

Hazards campaign

**24th National Hazards Conference
Hazards 2013**
to be held at
Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent
19th July – 21st July 2013

Hazards 2013 Sponsorship Appeal

As ever, we acknowledge the support we had for Hazards 2012 from our sponsors. Unions nationally, regionally and at Branches, trades councils, individual activists and union-linked personal injury solicitors all supported Hazards.

Hazards 2012 theme consolidated the work we began in 2011, to improve our performance and organisation, now the cuts to HSE funding and activity are beginning to bite hard, and jobs in the public sector are declining. Workshops focussed on improving our performance as reps, looking at different ways of finding out about problems at work, taking-up issues with employers, recruiting members and giving reps the confidence that comes from knowing their functions are supported by the SRSC Regulations. We also ran workshops on dealing with specific issues like bullying, sickness absence, musculo-skeletal injury, cancer, excessive workloads and violence.

On Friday evening opening session, conference heard the annual update on the work of FACK by Louise Taggart, Eurig Scandrett spoke on the campaign for restitution against Dow Chemicals and the damage it inflicted on thousands of families in Bhopal over the last 30 years. Ivan Timson, a Leicester print-worker, and UNITE safety rep, spoke about how his life has been transformed by developing social networking skills as a Hazards campaigner.

The 2012 'Alan' was awarded to Nobby Stiles, Unite convenor at BlueStar Fibres in Grimsby, for organising and promoting Workers Memorial Day events in Humberside over the past nine years.

At the opening plenary, Tony Whitston of the Asbestos Groups Forum gave an overview of the asbestos scandal, GMB H&S director John McClean reported on the current situation, and Helen Lynn of the *Alliance for Cancer Prevention* stood-in for Simon Pickvance and spoke on the latest developments. Keynote meetings debated the Lofstedt report; the case for regulation, and the threats to undermine sickness provision, resulting from Dame Carol Black's recent report.

There were workshops on 19 topics; Sunday meetings discussed suggestions and ideas about improving workplace organisation to take back. The final plenary session focussed on the need to organise the workplace fight back, and promote the campaign against a government that is determined to continue to undermine the health, safety and welfare of UK workers, putting us all at risk. Conference adopted the slogan "Organise, educate and make work safe". Full report at www.hazardscampaign.org.uk

This government continues to attack workers health & safety, reducing standards and enforcement, and threatens our member's lives and health. It is essential we maintain Hazards as a forum to educate, organise and campaign. Please consider our appeal positively.

Cheques should be payable to Hazards 2013, and sent to: Hazards 2013, GMHC, Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester, M16 7WD. Contact us for more information on **0161 636 7557**, or e-mail hazconf@gmhzards.org.uk

Thank you in advance for your support.

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We are sponsoring the 24th National Hazards Conference.

Please send uscopies of the booking forms when they are printed in April 2013.

I enclose a sponsorship cheque for £..... payable to **Hazards 2013**.

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Please return the form with your sponsorship cheque to:

Hazards 2013, C/o GMHC, Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester, M16 7WD