

# Hazards campaign

**22<sup>nd</sup> National Hazards Conference  
Hazards 2011**  
will be held at  
**Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent**  
from **2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

## Hazards 2011 Sponsorship Appeal

As ever, our thanks to all the sponsors of Hazards 2010. Unions, trades councils, individual activists and union-linked personal injury solicitors all supported Hazards. Hazards 2010 was dedicated to the memory of Stevie Ryan, Unite rep, Scottish Hazards chair and long-standing Hazards activist and supporter who sadly died in February, aged 43.

Hazards 2010 focused on the challenges facing safety reps following the general election and the emergence of a ConDem coalition government. Lord Young, a former minister for business and Thatcher favourite, was appointed Cameron's advisor on health & safety and the compensation culture, and has conducted a cursory "investigation" into health & safety – the quality of which may be judged by his prior remark that "People occasionally get killed, it's unfortunate but it's part of life." Despite its liberal pretensions, this government will not advance the health and safety of workers; in fact, the reverse will happen as spending cuts bite, so we have a fight on our hands.

Conference opened on the Friday evening with a well-received preview showing of the new Families Against Corporate Killers DVD "Face the FACKS: The human cost of workplace killing". Many delegates ordered advance copies of the DVD.

The 2010 'Alan' was jointly awarded to Michael Lees for his campaigning work on asbestos in schools; and the Blacklist Support Group, for it's work in exposing the illegal victimisation of building workers for trade union and health & safety activity. Michael Lees was also awarded the Hazards Campaign silver badge.

Professor Steve Tombs spoke in the Saturday plenary on "The new politics of enforcement", and the post-election campaign "We didn't vote to die at work" was formally launched, with posters and T-shirts. There were meetings on enforcement, wellbeing and green jobs; speakers included the HSE's David Ashton, Celia Byrne from New Zealand, Dave Whyte of Liverpool University, and Dan Shears, GMB H&S specialist.

The new "Inspecting an incident" workshop was hugely over-subscribed, and the workshop programme was generally very well attended. Sunday meetings explored campaigning activities around safety reps action, deregulation and enforcement, and the specific issues of stress, RSI and asbestos. The final plenary, focussed on campaigning aims for the next year, and the need to generalise the "We didn't vote to die at work" campaign. More reports from the conference are on the website at [www.hazardscampaign.org.uk](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk)

Support from conference staff at Keele University was first class, and delegates praised the quality of the venue and its facilities, so we are going back in 2011.

Now more than ever we need to ensure the future of Hazards as a forum for education and campaigning and as an opportunity for reps to meet and share experience, so please consider this appeal positively. Cheques should be made payable to **Hazards 2011**, and sent to: Hazards 2011, C/o GMHC, Windrush Millennium Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester, M16 7WD. Contact us for more information on **0161 636 7558**, or e-mail [hazconf@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:hazconf@gmhazards.org.uk)

**Thank you in advance for your support.**

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### We are sponsoring the 22<sup>nd</sup> national Hazards Conference.

Please send us ..... booking forms when they are printed in March 2011.

I enclose a sponsorship cheque for £..... payable to **Hazards 2011**.

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