

## Grum sez

It's pretty much a nightmare being a young person these days. We are seeing unprecedented attacks on our own and our families' living standards, and on our communities.

The Con-Dem coalition is slashing through child benefit, Sure Start provision, school buildings maintenance, Education Maintenance

Allowance, youth and Connexions services, the Future Jobs Fund, and higher education funding. The cuts to public services mean our members losing jobs, and young people competing for even fewer jobs.

This in the midst of a youth unemployment crisis that sees nearly one million people under 25 years of age without work, and the Black youth unemployment rate twice that of their white counterparts.

But those who say that young people are not interested in taking a stand against these attacks are clearly wrong.

Look at the student protests. Look at the young people of UK Uncut and their imaginative ways of campaigning. Look at the youth rallies in support of youth services. Look at people like MC Nxt

Gen – who has given us rap anthems against the coalition's Health and Social Care Bill and now a new one against public sector cuts. And look at the 100 young UNISON members who took to the streets of Cardiff in May to take our message to the public.

We are living in tough times, but it's heartening to see such brilliant examples of how young people are refusing to meekly accept what the Con-Dems are dishing out. For my part I will be committed to helping young UNISON members spread the word and build sustainable alliances with campaigning and community organisations.

Together we can win. To do otherwise is unthinkable.  
**Graham 'Grum' Smith, NEC member for young members**

## Summer of action

# Summer of action

As the temperature hots up so too does local campaigning for the UNISON Summer of action.

We all know that UNISON members will be keeping vital public services running smoothly 24 hours a day so the public can safely and happily enjoy the best of the summer.

But once the day job is done our members are out at carnivals and pride events, concerts and rallies to make sure UNISON's messages and values are heard by the public: The NHS is not for sale; affordable education is vital for our young people's future; and everybody needs a decent pension – wherever they work. Don't make the most vulnerable pay for the greed of the bankers through the Tory-led public service cuts.

Find out what's happening near you and get involved by going to [unison.org.uk/summerofaction](http://unison.org.uk/summerofaction)



## Looking good with UNISON

Wear your union with pride!  
 Campaign t-shirts

All of these are available in sizes S, M, L, XL, and XXL. T-shirts are £6 each including postage and packing. You can check out the colours and order them through: [unison.org.uk/summerofaction](http://unison.org.uk/summerofaction)

## Tell us about it!

Got a union success story?

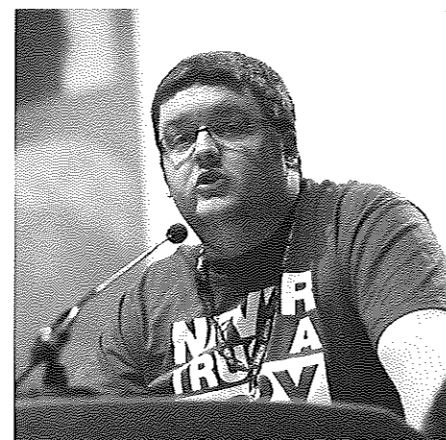
Let us know about it at [young.members@unison.co.uk](mailto:young.members@unison.co.uk)

## Do something!

Everyone has a part to play in building a stronger union.

That means getting people to join and play an active part. Union members are our best recruiters. You joined for a reason, and asking someone to join and telling them why you are a member is a powerful and persuasive technique. Joining UNISON has never been more important, and it's easy now to sign up online at [unison.org.uk/membership](http://unison.org.uk/membership)

## PUBLIC SERVICES



# Speaking out

Young members made a big impact at the union's national conference in June. With around 100 delegates under the age of 27, there were contributions from a young perspective in the vast majority of debates.

Clockwise from top left:  
**Ruma Ahmed, Leicester City branch** "We will defend our Sure Start services".  
**Lisa Kelly, NYMF** "Online campaigning is not a luxury. It's not optional. It's not even the future. It's here. It's now. And it's essential." Watch Lisa's speech to conference in full at [unison.org.uk/young/pages\\_view.asp?did=13080](http://unison.org.uk/young/pages_view.asp?did=13080)  
**Martin Nelson, NYMF** "The only difference between Dick Turpin and the Tories is that Dick Turpin wore a mask to rob us!"  
**Young Team: Toby Walton and Lisa Kelly** who represented the National Young Members Forum at conference, with **Graham Smith, young members rep on the NEC**. Toby spoke at conference on the Connexions service, saying "We salute the efforts of our members who are continuing a fight to defend a world class, professional careers service".



## Young fringe



**Liverpool Labour Councillor Jake Morrison speaking at the fringe** 'What future for young people?' Jake is the UNISON young member who beat the former Lib-Dem leader of Liverpool Council in the May local government elections.

Also pictured left to right: **Liam Preston** (Chair, British Youth Council), **Graham Smith** (Chair, UNISON National Young Members Forum and NEC), **Maz Jeffrey**, a youth worker on UNISON's national local government committee.

# Three back from Cuba



Gerri Cowell, Vikki and Amy Shepherd show off a T-shirt signed by all the members of the 2011 Cuba young trade unionists study tour. The trio raised over £200 for the Cuba Solidarity Campaign at the young members weekend in Cardiff.



## All in a good cause

Fancy yourself as a fund-raiser?

UNISON is backing the campaign for a memorial statue of Mary Seacole, the Black Jamaican/Scottish nurse who treated soldiers in the Crimean war. The campaign has already raised £100,000, but needs another £400,000 to have the statue cast in bronze and erected in the gardens of St Thomas' hospital, London. Why not run a fund-raising event to help contribute to the appeal – and tell us about what you did, how much you raised, and send us pictures? Find out how you can support the appeal at [maryseacoleappeal.org.uk](http://maryseacoleappeal.org.uk)

## A roof over your head?

The average age for first-time home buyers is now 38, and the lack of affordable housing is a major concern for young people. Leaving home is, for many young people, way beyond their means. UNISON has joined forces with organisations such as Shelter, the Child Poverty Action Group, and the National Housing Federation to support the Housing Voice – the Affordable Homes Alliance campaign. For more information email [d.arnold@unison.co.uk](mailto:d.arnold@unison.co.uk)

# U27

UNISON YOUNG MEMBERS

Issue 1 Summer 2011

## Pensions

We are all in it together



James Imhoof, Newcastle City branch, at UNISON conference  
"The fight to defend our pensions is not about self-interest – we must all work together in UNISON."

Ask anyone who is retired if it's important to plan for decent pension provision and you'll probably be lucky to get away in one piece. Yet it is difficult for people who see this as something happening to them in 40 years' time to realise just how vital it is to join – and stay – in their occupational pension scheme. And that's even before you take into account the government's proposals that we pay more in for our pensions, work more years, and end up with reduced benefits.

The problem is made still worse by the Con-Dem coalition's gross mishandling of the economy. Public service jobs are being cut and, where they remain, the workers are facing an onslaught on pay and terms and

conditions. With prices for essentials such as food and fuel going through the roof, paying into an occupational pension becomes ever more difficult.

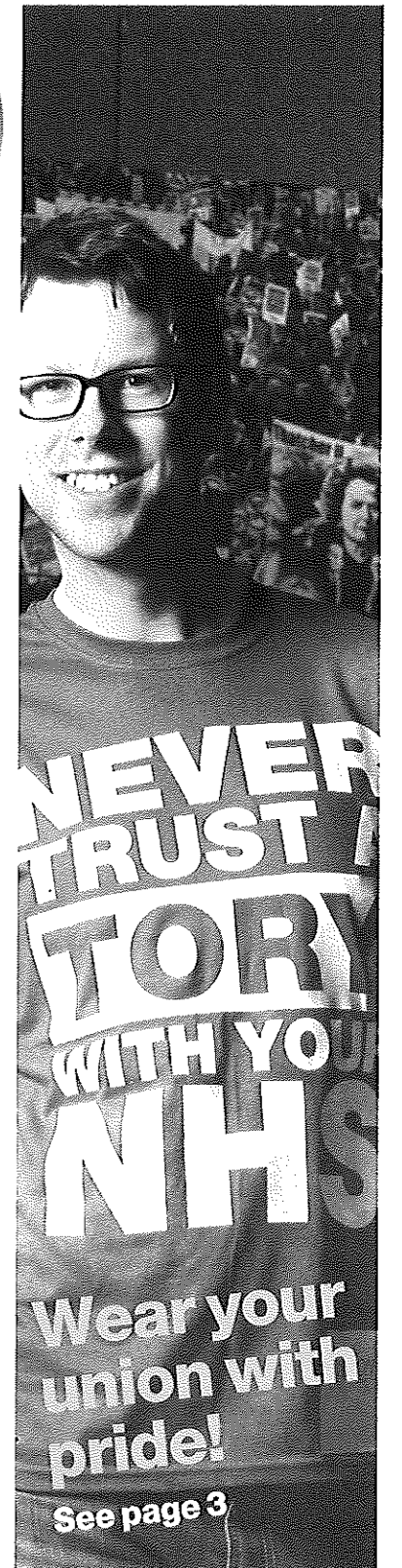
But refusing to join or deciding to come out of your pension scheme is simply cutting off your nose to spite your face. Your pension is deferred pay – and if you are not part of the scheme you lose out on the contribution your employer makes towards it.

Occupational pension schemes still offer incredible value for money – and not just to those who are members. Pensions aren't only about your individual dignity when you've finished working. They also play a critical role in keeping down welfare benefit costs and pressures on the NHS. And what is often forgotten is the billions of pounds such schemes invest in jobs and industry.

So everyone has something to gain through the provision of decent pensions – not just the pensioner.

As part of the campaign to defend our pensions, members need to make sure that they are clear about what's at stake. One key way of doing this is becoming a pensions' contact or champion at branch level. You're never too young to be one of our champions, and there is training and support to make sure you are up-to-speed on all the issues.

Find out how you can support our pensions campaign and about becoming a pensions contact or champion at [unison.org.uk/protectourpensions](http://unison.org.uk/protectourpensions)



## Your 'go to' pages

Here's our recommended links relating to stories in this edition:

Join UNISON	<a href="http://unison.org.uk/membership">unison.org.uk/membership</a>
UNISON young members	<a href="http://unison.org.uk/young">unison.org.uk/young</a>
Million Voices campaign	<a href="http://unison.org.uk/million">unison.org.uk/million</a>
UNISON Summer of action	<a href="http://unison.org.uk/summerofaction">unison.org.uk/summerofaction</a>
Protect our pensions	<a href="http://unison.org.uk/protectourpensions">unison.org.uk/protectourpensions</a>
Our NHS, Our Future	<a href="http://unison.org.uk/ournhs">unison.org.uk/ournhs</a>
Shout Out for A Sure Start	<a href="http://shoutoutforasurestart.org.uk">shoutoutforasurestart.org.uk</a>
British Youth Council	<a href="http://byc.org.uk">byc.org.uk</a>
Mary Seacole Appeal	<a href="http://maryseacoleappeal.org.uk">maryseacoleappeal.org.uk</a>
UK Uncut	<a href="http://ukuncut.org.uk">ukuncut.org.uk</a>
National Union of Students	<a href="http://nus.org.uk">nus.org.uk</a>
Cuba Solidarity Campaign	<a href="http://cuba-solidarity.org">cuba-solidarity.org</a>

And why not join the young members group on Facebook  
[facebook.com/youngunison](http://facebook.com/youngunison)