

**GMB Northants Community Branch**  
**Secretary: Gordon Glassford, Corby, Northants, NN17 2LL**  
**Phone: 07792208229**  
**Email: [gordonglassford@gmbnorthants.org](mailto:gordonglassford@gmbnorthants.org)**  
**[www.gmbnorthants.org](http://www.gmbnorthants.org)**

### **Summary of the branch meeting held on 29.03.17**

Both Jackie and Maggie were elected unopposed to the Regional Council.

It was agreed that we donate £100 to the [Cransley Hospice](#) on behalf of our late member Robert Wood.

Maggie was under the impression that St. Judes is no longer operating as a foodbank in Kettering. If this is the case the branch will cease the direct debit we pay quarterly. It was agreed to re-affiliate to [Northampton TUC](#) and [National Pensioners Convention](#) who will receive an additional payment of £50.

Martyn has been elected to attend this years GMB congress. It shouldn't be taken to mean that the branch is any more popular in the region. Martyn came bottom of the list of those elected, only two nominees got less votes and neither of them was elected. Hopefully Martyn will be able to remedy this at congress.

The arrangement for [Workers Memorial Day](#) are progressing ok. Speakers will include our former MP Andy Sawford, John McGhee, leader of the labour group on Northants county council and Bert Schoenberg, International Officer for the GMB. Invites have been sent to Northampton TUC and Labour Behind the Label. Alida Coates will attend to receive the cheque for the June Hancock Mesothelioma Research fund. There was some concern that there are not enough female speakers. Jim Lowe has forwarded a photo of the original plinth in Coronation park. We will see if we can get this put on the publicity material and website.

Our finances continue to be healthy.

Social Media: The amount of members opening the March newsletter was slightly down in March. Traffic levels to the website are up. Information sheets forwarded by the secretary have gone on the site. Facebook 29 likes, Twitter 468 followers.

David reported that Kier are trying to implement a annualised hours agreement which would mean working more hours in the summer and less in the winter. This is meeting with a lot of resistance.

No progress so far with the issue of payslips and the national living wage at Accuma. It is still not clear if this is being paid properly.

Yodel: Chris was welcomed to his first meeting. He explained the set up at Yodel and the branch tried to help him with a couple of problems he was having.

A.O.B

Lily had attended the National Convention and Retired members Association meeting in March. Great misgivings had been expressed about the sustainability and transformation plans (STP) for the NHS which, according to health professionals, are unworkable. [Unionline](#) had made a presentation at the RMA meeting about their free will service and the help available for members seeking power of attorney for ill relatives. It was agreed to pay Lily's expenses. Welcome back Lily.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.