at a steady pace.

On the 'high's' it was on May Day 1986 - an appropriate date - that we opened the new Office in the middle of Mansfield.

'We were back!' and able to carry out our duties in representing our members on a local basis as opposed to 25 miles outside the County, albeit at a limited level due to the fact that the Coal Board in Nottinghamshire still wouldn't recognise us. This all came about with the help of the National Union and our Solicitors. Representation was limited however due to the fact that the Coal Board in Nottinghamshire still refused to recognise us.

People in and around Mansfield began to realise we were back in force and it was highlighted more when we started our Gala Day again with a procession through Mansfield Town Centre on a Saturday in the Summer every year - an event which goes back to the 1950's and is held in most coalfields.

We marched through Mansfield with heads held high, proud to show we had fought for the survival of our industry and communities. The Coal Board had already started closing pits in Nottinghamshire.

At the front of our March were M.P's Tony Benn and Dennis Skinner who always maintained their support to our cause, plus other trade union allies.

Never did the UDM carry out any activities of this nature - I wonder why?

As to the UDM I will not waste much time and space to comment on them other than to say the leaders have proved what we all thought, that they were an organization brought about by greed and power and had nothing to do with democracy. The use of union funds used by them to their advantage and the resultant prison sentence proved that.

I feel it is necessary to write about the effect the strike had on Notts NUM members because it will always lead a prominent role in our history and how it was a parallel with "Specialism"

Many books have been written about the Nottinghamshire Area over the last two centuries and the struggles that have taken place, however none can compare with the strike and the after affects that took place with the pit closures and the demise of whole communities.

As to the political climate during and after the strike even up to the present day we have had two Conservative Governments - Thatcher and Cameron hell bent on Political Ideology Dogma destroying Public Sector jobs and privatising them.

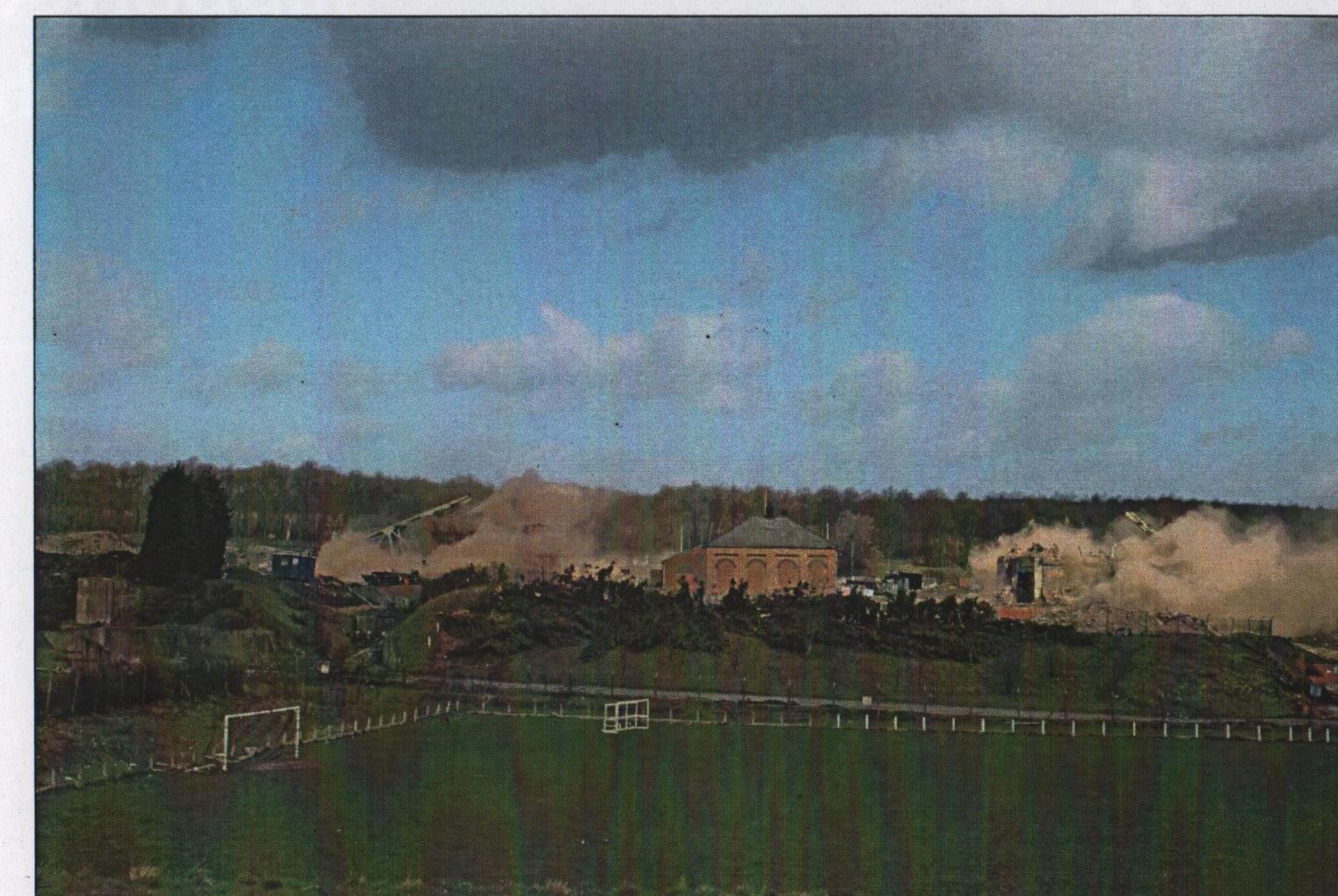
However, there is little doubt that this mania for privatisation and all things free market is now exposed as a dangerous illusion. You only have to examine what has happened.

Policies that have resulted in utilities such as gas, electricity and water being privatized, some now owned by French and German companies who are inflating the price of energy to British consumers but keeping it low in their own countries. Privatisation of steel owned by a Dutch company, British Rail owned by many different companies etc.

We now have Royal Mail privatised, it has been suggested that it was undersold for political purposes, does that surprise anyone?

Ray Chadburn
President NUM Notts Area
1977-1989

Welbeck Colliery 1912-2010





OH Parsons
TRADE UNION SOLICITORS SINCE 1946

Call our 24 Hour Advice Line
0800 526 368



Congratulations to NUM Nottinghamshire on the 30th Anniversary of the Strike.

We are proud to have supported the NUM and will continue to do so in the future.

Mansfield
Byron House
St. Peter's Way
Mansfield NG18 1EE
United Kingdom

London
3rd Floor, Sovereign House
212-224 Shaftesbury Avenue
London WC2H 8PR
United Kingdom

T: 01623 274000
F: 01623 274001

T: 020 7379 7277
F: 020 7240 1577

Visit our website
www.ohparsons.co.uk

Email us at
injuries@ohparsons.co.uk

Find us on twitter
[@OHPLaw](https://twitter.com/OHPLaw)

Memories of the Strike

I had only recently qualified as a solicitor when the Strike began in 1984. At the time I was working for Seifert Sedley Williams who represented the NUM nationally, as well as a number of Areas, throughout the dispute.

One feature of the dispute was the unprecedented number of legal actions launched against the Union. I spent much of the early days of the Strike taking statements, attending meetings with barristers, and sitting in court. Despite our best efforts, the NUM faced receivership, sequestration and, in the case of Notts Area, the loss of all its assets and property.

In the summer of 1984 I was sent to Maltby in South Yorkshire to take statements from NUM representatives in readiness for yet another Court case. I spent several days at Maltby Miners Welfare, meeting members from all over the County. I would stay overnight in Doncaster which was like a town under siege with police vans on every corner.

Each lunch time, when the pickets returned to the Welfare, a meal was cooked for them. I initially refused lunch as I felt that the food should be given to the striking miners. However, on my last day they insisted that I join them. How

could I possibly say no?

The sense of solidarity amongst the miners at Maltby was a great inspiration. It was clear that the whole community supported the dispute, not just those directly involved in the strike. Everyone I saw, whether an NUM member or not, saw the dispute as fundamental to the very existence of their community and way of life. I was humbled by the experience.

My main involvement with Notts Area came after the strike was over. If the media were to be believed, there were no NUM members left in Nottinghamshire. In fact that was far from the case. The Union did not have an office in Nottinghamshire at first. Nevertheless many of the miners working in the Area wanted the NUM to represent them. My task in all of this was to help set up a common law claims service for NUM members in Nottinghamshire.

Because the Union had no office in those days I would drive around the highways and byways of Nottinghamshire from Newark right down to Nottingham and beyond meeting members in their homes. I would then take statements and advise them on

pursuing claims. By the time the NUM had opened their office in Mansfield, a large number of men had signed over to the union. So much so, that my colleague and I would spend several days a month in Mansfield meeting members, advising them and preparing claims.

The fact that so many miners chose to return to the NUM in those difficult times, in the face of great opposition was another inspiration. It was a privilege to represent the Union in these most difficult times. Those of us who represented the NUM in Nottinghamshire were proud of the fact.

I am still proud to have served the NUM, albeit in a limited capacity, during the dispute and afterwards. It has always been a great honour to be associated with the Union. I have learned many lessons about solidarity and industrial action as well as making many friends along the way.

I wish all Notts NUM members, both retired and working, and their families, a happy and successful commemoration of the 1984/1985 strike.

Steve Cottingham

Partner

OH Parsons & Partners Solicitors

IDA HACKETT

The NUM Nottingham Area and the Ex & Retired Miners, whilst remembering all of our colleagues who are no longer with us, pays a special tribute to one of our heroines who has sadly passed away. Ida Hackett was instrumental in guiding the women in Nottinghamshire in setting up support groups/kitchens at each of the collieries in the area, telling them to be ready to assist the striking miners in any way that they could. She worked tirelessly during the dispute and for many years after as a delegate for the Women against Pit Closures until she became too ill to attend. She remained active in her support for the Nottinghamshire NUM throughout her life, always willingly donating to any cause the Union chose to pursue. Ida regularly attended the Mansfield & Nottinghamshire Trade Council representing OAP's and readily added support to the NUM at those meetings.

Ida will be sadly missed at the 30th Anniversary celebrations but very definitely never ever forgotten.



Ida Hackett receiving her NUM Nottingham Area Honorary Member Certificate from Ray Chadburn after the Miner's Strike



Marching in the heat of Summer of 84



"Ave you 'eard owt?"



Fighting for his future.



Ray Chadburn, Pam Elliot and Henry Richardson meeting John Henty's legal team in London.

Nottinghamshire NUM Ex & Retired Miners Association



Officials

Chairman Eric Eaton

Secretary Ann Donlan

Treasurer Arthur Jackson

COAL NOT DOLE

Committee

Geoff Peace

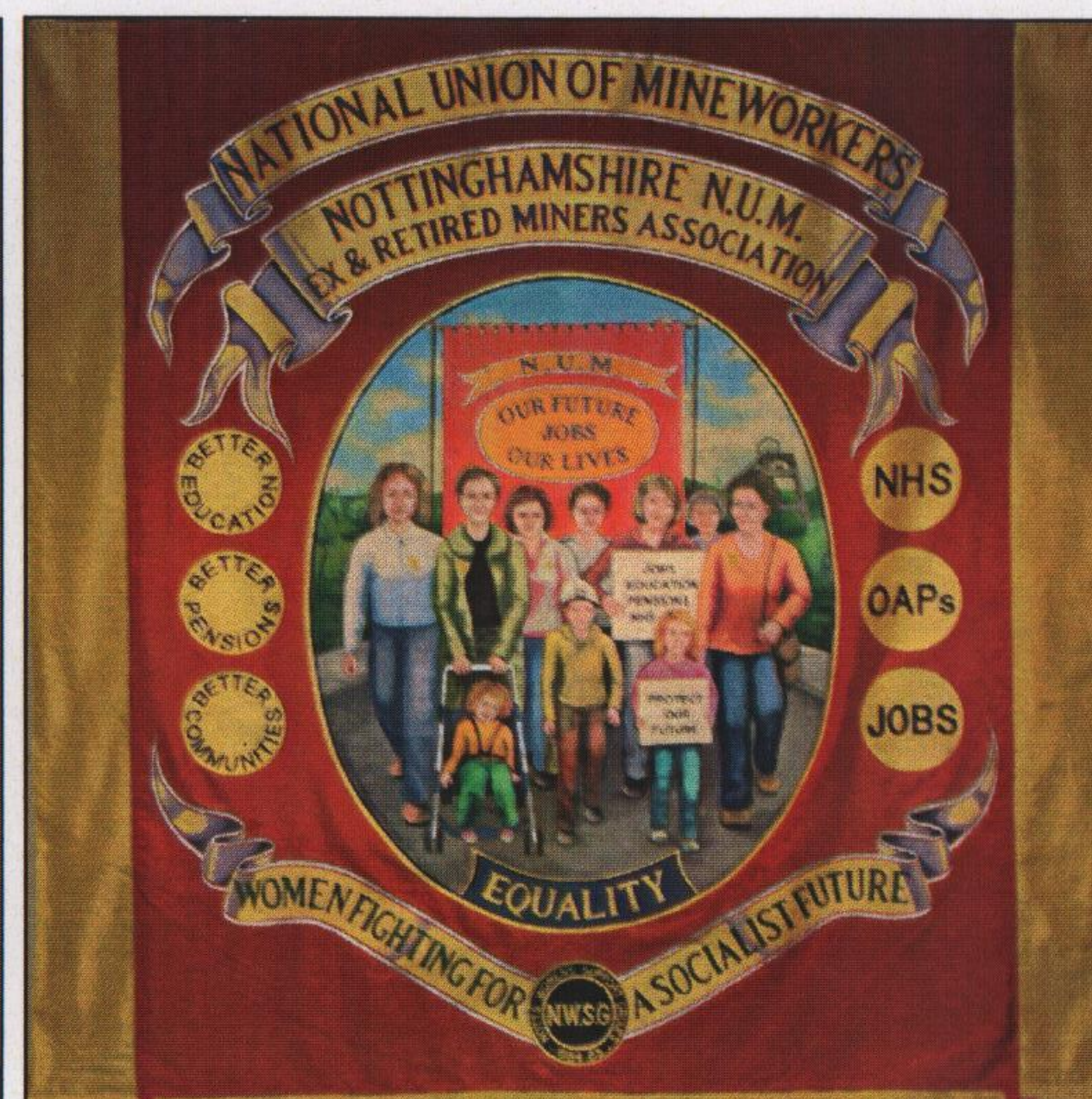
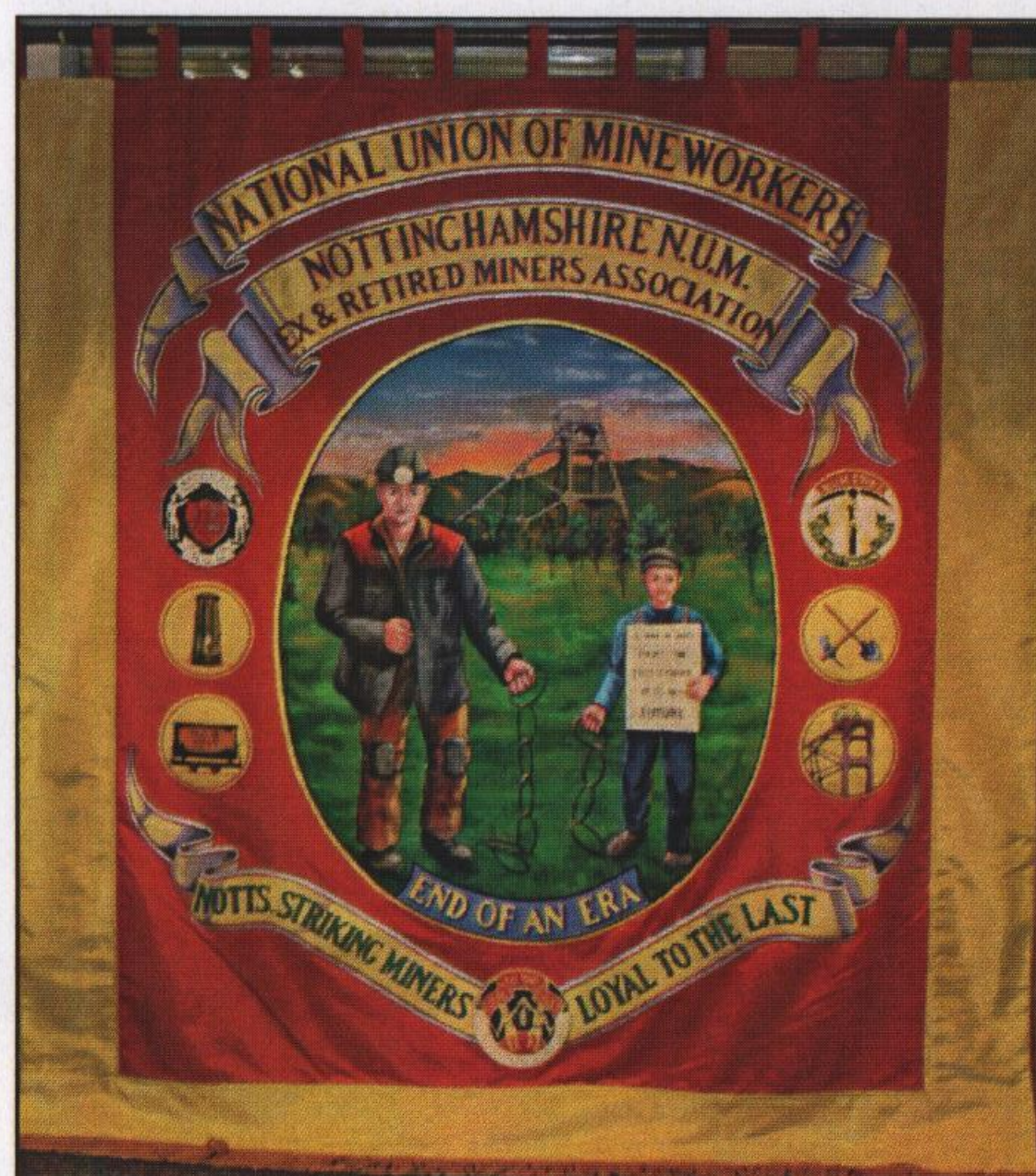
Ian Morrison

Pat Crowe

Bob Collier

Malcolm Hall

Dougie Broadfoot



**Send Fraternal Greetings to Nottinghamshire NUM
on the 30th Anniversary Celebrations
of The Great Miners Strike.**

**Contact : Nottinghamshire NUM Ex & Retired Miners Association,
1st Floor Byron House, Commercial Street, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 1EE.**

Email: exandretiredminers@hotmail.co.uk Phone 01623 416 895

**Visit our Websites at: www.nottinghamshireexminer.com and
www.nottscoalminingmemories.org.uk**

Is It Really 30 Years Since the Great Strike?

When I realised last year that this year would be the 30th Anniversary of our Great Strike, I just couldn't believe it, I had to start to count in my head all those thirty years that had passed, I was dumb struck for the next few weeks trying to come to terms with the fact I was becoming an old bore constantly talking about the strike that took place thirty years ago.

The NUM Notts Area and our Association had to start planning how we were going to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary, so last year a small committee was set up to organise and plan what we would do. It was decided to book the Festival Hall in Kirkby-in-Ashfield and this was done pretty quickly so at least we had a venue booked and we could then plan from there. The kitchens and an anti room were also booked so that food could be prepared and served on the night.

It was agreed that the committee would meet once a month to discuss progress and allocate jobs differing members of the committee would perform. Things seem to be going well, a band had been booked it was agreed to put on food and to organise guest speakers. Did I say all was going well!! we found out the band was double booked and they wouldn't be able to perform at our celebration, so another band had to be booked. We have now found another band let's hope they are the right kind for our sort of people. We next had problems with food a couple of people on the committee were not happy about providing food for 400 people so a solution had to be found, it was decided to just provided people with pie and peas and this is what will be done.

It was also agreed to film the event and provide tables in the anti room for other organisations to sell and advertise their wares.

So fingers crossed we will have a good night of celebration, at least we have something to celebrate not like the other lot.

Like me you will have heard about the release of some of the cabinet papers

pertaining to the strike. Well it gives me great pleasure to now have it in black and white that they lied, yes the iron lady lied, she lied to the country when she said that the dispute was between the NCB and the NUM and the government were not involved, and now we have the secret papers that tell us what we, who were involved in the Great Strike, knew all along, that they had formed a secret committee to oversee the strike. They lied and lied and yet the statue of the lying lady is still in its position in parliament, what an absolute disgrace.

And what about her puppet McGregor another liar, he had planned in 1983 to close 75 pits with a loss of 75,000 jobs did they care did they hell, the b****d's were hell bent on destroying the mining industry and our great Union and to hell with the consequences it wasn't their families that were going to suffer. McGregor had the gall in June 84 to write to every striking miner and he said and I quote:-

"This is a strike which should never have happened. It is based on a very serious misrepresentation and distortion of the facts. At great financial cost miners have supported the strike for fourteen weeks because your leaders have told you this.....That the Coal Board is out to butcher the coal industry.

That we plan to do away with 70,000 jobs. That we plan to close down 86 pits, leaving only 100 working collieries.

IF THESE THINGS WERE TRUE I WOULD NOT BLAME MINERS FOR GETTING ANGRY OR FOR BEING DEEPLY WORRIED. BUT THESE THINGS ARE ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE. I STATE THAT CATEGORICALLY AND SOLEMNLY. YOU HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY MISLED."

Ian MacGregor

Chairman of Coal Board June 84.

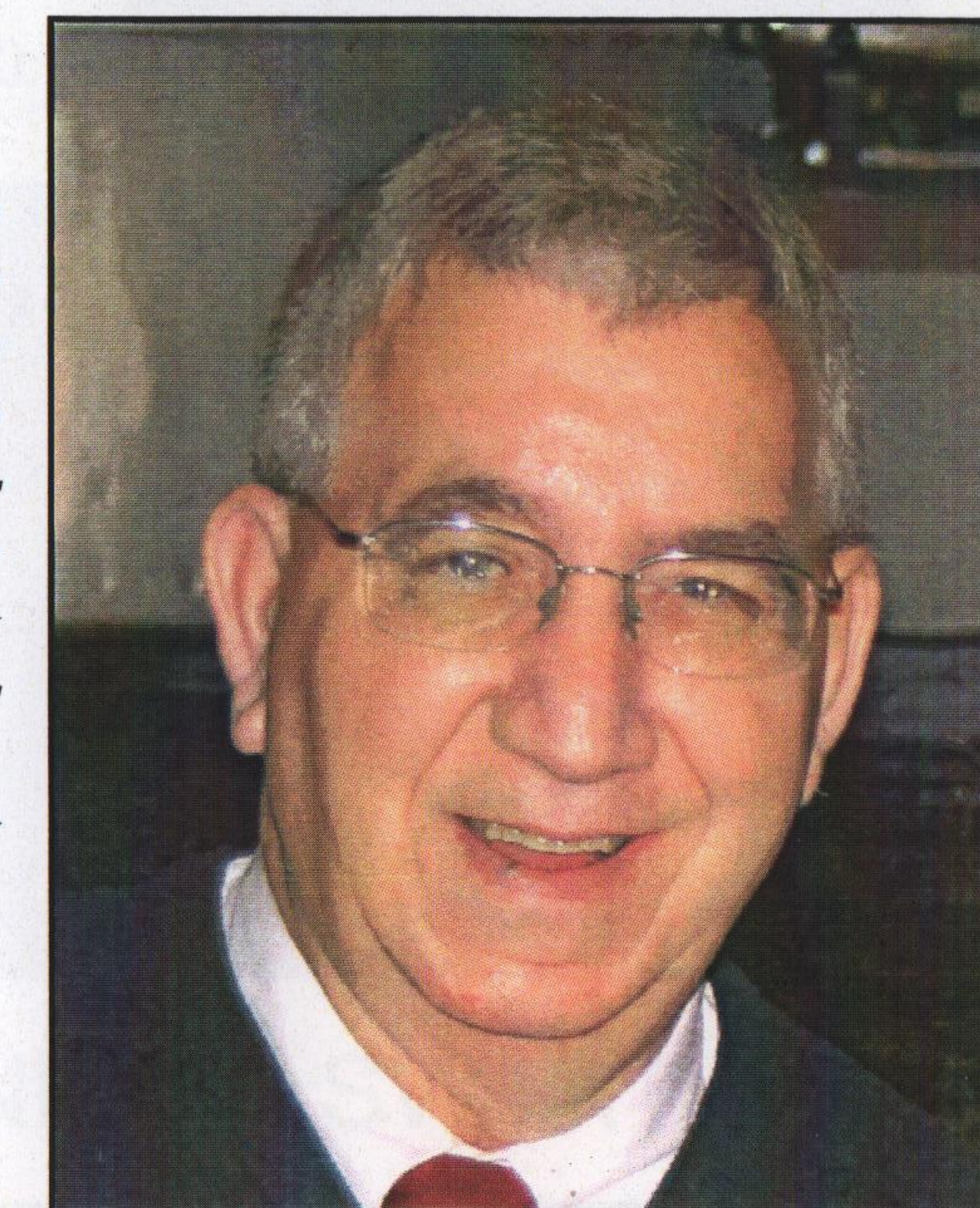
All lies and he knew it, and what about the media, I watched the BBC news on the 1st Jan 1984, first of all on Ceefax it stated "that Arthur Scargill may have been right about the pit closure programme", on the six o'clock news Fiona Bruce said "that Arthur Scargill may have been right about the 70 pits to close during the miners' strike" and she said exactly the same thing on the ten o'clock news that Arthur Scargill may have been right about the pit closure programme. There seems to be a pattern forming don't you think, same old media they are still at it thirty years on. I seem to remember at Orgreave that the BBC altered a programme to make it look like the pickets were throwing stones at the police which made the police charge the pickets, totally wrong, it was the other way round, but of course don't let the truth get in the way of a good story.

There is a glimmer of hope it would seem that people are now waking up and taking notice of what went on in that Great Strike. Thirty years too late but welcome all the same. We must keep pushing to get an apology and compensation, the strike was provoked by the hated Tory government and they must be made to pay.

Eric Eaton

Chairman

Notts NUM Ex and Retired Miners.



Martin Lee & Co Solicitors

12 QUEEN STREET
MANSFIELD
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
NG18 1JN
TELEPHONE 01623 651886

Proud to celebrate the courage, strength and solidarity of the National Union of Mineworkers. Every year that passes brings more proof of the justice of your struggle. By her lies and brutal use of the power of the state, Thatcher cleared the ground for her successors to create an economy of poverty wages, zero hour contracts and welfare cuts. Your example of commitment to your industry and communities is an inspiration for the whole Labour movement for the fight ahead of us to rebuild our economy and democracy.



**UCATT salutes the courage
and integrity of the
Nottinghamshire NUM
striking miners during the great miners
strike of 1984 – 1985.**

**Your struggle 30 years on,
has not been forgotten.
We wish you good luck, fraternal greet-
ings and solidarity.**

Steve Murphy
General Secretary

UCATT, UCATT House,
177 Abbeville Road,
London, SW4 9RL
Tel: 0207 622 2442

www.ucatt.org.uk

Neil Vernon
Chair of Executive Council



*NUM - Vanguard of Our
Movement*

*Solidarity - Commitment -
Endeavour - Respect*

An Example to All

Sir Alan Meale MP

Mansfield Office

85 Westgate
Mansfield
Notts, NG18

Telephone: 01623 660531

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
12:30 - 4:00pm

Wednesday Closed

Saturday 10:00 - 12:00 noon

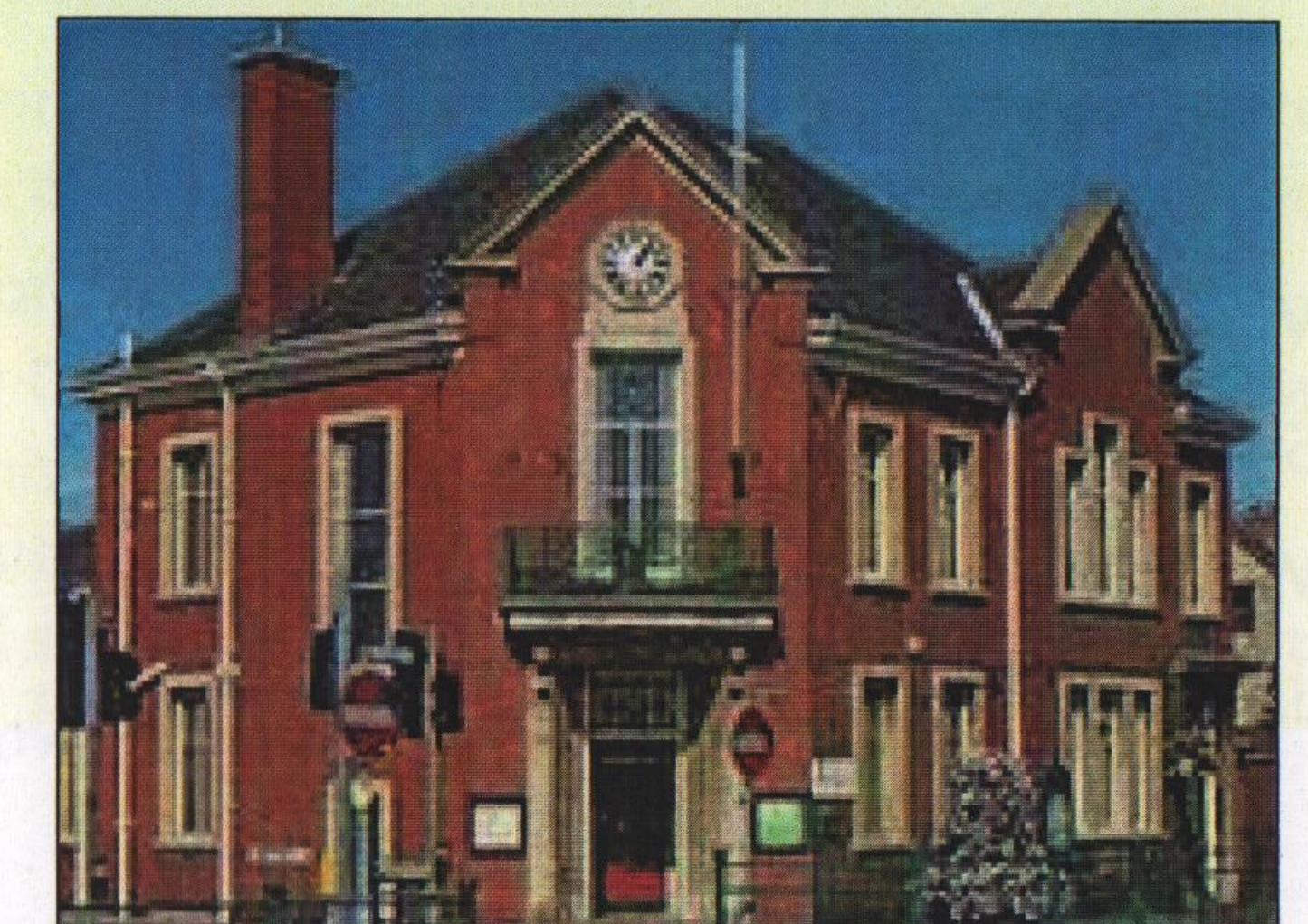
Warsop Office

Warsop Town Hall
Church Street
Warsop, NG20 0AL

Telephone/Fax: 01623 842184

Monday to Friday 10:00am - 1:00pm

Monthly Saturday Morning Surgery
10:00am to 12:00



HOUSE OF COMMONS. LONDON, SW1A 0AA



The CFMEU Mining and Energy Division

are delighted and honoured to send a
message of Greetings and Solidarity
to some of the best Trade Unionists in
the World,

the Nottinghamshire Area Miners.

We hope the 30th Anniversary
Celebrations of the Miners Strike is an
event to remember.

Andrew Vickers

General Secretary

CFMEU Mining & Energy Division

Street Address: Level 11, 215-217 Clarence Street, SYDNEY NSW
2000

Postal Address: PO BOX Q1641 SYDNEY NSW 1230

Phone: (02) 9267 1035

Fax: (02) 9267 3198

Email: avickers@cfmeu.com.au

Website: www.cfmeu.com.au

Australian Coal Miners Proud to Stand With Our British Comrades in 84-85 Strike and Still With You Now!

Throughout the entire period of the historic British miners strike of 1984-85, Australian coal mineworkers were proud to stand in international solidarity with our comrades throughout the British coalfields as you fought for your jobs, the future of your industry and the welfare of your families and communities.

Indeed, we hosted many visits to Australia by representatives of the NUM who told tens of thousands of our members of the issues involved in your struggles. We were proud that our rank and file dug deep in their pockets to provide financial as well as moral assistance in your struggle.

As we mark the 30th anniversary of the beginning of that epic strike, we reflect on the lessons learned from it that still apply throughout the world today.

We look back in admiration of the sheer tenacity and courage of NUM members, families and supporters in enduring the vicious and relentless onslaught unleashed by the Tory Thatcher Government in its all out war to destroy the NUM and cripple your coal communities. We still have vivid memories of the vicious and cowardly attacks on you at Orgreave

We took great inspiration from your resistance to the injustices inflicted upon

you including the jailing of miners, the suspension of many of your civil liberties, the attacks on your picket lines and the ruthless use of all the powers of the Tory State harnessed to break you.

We saluted the courage and determination of the Women Against Pit Closures who mobilized great community support for your struggle.

While we admired the overall courage and determination of the entire rank and file throughout the British coalfields, we were particularly moved by the fortitude and principle of those Nottingham miners like Keith Stanley who stood solidly on the picket lines with their comrades throughout the strike in the face of the massive provocation of scabs whose leaders were later shown to be criminals.

When the strike ended and you marched back to your pits behind your Lodge banners, we watched with pride the determination and fortitude in your character.

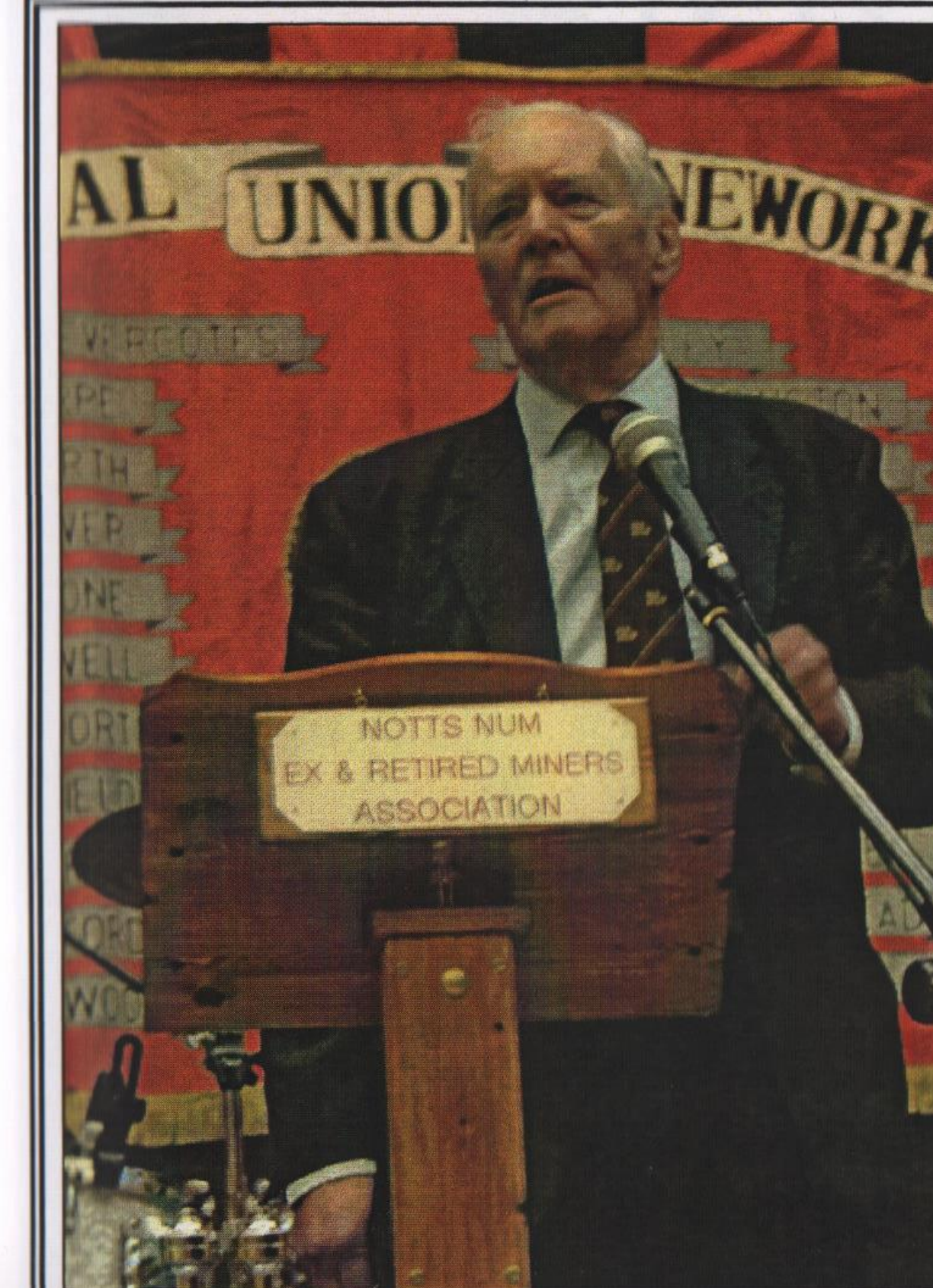
In the aftermath of the strike, we watched in horror and disgust as the full destructive force of the vengeful Thatcher Tories was unleashed on your pits, your families and your communities.

The devastation that followed the destruction of your great coal industry is still felt today. The crimes that were committed against you and the toll they took on hundreds of thousand of decent working men and women still serve as a lesson for us all internationally.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 1984-1985 strike, Australian coal mineworkers support the recently launched 'Justice for the Coalfields' campaign. With the release of Cabinet papers from that period the ruthless repressive Tory Party agenda to destroy your industry and devastate your communities has been exposed. It is time that the present Tory Government apologized for the great injustices and devastation inflicted on you. It was a great wrong then and it remains a great wrong that needs to be formally addressed.

Australian coal mineworkers were proud to stand with our British comrades throughout the strike and today we remain equally proud to stand with you now and forever.

ANDREW VICKERS,
GENERAL SECRETARY
Mining and Energy Division of the
Construction Forestry Mining and
Energy Union (CFMEU)



Tony Benn

3rd April 1925 – 14th March 2014

Tony was an MP for 47 years which was a tremendous achievement, he renounced his Peerage in 1963 to continue with his loyal work for the Labour party and for the working class.

He became MP for Chesterfield on the 1st March 1984 and straight away became active in his support for the NUM in our year long battle for jobs and communities, he spoke on many a platform alongside the union and became a loyal supporter and friend not just to us but to the labour and trade union movement.

The Nottingham Area of the NUM would like to pass on our deepest sympathy to all his family and friends of which we count ourselves in the latter.

The Lesson Is Clear

The FBU would like to send fraternal greetings to the NUM as many remember the year-long miners' strike thirty years ago.

The action taken by NUM members is seared into the memory of those who fought to save their pits and communities. Thirty years on it remains a defining moment in the British labour movement history - with mass picketing at Orgreave and soup kitchens in village halls.

Times have changed, but the plight of the workers has not got any easier. The law has been changed to make it much harder for working people to protect their workplaces. The soup kitchens have gone, but unfortunately they have been replaced by food banks that are springing up in many towns and cities.

A number of FBU members have their own personal memories of the strike and the devastation that followed when pits were closed and local businesses and communities suffered in its grim aftermath.

It is worth reminding ourselves that there were 170,000 miners in Britain's pits when the dispute over closures started but now only a handful of pits remain. Some communities have never recovered from this ideological attack on NUM members and their families. FBU members and NUM members had a lot in common, camaraderie, reliance on teamwork in workplaces that are often potentially dangerous.

The miners who were publicly vilified and called 'the enemy within' were only doing what working people do - looking after their workplaces, their communities and families.

The public can now see from the government documents made available under the 30-year rule that the Tories had plans all along to destroy the mining industry and with it local communities and peoples' lives. The warnings given at the time by NUM members have been shown to be true.

Thirty years on and one thing is clear, the NUM had a just cause then and they were proved right in their concerns. It's a shame that it has taken some people so long to see through the smokescreen and the government spin machine that presented such a blatant one-sided story to the public at large.

The FBU is itself facing troubled times ahead with an ongoing pensions dispute involving strike action and the threats of fire station closures all around the country.

Working people are having their pensions plundered and public safety is being compromised by a government that is more concerned with bailing out the banks than with saving people.

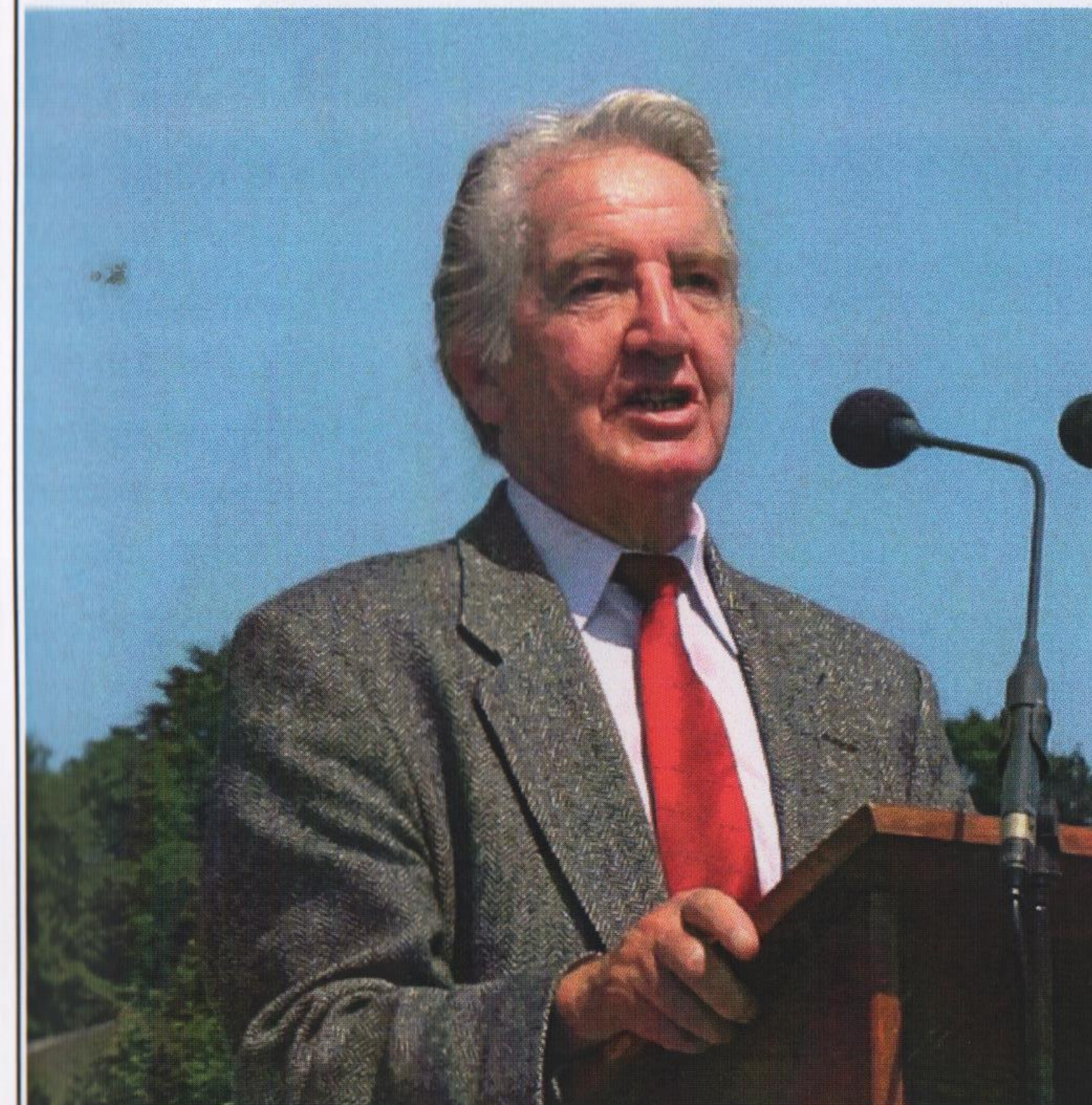
Like the miners in the eighties, the FBU are now being portrayed by government as irresponsible and irrational.

The lesson from the miners is clear; your communities and workplaces are worth fighting for.

Shaun Starbuck, National Officer

Best Wishes to all those attending
the NUM Notts Area
30th Anniversary Celebration
of the Miners Strike 1984-85

Dennis Skinner MP



Gloria De Piero
MP for Ashfield

8 Station Street,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield,
Nottinghamshire,
NG17 7AR

Telephone: 01623 720399

Email: Gloria.depiero.mp@parliament.uk

www.gloria-de-piero.co.uk

Surgery Times.

1st Friday in every month 1-2pm meeting room Sutton library,
2-3pm Idlewells Centre Cafe Sutton.

2nd Friday every month Kirkby constituency office 1pm-3pm.

3rd Friday in every month 1-2.15pm Eastwood Volunteer Bureau.
2.30-3.30pm The Dales Club Jacksdale

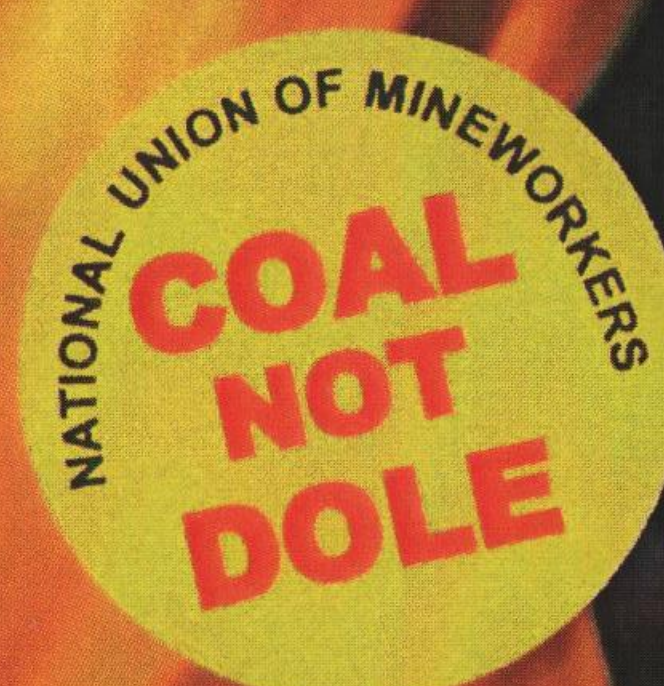
Matt Wrack
General Secretary



The Fire Brigades Union
Founded 1918

Alan McLean
President

**The Fire Brigades Union
sends fraternal greetings on
the 30th anniversary of the
1984/85 Miners Strike**



www.fbu.org.uk

UNISON

East Midlands

Fraternal Greetings

from

Unison East Midlands Region

UNISON Regional Centre

Vivian Avenue, Nottingham, NG5 1AF

**Fraternal Greetings to
The Nottinghamshire NUM
as they commemorate 30 years
since the start of their
historic struggle.**

**from
All Labour Councillors of Ashfield District
The Ashfield Local Campaign Forum
and
The wider Ashfield Labour Movement**



National Union of Mineworkers

(Nottinghamshire Area)
1st Floor, Byron House
Commercial Street, Mansfield
Notts. NG18 1EE

General Secretary

Alan Spencer

Honorary President

Keith Stanley
Tel: 01623 621 611

The National Union of Mineworkers (Nottinghamshire Area) pays
tribute to the Nottinghamshire Miners sacked during the 1984-85 dispute

PA Cooper	Norman Lynch	Jimmy Lees
George Brooks	Christopher Bown	John H Bailey
Vincent Waller	Brian Green	Kevin Parkin
John Bailey	N Colton	David Heald
John Spotwood	Kenneth Petney	Robert Andrew
Alexander Denholm	Keith Frogson	Andrew Newbould
Terence John Parker	Roy Chapman	Ronald Dick George
Kevin John Wycliffe		
Tony Geddes	Mark Hunter	

Following the strike, British Coal refused to recognise the NUM Nottinghamshire Area. This resulted in Union Officials and Activists within the Nottinghamshire membership being victimised and sacked by British Coal.

All these actions were done in an attempt to remove the Nottinghamshire Area NUM.

ALL ATTEMPTS HAVE FAILED

Dear Friends

I'm so sorry I can't be with you this evening to commemorate the events of thirty years ago. Unfortunately events beyond my control have conspired against me.

In the Labour and Trade Union movement, there are so many key historical events which we celebrate as we constantly strive to improve the lives of working people; the Derby Silk Mill dispute, the Tolpuddle Martyrs and the Match Girls in the 19th century; and their 20th century counterparts; from the General Strike to Grunwick.

We celebrate these events as times when people have acted according to that key principle of trade unionism, that we achieve more together than we do separately, that united we stand, divided we fall.

Often, of course, it seems like one step forward and two steps back, but whatever the immediate outcome, there has been overall a remorseless march towards progress, towards greater protections at work, more equal rights for all, a better share for working people, a fairer world.

The miners' strike was brought about by a government determined to destroy the trade union movement, and in order to do that, it had to take on the miners.

That government didn't care about the damage it did to our communities. Now here we are again; another Tory government fighting for the rich and privileged against the interests of working people.

So the struggle goes on – new battles – many of them won. So, for example, working people now have a minimum wage and the debate is now moving towards a living wage. We have much improved health and safety in the workplace, we have guaranteed holidays, breaks, and rights for pregnant workers, while part time and temporary workers now have the same rights as full time employees.

In my present role as a Member of the European Parliament, I'm proud that so much of this has emanated from European legislation. But even prouder that these changes have been driven from below by working people across the continent, working people like Nottinghamshire mineworkers.

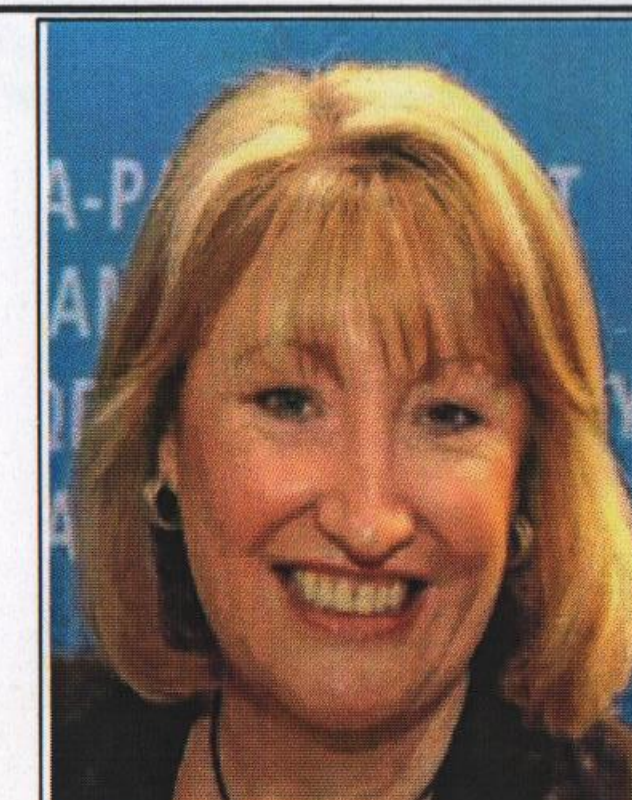
As many of you will know, my father was a miner - my family moved to Mansfield when I was ten – so the strengths of those communities were what I grew up with.

And, looking back on the miners' strike thirty years ago, as a trade unionist who lived in a mining community, the memories I have are about solidarity, comradeship, and community spirit. Those memories will remain as an inspiration to me all my life.

Yours in solidarity

Glenis Willmott

Labour MEP for the East Midlands and Labour Leader in the European Parliament



**Glenis
Willmott**

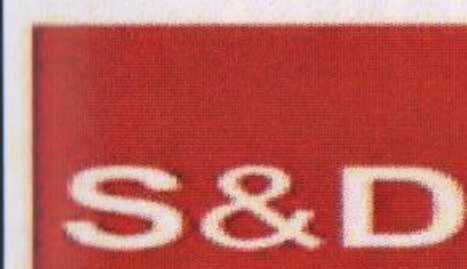
**Labour MEP for the East Midlands and
Labour's Leader in Europe**

Working for jobs, rights at work and clean coal technology.

***Best wishes on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the
Miners Strike.***

Harold Wilson House
23 Barratt Lane
Attenborough
Nottingham NG9 6AD

Tel: 0115 922 9717
Fax: 0115 922 4439
office@gleniswillmott.org.uk
www.gleniswillmott.eu



Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament

**European
Parliamentary
Labour Party**

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/midlands> <http://midlandstucmedia.blogspot.co.uk>

30 YEARS ON



**STILL INSPIRING
TRADE UNIONISTS
TODAY**

Senior Assistant General Secretary: Mick Cash



WWW.RMT.ORG.UK

President: Peter Pinkney

Support and Solidarity with the NUM

Firstly, let me say how delighted I am that the RMT has been given the opportunity to support this important publication and to have the opportunity to write a few words setting out my unions continued support and solidarity with the NUM and the mining communities.

Thirty years on, we can look back in the safe knowledge that the core principles at the heart of the great strike, the right to work and the right to decent working and living conditions, have never gone away and are as important now as they ever were.

Everything that Arthur Scargill said, in the teeth of a class war where the bosses and the Tories mobilised every shred of ammunition they could muster, has been borne out as the truth.

The miners' strike ushered in an era of unprecedented greed where whole communities were written off and the boss class felt able to rush through a barrage of anti-union laws and anti-working class policies which continue to shackle the workers to this day.

I am proud of the role that RMT's component parts, the NUR and the NUS, played in the strike three decades ago.

It must never be forgotten that seamen blacked scab coal and that brave rail-worker members of the NUR, some of whom were brutally victimised, refused to organise rail transportation aimed at breaking the NUM action.

Many of those comrades from the NUS and the NUR are still with us today and are nothing short of an inspiration. If the entire trade union movement had shown the same guts, determination and solidarity I am in no doubt that the outcome would have been very different.

The death of Margaret Thatcher forced a craven media to re-open the files and to re-wind the tapes of those days in the mid-eighties when the Police became the paramilitary wing of her rotten, right-wing Government.

The fit-ups, the lies and the brutality must be dragged out into the daylight and those responsible called to account and those who suffered compensated. As far as I am concerned the state collusion over blacklisting, the scandal of Hillsborough and the oppression of the miners and their communities all come out of the same cesspit. No single attack on the working class should ever be seen in isolation.

And today, we fight on.

More anti-union laws are being planned and others, like the tax on justice from the attacks on the right to take a case to the Employment Tribunal, have already been bulldozed through. Again, Labour has not lifted a finger, in the same way it never lifted a finger to repeal the anti-union laws or open the files of conspiracy against the NUM when it had thirteen long years in office.

I said at the Durham Miners Gala in 2013 that we have to stand united and fight as hard today against this ConDem Government as we have ever fought before.

Government of the rich, by the rich for the rich has never gone away and Cameron and Clegg's "Thatcher Tribute Act" is just the latest incarnation. We have to fight them with the same spirit and courage that the mining communities showed thirty years ago.

Bob Crowe

RMT General Secretary

2002-2014

Bob Crowe 13th June 1961 – 11th March 2014

Sadly on the 11TH March 2014 Bob Crowe died shortly after the NUM received his article for the Nottinghamshire NUM 30TH Anniversary Programme.

Bob never faltered in his support for the National Union of Mineworkers. He addressed our members up and down the country at events organized by our union over the years. He always admired the miners and their fight for justice in the year-long pit strike and never tired from saying so. When Bob became leader of the RMT the membership in his union quickly rose from 57,000 to 80,000 clearly indicating what a giant of a man he really was. His dedication and commitment to his members and the working class overall will never be forgotten. What a sad loss to the trade union movement. The NUM Nottinghamshire Area offers its deepest sympathy to Bob's family and friends.

