

**Manchester  
Trades Union Council**

PRESENTS

For Your Entertainment & Pleasure



**Manchester  
May Day Festival  
2015**

**Saturday 2nd May  
Mechanics Institute**



# **The Mechanics Institute**

## **Birthplace of the TUC**

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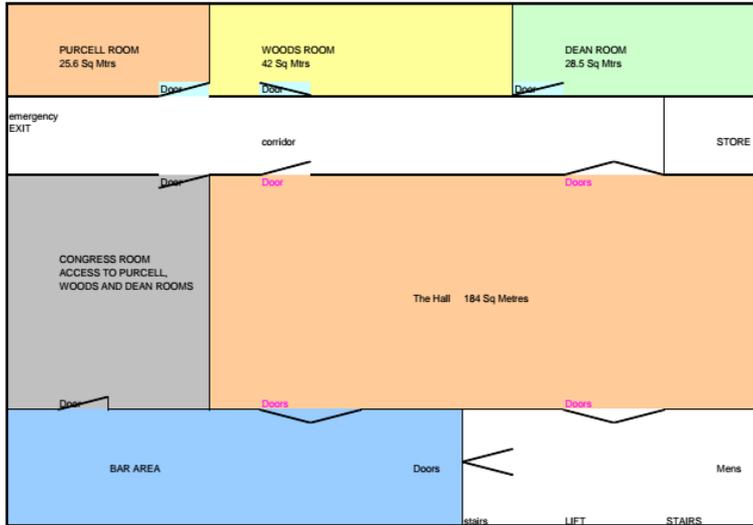
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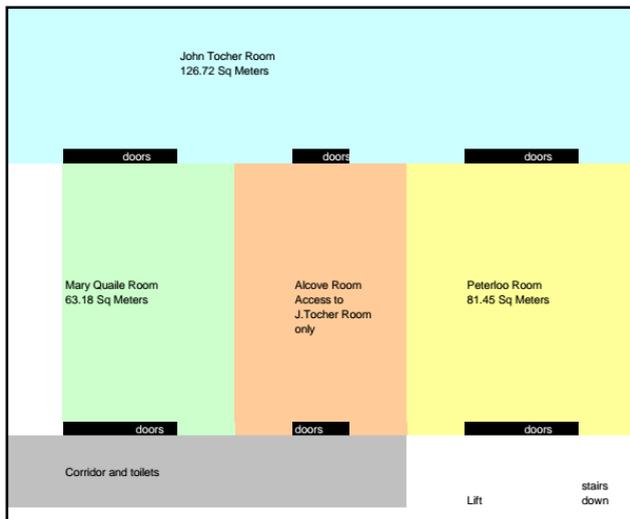
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# Mechanics Institute

## 2nd Floor



## 3rd Floor



# Annette Wright

## President, Manchester Trades Union Council



### **Welcome to the first annual Manchester May Day Festival**

International Workers Day is celebrated around the world. Manchester Trades Union Council wants our city to play its full role in that celebration.

Manchester is a trade union city. The first meeting of the TUC was called here by the Manchester and Salford Trades Council in 1868 at the Mechanics Institute where our festival is held today. Over the next few years we will share our 150th anniversary celebrations with Salford Trades Council and the wider union movement.

When we were founded in 1866 our predecessors had to build trade unions in the city. Today we are doing the same. We hope more trade unionists will get involved in our Fast Food Rights campaign and join us in recruiting shop workers, fast food workers and all other workers in our city. The slogan of trades councils is unions in the community.

We want to work with any organisations or individuals who support our aims to fight for workers' rights and the rights of people unable to work. If your union branch is not affiliated, join us today. If you want to help out in any way, get in touch with us.

Today we are bringing together trade unions, campaigning groups, musicians and actors. We hope you have a great day of learning from our history, discussing present day challenges and meeting old friends and new comrades. Enjoy the May Day Festival!



## **Alex Davidson**

### **Secretary, Manchester Trades Union Council**

**May Day is an international day of solidarity, a celebration of working-class struggles and working-class culture.**

When we began to plan May Day this year we wanted to build something that represented the best traditions of the labour movement and class struggle in our city. The aim of the Manchester Trades Union Council over the last year has been to help build the union movement in the city where the TUC was founded.

Now more than ever we need to learn from the finest traditions of our movement if we are to build a real fight back against austerity. We also need to celebrate that history, learn from it and from each other's traditions. We welcome you to the first Manchester May Day festival and hope you enjoy and are inspired by it.

### **JOIN MANCHESTER TRADES UNION COUNCIL**

**Manchester Trades Union Council was formed in 1866 and has played a critical role in the development of the trade union movement in the city ever since**

If your branch is not affiliated to MTUC, contact [secmtuc@gmail.com](mailto:secmtuc@gmail.com)

[www.mtuc.wordpress.com](http://www.mtuc.wordpress.com)

Facebook: TUCManchester

Twitter: @TUCManchester

# **The Hall & Exhibition Room** | **12:00-15:00** **Stalls**

Bakers, Food and Allied  
Workers Union

GM Hazards

People's Assembly

GMB

Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied  
Workers

Unison

Musicians Union

Pathfinder Books

Morning Star

Unite

Manchester Trades Union  
Council

UIA Insurance

Thompsons  
Solicitors

Fire Brigades  
Union

National Union of  
Teachers

Cuba Solidarity  
Campaign

Palestine  
Solidarity Campaign

University and  
College Union

Communication  
Workers Union

Greater Manchester  
Anti Bedroom Tax  
Federation

National Union  
of Journalists

## **The Bar**

Licensed bar open all day and night

Free tea and coffee available all day

## **The Congress Room**

**12:00-15:30 Irwell Valley Mining Project:  
Miners' Strike Exhibition**

**15:30-16:30 Closed**

**16:30-17:15 Free buffet**

## **The Woods Room**

### **Cinema**

**12:15 Still the Enemy Within**

A unique insight into one of history's most dramatic events: the 1984-85 British Miners' Strike. No experts. No politicians. Thirty years on, this is the raw first-hand experience of those who lived through Britain's longest strike.

**14:30 Pride**

Realising that they share common foes in Margaret Thatcher, the police and the right-wing press, London-based gays and lesbians lend their support to striking coal miners in 1984 Wales.

# Frances Dean Room

## **12:15 BFAWU: Hungry for Justice**

The Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union won a significant dispute against zero-hours contracts at Hovis in Wigan, organises the Fast Food Rights campaign and campaigns for a £10 an hour minimum wage. Come and meet them today.

## **13:30 FBU: We Save People Not Banks**

The Fire Brigades Union have been involved in a long running dispute in defence of their pensions. Come and meet them before hearing FBU General Secretary Matt Wrack speak at our rally.

## **15:00 NUJ: Journalists at War**

Journalists not only report on war, they are frequently the victims of war. The front-line may be where journalists are most at risk but global conflict has also forced thousands of journalists into exile and restricted their ability to report freely and truthfully. Exiled journalist Rzhwan Jaf will talk about his experiences as a journalist in Iraq and as a refugee in the UK. Journalists are all too often compelled to place both their lives and livelihoods on the line and this workshop run by Manchester & Salford NUJ Branch will provide insights into the reporting of war and the war on reporters.

# Purcell Room

## **12:00 GM Hazards & Thompsons Solicitors: No health, no safety and no justice at work!**

As part of the war on the working class, over the past five years the government has relentlessly attacked workers' health and safety. It has cut regulations and slashed enforcement, attacked union and workers' rights and capacity to resist, and removed access to justice. Health and safety is prime target as it is about the way work is organized - conditions, hours, pay, shifts, workloads, security - and so must be reduced in order for neoliberal austerity policies to drive standards down. Workers are paying with their health and lives. Come and discuss the fight-back!

## **14:30 The Spirit Level**

Philip Duval from Equality North West presents evidence from the book *The Spirit Level* about how inequality harms society at every level, the causes of our widening inequality and what we can do about it.

## **15:30 Equality North West: Regional Inequality**

Allan Wort examines regional inequality in the UK, what this means for our society and economy, and how we can bring about positive change.

# The Hall

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17:30-18:30

**Rally**

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**Chair:**

**Annette Wright** President, MTUC

**Speakers:**

**Lynn Collins** Secretary, NW TUC

**Alex Davidson** Secretary, MTUC

**Helen Flanagan** NEC member, PCS

**Ian Hodson** President, BFAWU

**Paul Kelly** Vice President, Salford TUC

**H.E. Teresita Vicente** Cuban Ambassador

**Rena Wood** NEC member, Unison

**Matt Wrack** FBU General Secretary

# Mary Quaile Room

## 12:15 Why Do We Do So Little When We Know So Much?

Frack Free Greater Manchester and the Campaign Against Climate Change screen the film 'Disruption' and discuss how the solution to our environmental crisis can be the solution to our social crisis.

## 15:45 Forty Years a Trade Unionist

Martin Larkham has played a role in three different trade unions (USDAW, NACO, and PCS) and served as Secretary of Battersea & Wandsworth Trades Council in the 1970s and of Oldham Trades Council in more recent times. From his personal experiences he will draw out lessons for organisation within the labour movement.

### **Manchester Unemployed Workers' Centre**

**The Manchester Unemployed Workers' Centre is the TUC service for unemployed people in Manchester. We give advice to Manchester residents about trade unions and the benefit system**



Email: [manchesteruwc@gmail.com](mailto:manchesteruwc@gmail.com)

Twitter: [@uwcmanchester](https://twitter.com/uwcmanchester)

Facebook: [ManchesterUWC](https://www.facebook.com/ManchesterUWC)

**The only way we will beat austerity is through  
collective action within our communities**

# **Peterloo Room**

## **12:30 Mack the Knife : The Popular Front to the Cultural Front**

Sixty years ago, Louis Armstrong walked into a New York studio and improvised a new version of Mack the Knife, a tune originally from The Threepenny Opera by Berthold Brecht and Kurt Weill. It was a reminder of the cultural politics and allegiances which had emerged in support of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade fighting fascism in Spain. Presented by Unite the Union.

## **13:45 The People's Assembly presents: Stronger in Numbers**

Write a protest song and a play in two hours and participate in the performance. Cathy Crabb, Director Noreen Kershaw, Musical Director Carol Donaldson, along with Open Voice Community Choir and a group of actors, invite you to create a short play celebrating strength in numbers. You have the opportunity to write a protest song and write scenes for the actors. The play will be performed at the end of the session.

## **15:45 The Battle Against Welfare 'Reform' and the Fight for a Fairer System**

GM Unite Community Branch and GM Anti Bedroom Tax Federation have been heavily involved in the fight against sanctions, Work Capability Assessments and the Bedroom Tax. The need to continue resisting these attacks will go on but more needs to be done. Both groups have joined forces to lead a discussion on the need for people on benefits to develop a political voice and representation.

## **18:30 Open Voice Community Choir**

# John Tocher Room

## **12:00 Palestine: Palestine Solidarity Campaign (Manchester Branch) and UNISON NW**

PSC Manchester will present a short film, 'Jameela's Kitchen'. Preserving culture through food is a powerful form of participation in the struggle in Gaza. There will be performances of 'Wala' by Susan Abulhawa which explores the daily humiliation of Palestinian men having to go through Israeli checkpoints at 4.00am to look for work, and 'We Teach Life, Sir' by Rafeef Ziadah, which is a response to journalists' questions at a press conference during Operation Cast Lead 2008-09. UNISON NW will discuss international solidarity between trade unionists in the NW and workers in Palestine, highlighting progress in the development of a Knowledge & Socialist Thought Institute in Ramallah and exploring how trade unionists can provide practical support to this new initiative.

## **13:00 TTIP: Building the Fightback**

John Hilary (War on Want) & UNISON discuss the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) currently being negotiated between the US and the EU. The deal will result in more than one million lost jobs, tear up the regulations that keep us safe from toxic chemicals and genetically modified ingredients, weaken labour rights, further privatise our public services, and throw new banking regulations out of the window. TTIP offers a nightmare vision of the future and we must resist it. 2015 is the pivotal year for TTIP. We will explore how trade unionists can help build the movement against this dangerous trade deal and focus on the next steps to get TTIP off the table.

## **14:00 Global Union Organising: Union Solidarity International (USi) and the Global Labour Institute (GLI) UK**

This session will explore the way in which trade unionists can organise at the global level.

USi is an initiative of major UK and Irish trade unions and is supported by unions in Brazil, Greece, Austria, North America, Europe, South Africa and Australia. It aims to build grassroots international union solidarity using the latest technology. USi links trade union activists from around the world so that they can create and lead campaigns for a fairer and more sustainable world. USi will explore how trade unionists can use social media, blogs, video conferencing, online education and more to build networks in the global fight against austerity.

GLI UK is based in Manchester and is part of the GLI Network. GLI UK promotes international solidarity among trade union organisations and between these and other organisations and movements of civil society with the objective of achieving a democratic and sustainable world society. Dr Joe Holly will talk about the work of GLI UK and the courses they offer which explore the international dimensions to trade unionism.

## **15:00 Cuba: Ending the Blockade - H.E. Teresita Vicente, Cuban Ambassador and Cuba Solidarity Campaign (CSC)**

UNISON North West are delighted to announce that the speaker at the final international session will be the Cuban Ambassador, Her Excellency Teresita Vicente, Charge d'Affaires interim. Following the return of the Cuban Five after years of tireless campaigning by trade unionists and solidarity activists, the Ambassador will emphasise the need to increase the campaign to end the blockade and return the territory of Guantanamo to the people of Cuba.

## Evening | 19:00- events | Late

### **19:15 Claire Mooney The Hall**

Claire Mooney is a seasoned singer songwriter who has been performing political, passionate and playful songs at rallies, demonstrations and various other events across the UK for many years . More info can be found at [www.clairemooney.co.uk](http://www.clairemooney.co.uk)

### **20:00-21:30 Call Mr. Robeson - A Life With Songs John Tocher Room**

Tayo Aluko presents the life and music of a great and famous actor, singer and civil rights campaigner. When over the years he gets progressively too radical and outspoken for the establishment's liking, he is branded a traitor to his country, harassed, and denied opportunities to perform or travel.

### **22:00 Bug Punk The Hall**

Bug are a North West punk/pop band playing original material influenced by punk bands from the late 70s with a modern twist. Bug songs often have a political theme, and contain many wry observations on life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These are old punks who, far from wanting to climb the corporate ladder, are raging against the dying of the light.

### **23:00 Late Music and Bar The Hall**

