

# MARGINAL NOTES

Supporting the struggles of precarious workers in West London

Welcome – if you will – to the second issue of Marginal Notes, sponsored by Brentford & Isleworth Labour Party, supporting the actions of low-paid workers in the area.

## GMB CALLOUT FOR PAY PROTEST AT FOOD FACTORY, PARK ROYAL



### Park Royal contains some of the major food production factories in London.

The workers at this major food manufacturer in Park Royal have overwhelmingly rejected 2 pay offers from management. The GMB union has a £1/hr more campaign running and we are now at the stage of doing an indicative ballot for industrial action. This is the first time that this workforce has been asked to take industrial action.

Workers are mainly from Gujarati, Sri Lankan and Goa. There are many women workers. They make houmous and ready-meals for all the major supermarkets.

Most workers have worked there for many years and still only earn around the minimum-wage. This is a major employer in the area, covering 3 factories and 1 warehouse and almost 4000 workers.

A fight here would send an important signal to all the low-waged migrant workers in London!

Enough of poverty wages!

They need your support!

Workers are scared and unsure about the next steps. This is why we want to increase their confidence and tell them, "You can do this!" Please come and show solidarity with us! (Hindi speakers especially would be useful). The more the merrier!

- FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2019  
3.15pm – 5.15pm (shift leaves 3.30pm and 5pm)  
BAKKAVOR, 40 CUMBERLAND AVENUE, NW10 7RQ
- MONDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2019  
2.15pm-5pm  
BAKKAVOR, 304-306 ELVEDEN PLACE, NW10 7SY
- WEDNESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2019  
4.15pm-5.15pm  
BAKKAVOR 269 ABBEYDALE ROAD, HA0 1TW

Please contact Kiran on 07562 880243.

Let us know if you can make it.

Thanks!

## WHY TUBE CLEANERS PLAN TO STRIKE



**Tube cleaners in the RMT are preparing to ballot for strikes. Here, a cleaner tells *Tubeworker* why.**

“Tube cleaners have been campaigning for many years against injustice. We’re fighting for dignity, and equal conditions in our workplaces. Currently we have no company sick pay, which means cleaners who get sick are forced to come to work or face financial hardship. And we also have no free travel passes, unlike directly-employed staff working on the railway.

“The biggest demand we are fighting for is direct employment, for cleaning to be brought in house. I don’t consider myself an ABM cleaner. I am a TfL cleaner, I am a London Underground cleaner. ABM will probably go in a few years, some other contractor will come along. But we are doing the same work, cleaning London Underground. We should be employed directly.

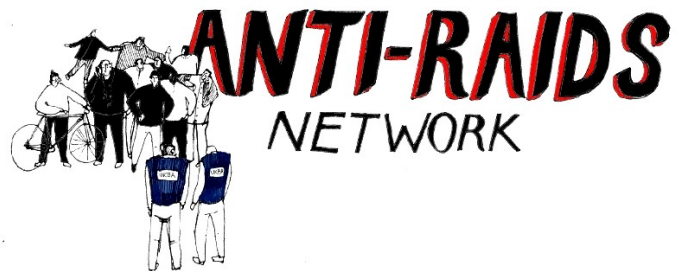
“There’s hasn’t been industrial action for several years; union members amongst cleaners have been waiting for this dispute for a long time. People were asking, “when are we going to have a real fight?” Non-members have also been enthused by the announcement that we’re planning to ballot. Since the decision was announced, I’ve personally recruited six people. Cleaners want to join because they see us preparing for a strike.

“We’re not planning to strike simply because we’re pissed off. Action is an essential organising tool. A union is only as strong as its membership. By taking action, we build the union.

We need support and guidance from the rest of RMT. Many cleaners have English as a second language and many not know their legal rights. Some feel scared and isolated. The wider union can provide us with direction and information to help us build the dispute, and support us when we take action. We need to be honest with members about what it will take to win.

“We have been making good links with other unions organising cleaners, such as the IWGB. We have attend picket lines and demonstrations with them, and we’ve been sharing ideas and tactics at events coordinated by the New Economics Foundation. It’s good to meet cleaners from universities and hospitals and discuss what we have in common. We’re part of the union movement so should support each other. If they strike, they know RMT members will have their back, and vice versa. Our voice is bigger if we combine, so unions organising outsourced workers to demand direct employment should join together in common campaigns.”

## DEFENDING MIGRANT WORKERS IN HOUNSLOW



We reported previously how activists from the Anti Raids Network blocked Home Office vans with snatch squads from leaving their depot at Eaton House in Hounslow.

We also reported that Ali Tamalit of the Stansted 15 spoke to Brentford and Isleworth Labour Party on stopping the notorious deportation charter flights that result from such raids. Now even the Home Office has admitted that communities across the UK have had enough and are fighting back against these attacks