



## Worries over Welfare Changes to Personal Independence Payment

The Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre have been busy lobbying in relation to the proposed changes to Personal Independence Payment and the Government's Pathways to Work agenda. Together with our good doctor Liz Mullins (pictured below) we spoke to Louise Jones MP North East Derbyshire who took on board the many issues we raised, particularly in relation to the strong links between poverty, inequality and poor mental and physical well-being. We emphasised the need for Government to recognise that employers need to do more to give employment opportunities to people with health conditions and those that are disabled. It is no good merely providing work coaches and and measures that imply that the fault of unemployment lies with the unemployed in terms of their motivation and readiness. Louise listened attentively and promised to raise these issues and more with ministerial team.



# Keeping the pressure on...



**DUWC met with Toby Perkins MP with regard to the proposed changes in Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and to discuss the Governments Pathways to Work agenda. Liz Mullins has just qualified as a Doctor and would not have been able to do so without the benefit. Andy Parkes has been able to maintain full time employment with the support that PIP brings. Toby listened attentively and agreed with many of the points we made. He will be writing to the Minister raising our issues and including those that he has picked up from his casework. We will continue to maintain dialogue with the hope of defending people who are disabled, both in and out of work, as well as those living with long term health problems. Impoverishing people helps nobody and places further pressure and costs on the NHS.**



# #Save our Jobcentre plus

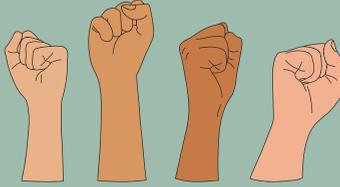
Bolsover MP Natalie Fleet is supporting campaigners from the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centres (DUWC) to demand the return of full Jobcentre services to Shirebrook. Campaigners and Jobcentre users stood outside the closed building in Shirebrook Market Place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June, to gain signatures to petition the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) regarding the 'temporary' closure of the office. Shirebrook Jobcentre has been closed, since the middle of last year due to asbestos issues and structural problems. Colin Hampton stated,

“At some point everyone in Shirebrook will know someone, friend, neighbour or family member who might need these services should they fall sick, become disabled or lose their job. We must put pressure on to the DWP and decision makers to retain a full service at a Jobcentre in Shirebrook.”

Natalie Fleet commented, “Shirebrook must keep its Jobcentre and I am doing all I can to make sure this happens. I have been in communication with the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centre and the DWP about the situation since rumours about its possible permanent closure surfaced before Christmas.”



# Dont leave us left behind...



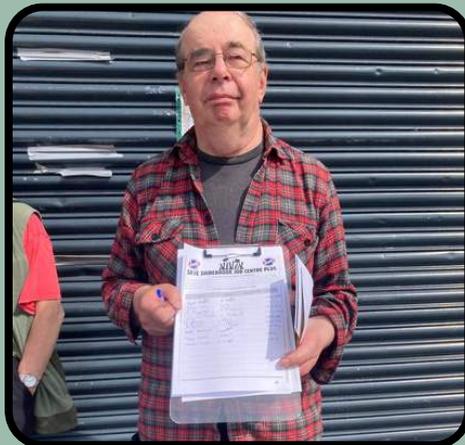
“However, I have been reassured by the DWP that the intention is to keep it in Shirebrook, including in the answer provided for a written parliamentary question I tabled this month, where they said they are exploring all options to maintain Jobcentre services in Shirebrook.”

“I will hold them to that.”

Colin Hampton hopes this translates into action sooner rather than later saying;

“It is one thing to feel like you are a left behind community but another to strip away the services that might help people to catch up! We need full jobcentre services in Shirebrook. No other option will be good enough for the people of Shirebrook and surrounding area” Colin concluded.

We have currently got over 500 signatures in support and we will be staging another day of action in Autumn before delivering the petitions to the DWP.



# FUNDING UPDATE



We have now had confirmation from the Lottery of the refunding of the 'Help is Here' project for another 3 years. The project funding will begin in October. There is a new position for an admin worker for 16 hours to be filled within this project as well, this will give extra support for Joanna and Marcin as the project itself moves to becoming a linked charity.

We have secured £7499.25 for the UK prosperity fund from NEDDC, this is to start a take up campaign to see if our work and support is needed in the areas of Killamarsh and Holmewood. We also secured £2100 from the Chesterfield Borough Council Community Grants fund, this is to do a take up campaign for Barrow Hill and New Whittington.

More information to follow.

We are exploring funding from the Henry Smith Foundation, this is under their 'safer futures' theme, and looks to support people after spending time in prison. We have been asking the Derbyshire Law Centre and Pathways the homeless charity, for statistics on ex-offenders and may look to put together a partnership bid with other agencies.

More information to follow.



# BOLSOVER VOLUNTEER



**This years Bolsover Volunteer Awards 2025- and our fantastic long standing volunteer Allison Jarvis only went and won it! Well done Allison for your award and for being a fantastic volunteer for over 17 years! We rely on volunteers at the Centre and could definitely not do all the work we do without the help and support of so many.**

**On 10<sup>th</sup> September we will be attending the Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Voluntary Sector Awards for another nomination for long serving volunteer, Jon Jarvis. We will keep you posted on how Jon gets on!**





# 30 Years on...

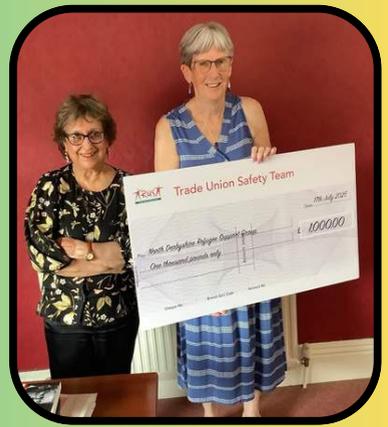


## DUWC Shirebrook Celebration

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July we held a BBQ for our 'Help is Here' project which has been refunded for another 3 years from the Lottery! We combined this with a celebration of our work in Shirebrook for the last 30 years. We are very proud of our staff and volunteers who have supported us for all these years.



# JOHN KNIGHT MEMORIAL



The John Knight Memorial Award this year goes to a cause he would have supported whole heartedly - The North Derbyshire Refugee Support Group. Some people take a negative view of Refugees, usually people who have never seen war, lived in a country with serious civil unrest or have been bombed and starved. This group show the best of humanity and are very much deserving of the award. In the photo above the Award is being presented by our guest Yasmin Alibhai Brown.



# ARKWRIGHT MEMORIAL



On Saturday 28th June more than 200 people gathered at the monument in Arkwright Town following a march that involved a brass band.

The installation, a pit wheel set in a stone base, includes the names of 10 miners who died in accidents while working at the colliery before it closed in 1988.

The monument was unveiled by Norma Dolby and John Burrows, he thanked the parish council and also ex-miner Brian Hegarty who came up with the idea of the memorial and researched the names of the deceased miners.

The Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre held an exhibition at the Arkwright Centre leading up to the event, which was really successful with the local primary school making a visit.



# WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER OF STAFF ALICJA ZON



Alicja started working for us in August, she is our new Welfare Rights worker. Her native languages are English and Polish however she is also fluent in Spanish and Greek. She has previously taught English as a foreign language remotely to students and professionals, primarily based in Korea. Ali will be working 16 hours a week covering outreach's in Shirebrook and Bolsover mainly. and she will be a great asset to our organisation.



# GIG IN THE GARDEN



The national organisation, We Shall Overcome is a movement of musicians and artists working across Britain under the banner 'not charity but solidarity'. Since 2015 'We Shall Overcome' have put together over 1,000 gigs, raising an estimated £450,000 of cash, food, clothing and bedding for foodbanks, homeless shelters and other causes supporting those hardest hit by cuts and the cost of living crisis.

In July one of the DUWC's supporters decided to host a gig in her garden in aid of raising funds for the centre. Over 100 people bought tickets and £1405.31 was raised.

It was a fantastic event (despite the rain) Thanks so much to everyone who came along to support us!

**We cover outreaches in.....**



**Alfreton  
Belper  
Bolsover  
Creswell  
Brimington  
Chesterfield  
Shirebrook  
Clowne  
Eckington  
Grassmoor  
Clay Cross  
Hasland  
Heanor  
North Wingfield  
Pinxton  
Somercotes  
Staveley  
New Houghton**

**For a full list of our  
opening times,  
please visit our website  
at:**

**[duwc.org.uk/nearest office](https://www.duwc.org.uk/nearest-office)**

**or call us on 01246  
231441**

**[https://www.duwc.org.  
uk/donate/](https://www.duwc.org.uk/donate/)**

**WE ARE CLOSED 25<sup>TH</sup> AND  
26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY**

