

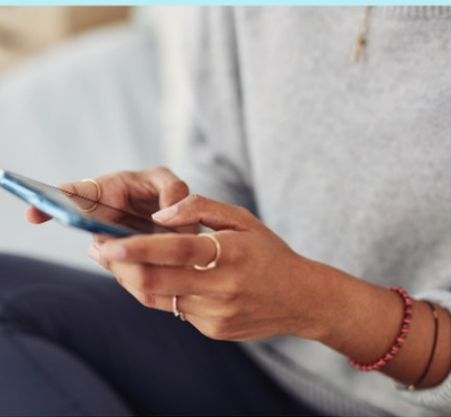


SPRING 2026 EDITION

SOLIDARITY



DWP send man to wrong Jobcentre and then stop his benefit for non attendance!



A man from Shirebrook has won his Social Security tribunal after losing his benefits following the ongoing problems of the temporary closure of the Jobcentre in the Town.



Mr Cooper, who suffers with health problems, received a message on his mobile phone journal on 9th January 2025 stating Shirebrook job centre was closed. However, on the same day he got a text message from UC advising his appointment was at Shirebrook job centre. On the 14th January he received a text message reminding him he needed to attend his appointment at Shirebrook job centre on the 15th January. He attended Shirebrook Jobcentre at the time and date allotted but in actual fact his appointment was at Mansfield. Because he did not attend this appointment his benefit claim was closed down. As a result he would then have to open a new claim that would mean he would lose money as his previous benefit was higher.



Andy Parkes from DUWC stated..

“It is perfectly possible for a building that was closed one day could be reopened on the following day.” said Andy Parkes, Welfare Rights worker at Derbyshire Unemployed Workers’ Centres, who represented Mr Cooper in court. “In fact the Department for Work and Pensions state that they are looking into possibility to reopen it. The DWP sent conflicting information to a claimant who followed the most recent advice he received from the DWP which was to attend Shirebrook job centre.”



Derbyshire Unemployed Workers’ Centres have been campaigning for the Shirebrook Jobcentre to be reinstated and have been supported by the local MP.





The misdirection took place in January 2025 but Mr Cooper's case has only just come to court leaving him out of pocket for a year.



Bolsover MP Natalie Fleet has backed campaigners from the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centres (DUWC) to demand the return of full Jobcentre services to Shirebrook. Shirebrook Jobcentre has been closed, since the August 2024 due to asbestos issues and structural problems.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have said that they are either looking to make good the building, or move to alternative premises in Shirebrook. In the meantime, the DWP have redirected people to Mansfield Job Centre. Over 16 months on there has been no progress with Jobcentre users picking up the travel costs often when required to attend.

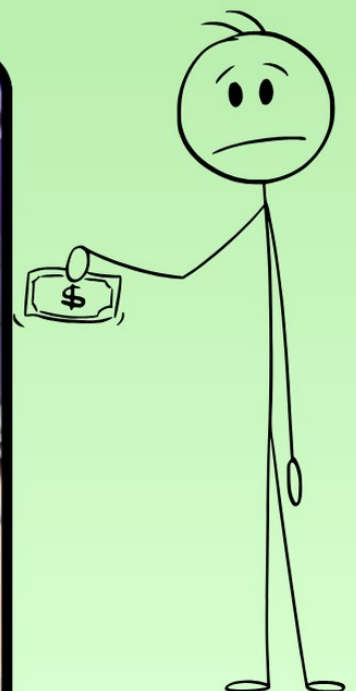
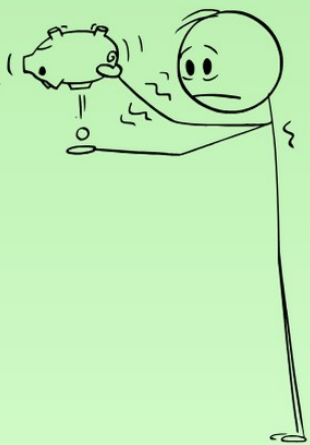
“This is not good enough” said Colin Hampton, Coordinator Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centres.”

“The fact that, many months following the temporary closure of the Jobcentre, no movement has taken place, leads me to believe that time is being used to prepare people for the closure of this local service and alternative downgraded facilities imposed that will no doubt be withdrawn further down the line. This has happened at other such service closures across Derbyshire and beyond.”

“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.

Colin Hampton hopes Mr Cooper’s plight and victory will refocus campaigners to continue to press the DWP into action.

**“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.**



Chesterfield TUC MAY DAY 2026



48th People's Gala & Demonstration

Assemble at Town Hall - 10.30am

March off - 11.00am

Rally in New Square - 11.45am

NEW SQUARE MUSIC

- Oskar Haag 1.00pm - 1.30pm
- Ajay Srivastav Duo 1.45pm - 2.35pm
- Achanak 3.15pm - 4.15pm

MAY DAY SPEAKERS

Sophie Bolt General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Dave Ratchford East Midlands organiser for UNISON

Bernard Regan of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign

Fran Heathcote General Secretary of the Public and Commercial Services Union PCS

For more information call 07870 387999

Chesterfield TUC, c/o 1 Rose Hill East, Chesterfield

Find us on Facebook: ChesterfieldTUC Email: tucchesterfield@gmail.com



Meet the newbies....

“My name is Natalia. I am an open and approachable person who enjoys listening to others and being sensitive to their needs. I love spending time with my family and friends, especially discovering new places together. I am also actively involved, together with my husband, in various charity initiatives.

Helping others has always been important to me, which is why volunteering has been a part of my life for many years. My main reason for becoming a volunteer at DUWC was the desire to try my hand in a different area of volunteering and to use my free time in a meaningful and helpful way by supporting others. I am also always happy to learn new things, and this volunteering opportunity helps me improve my English language skills”





Meet the newbees...

Nicole is studying at Sheffield Hallam is joining DUWC until the end of March



“Hi, I’m a second-year Criminology student currently completing my placement at the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers’ Centre. My time here has given me hands-on experience in real-world advice work and shown me the direct impact support services have on people’s lives. One of the most rewarding parts of my role has been scribing during benefits advice meetings for a visually impaired advisor, ensuring conversations are accurately recorded and clients feel heard and supported. This placement has strengthened my communication, professionalism and confidence, whilst deepening my understanding of the challenges people face within the benefits system. I would recommend volunteering here to anyone interested in gaining real experience while making a genuine difference in the community”





Meet the newbees....

Ismena who joins us working in Chesterfield says -
“I initially applied for a position to help a colleague with their workload. When I further researched into the DUWC, it made me discover that a center is available for the people by the people. It is making me learn more about the system we have in place for benefits and, it pleases me that I can be part of this team to provide advice for individuals who need it”



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



If you are interested in volunteering with us please get in touch to find out more, 01246 231441 or email, esther.fisher@duwc.org.uk



Jonathan Francis
**A NORTHERN
REQUIEM**
FOR THE MINERS

If you missed the performance of the Northern Requiem at the Crooked Spire - don't worry. Come along on Sunday 3rd May to Rose Hill Arts Centre Studios in Chesterfield (Doors open 6.30pm) to see the wonderful performance in Durham Cathedral featuring Derbyshire NUM Members and families. Tickets available from Colin Hampton or email info@duwc.org.uk price £5.00. Tickets are £5 with all proceeds going to the Rose Theatre and can be purchased through DUWC at the Centre in the Town hall or through our website - donate £5 here [A Northern Requiem - DUWC - Your Voice Your Rights](#)

Bring a friend, spouse or partner and purchase a ticket for them.

'The empowerment of women from the miners' strike is huge' says Chesterfield composer behind premiere of A Northern Requiem at town's iconic Crooked Spire Church

<https://www.channel4.com/news/the-story-of-women-in-the-miners-strike-told-through-music>

This is part of the Chesterfield TUC May Day long weekend celebration.

NEED ADVICE?

HELP IS HERE!



- ✓ BENEFIT CHECKS
- ✓ DEBTS ISSUES
- ✓ HOUSING ISSUES
- ✓ EMPLOYMENT ISSUES
- ✓ IMMIGRATION ADVICE
- ✓ APPLICATION FORMS



If you find yourself in a difficult situation and do not know what to do, your English is not fluent, or you have received a letter that you do not understand...

CONTACT US AND LET US HELP YOU,
DON'T BE LEFT ALONE!



FREE INDEPENDENT AND CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE



MULTILINGUAL ADVISORS

OPEN

(Mon-Fri) 9am - 11:30am
(Mon-Wed) 1pm - 4pm



CONTACT US

Tel: 01623 748161
Email: info@duwc.org.uk

54 Patchwork Row, Shirebrook, NG20 8AL

Help is Here project in Shirebrook

We continue with our
fantastic work in
Shirebrook

The Help is Here project is
dedicated to helping migrant
communities in North
Derbyshire and North Notts,
supporting those for whom
English is not first language
and who do not know local
regulations, or who have found
themselves in crisis.

Currently, we offer help in
Polish, Romanian, Czech,
Slovak, Russian and Ukrainian
languages. We work closely
with the Derbyshire Law
Centre, which provides legal
assistance in matters such as:
conflict with employers,
discrimination, unpaid
benefits, conflict with
landlords (including eviction),
problems with settlement and
assistance with debt problems.

DUWC CHANGES TO OUR DROP IN

Unfortunately The Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centres will no longer be giving benefits advice at Staveley library or Hasland Hub. We are also closing our drop in on Fridays in Chesterfield.

We are still open Monday to Thursday from 9:30-1pm at Chesterfield, Rose Hill S40 1NU
Drop in, no appointment needed!

Please get in touch to find out more on 01246 231441 or email us on info@duwc.org.uk



ESOL CLASSES AT SHIREBROOK



Since March 3rd, our office has been offering English lessons led by qualified teachers from Derbyshire County Council. These lessons are free and available to residents of the East Midlands. We are currently fully booked, but you can join the waiting list by calling 01623 748161. We look forward to seeing you there.

Lessons are for people with limited English and aim to help adults improve their English, which will support people into work, helping with entering further education and make living in the UK easier.



Od 3 marca w naszym biurze prowadzone są lekcje języka angielskiego prowadzone przez wykwalifikowanych nauczycieli z Derbyshire County Council.

Są one bezpłatne i dostępne dla mieszkańców East Midlands. Na chwilę obecną mamy komplet chętnych, ale można zapisać się na listę oczekujących pod numerem telefonu: 01623 748161.

Zapraszamy.

We cover outreaches in.....



Alfreton

Belper

Bolsover

Creswell

Brimington

Chesterfield

Shirebrook

Clowne

Eckington

Grassmoor

Clay Cross

Hasland

Heanor

North Wingfield

Pinxton

Somercotes

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

**WE ARE CLOSED FRIDAY 3RD
MONDAY 6TH AND TUESDAY 7TH**

APRIL

**WE CLOSE MONDAY 4TH MAY
AND MONDAY 25TH AND
TUESDAY 26TH MAY 2026**

