



Associate and Retired Members North West Committee Newsletter

March 2018

Editorial board:

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Join ARMS: tinyurl.com/j8qayrk

Let's get more ARMS members!

PCS has in recent years become more proactive in recruiting to ARMS people who have retired or moved to employment where PCS does not operate. As a result, ARMS membership is growing and stands at nearly 11,000. Locally, the NW ARMS AGM on 13 March in Liverpool agreed to contact North West PCS Branches to gain their help in recruitment. We intend to:

1. Phone PCS Branch Secretaries offering a speaker for branch committee meetings and asking them to encourage people who are leaving to join ARMS.
1. Produce a leaflet for Branch committees reinforcing point 1.
2. Produce a recruitment leaflet for members who are leaving.

We would also ask readers of this newsletter to encourage any potential members whom they know to join. Use the link above or:

- ✓ E-mail: membership@pcs.org.uk.
- ✓ Phone: 0800 317 464.

Chorley A&E campaigners defiant

Demonstrations against the closure of Chorley A&E reached their 100th week on Saturday 10 March with NW ARMS members continuing their support. Members of Parliament were also there to show their ongoing commitment to the campaign. The A&E was closed in April 2016 but was reopened for 12 hours per day in January 2017, thanks to the hospital campaigners. There is now a walk-in centre to cover night-time hours run by the private company "Go to Doc". Such outsourcing is now too familiar. Privatisation of

the NHS has started, but we must *always* resist.



North West ARMS banner at the 100th Chorley demo

NW ARMS at the NW Regional Pensioners Association

PCS are very active in this group which acts as an umbrella group for union pensioner groups and other retired sections. It meets monthly, and is part of the National Pensioners Convention. We have pressed the group to set up a campaign committee to work with other unions and the TUC. The TUC do not have a pensioners group so in effect we fulfil this role.

Our first campaign was to support the 100 weeks of protests at Chorley to save the A&E. We obtained TUC agreement to produce a joint A&E campaign flyer with PCS and other unions and North West Pensioners. We have also agreed closer working with the TUC. We aim to press for more campaigning issues, a newsletter and reports in the TUC News. Phil Green ARMS NW Chair has just been elected Vice President of this body and Steve Ion to the Executive. Phil has also been invited as observer to the NW TUC Conference in March.



Around The Region



ARMS members at Fujitsu picket line, Manchester



ARMS banner at RMT picket, Birkenhead



ARMS members supporting Cammell Lairds workers in Birkenhead



ARMS banner at Defence Sector pay protest, Liverpool

International Women's Day in Chorley

There were some brilliant International Women's Day celebrations in Chorley on 3 March, *reports Jacquie Hadfield of ARMS*. Rebecca Long Bailey MP gave a superb speech about inequality, the women who have fought against this and continue to do so, austerity and the need for change so everyone can have the best possible life.

Representing the multiple roles of woman in today's society were: suffragettes; women in the police; women in the fire brigade; women against fracking; WASPI women; a woman from Greater Manchester Hazards; women in Guiding; women from Stagecoach; women doing martial arts and of course women from the Chorley and South Ribble Hospital campaign.

Music was provided by women singers, including the Red Rosettes barbershop harmony chorus, and a range of crafts and workshops gave everyone a chance to be involved.

Future Meetings

Check blog* for venues and possible changes.

NW Committee: 30 May, 5 Sep, 25 Jan.

NW officers: 10 May, 14 Aug, 4 Dec.

Lancashire group: details to follow on blog.

Manchester group: 29 Jun, 28 Sep (both TBC).

Merseyside group: 19 Mar, 28 Jun, 17 Sep.

ARMS National Forum: 20 Jun in Liverpool.

Pensioner Parliament: 12-14 Jun in Blackpool.

* tiny.cc/a-nw