



The Voice of York and District Trades Union Council.

THE FIRST OF MANY.

WE hope that this will be the first of many newsletters which will be published by the York TUC. We have decided to publish regular newsletters initially on a two monthly basis as part of the policy to build on the links with the affiliated branches and to encourage more participation in its affairs by union members, hence the name of the newsletter LINK UP.

These newsletters are not designed to displace other material which is being sent to you, but rather to supplement it.

Over the past 20 years, we have produced newsletters mostly devoted to campaigns such as, "The Women's Newsletter", and "York Against the Cuts", and helped to produce "Coal Not Dole" newsletter during the 1985 miners strike.

REPETITIVE STRAIN INJURY

BERYL WALLIS, the Chairperson of the the West Yorkshire Repetitive Strain Injury Support Group alleged that the seriousness of RSI was underestimated by the medical profession, DHSS, employers and TU representatives when she spoke to delegates at the August meeting of York TUC.

After she had suffered injury, Beryl Wallis, along with other sufferers set up a support group. There are now 13 groups operating across the country. The aims of the group are to help alleviate the suffering caused by this affliction and halting its spread.

RSI is a disorder which produces discomfort or persistent pain (which is sometimes excruciating) in

the muscles, tendons and other soft tissues, such as fat. Beryl Wallis stated the injury can completely change the sufferers life style.

She said that proper systems of work would prevent people getting the disorder. The new Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992, for example, would help those workers using VDUs, as it lays down minimum health and safety standards for the design and use of VDU workstations.

The recent successful compensation case won by the workers at Bernard Matthews turkey processing factory was a major step forward in getting the disorder recognized.

The WY RSI Support Group is short of funds. Their facilities in Bradford are partly financed by the local authority, but most of

PTO

(Repetitive Strain Injury)

the costs are met from the members own personal funds. Further funds are therefore needed to provide the secretarial help, telephone help line, office premises and equipment and to meet daily running costs and production of the quarterly magazine.

YTUC donated £50 and has offered to duplicate and distribute information from the WY RSI Support Group. If your branch wishes to support this organization, a donation can be sent to:

*WY RSI Support Group
109 Hollywell Lane
Castleford
WF10 4QZ*

The annual affiliation fee is £5.

York & District Pensioners Association

meet every 3rd Tuesday at
1.30 pm
in the Guildhall

Contacts

Secretary : Martin Wilson
Tel : 671382

Treasurer : Tim Short
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MUSHROOM DISPUTE

SACKED workers' representatives at Middlebrook Mushrooms, informed the August Delegate Meeting of the disputes latest position.

It started in the summer 1992 when the employers wanted to drastically change the conditions of employment, by reducing the overtime rates, making overtime and weekend rostering compulsory. The workers had already accepted a pay freeze and redundancies. During the talks management attempted to employ casual labour at rates less than those offered to their workers which resulted in an overtime ban. The new conditions were then imposed, and a ballot was held for industrial action. This was countered by the sacking 89 part-time workers and the hiring of contract labour.

An early injunction banning the union from holding demonstrations outside the Selby premises and the displaying of union banners was obtained, but

did not apply to strikers and supporters.

The sacked workers have received the backing from many organizations including the local Labour Party, Selby TC.

The name of Middlebrook Mushrooms has ceased to appear on packaging after a partially successful public awareness campaign.

A case of unfair dismissal to the Industrial Tribunal and at the time of the delegate meeting were still awaiting judgement.

Donations to the for the sacked workers should be sent to

*Ms C Westerman, 2 Tithe Barn
Way, Kellington, Goole DN14
0PE*

CITY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

The campaign by Unison to save the City Hospital from closure is underway.

Petitions can be obtained from Andy Cryans, Staff Side Secretary, York District Hospital, Wigginton Road, York YO3 7HF.