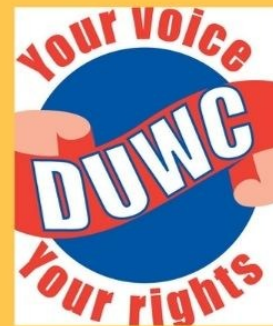




# SPRING 2026 EDITION **SOLIDARITY**



## **DWP REPLACES SHIREBROOK JCP WITH.....**

### **A VAN!**

**After announcing the temporary closure of the Shirebrook Jobcentre, nearly two years ago, following structural problems, the Department for Work and Pensions have replaced it – with a van!**

**Resembling a fast food outlet the Jobcentre van made its first appearance at the Shirebrook Leisure Centre car park last month.**

**Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centres sent a mystery shopper to pay a visit. She said "Three staff members are packed into a van with not enough space to swing a sardine. I asked them about a neighbour who was now wheelchair-bound and needed a benefits check. They told me to bring her down when they had someone there who could help. I asked where would they be seen? I was told, with a great deal of embarrassment, that they would conduct the business in the car park." Our mystery shopper said that this was not going to work as it was not a confidential place to discuss financial and health matters. "An embarrassed shrug of the shoulders was their response." She went on to say.**

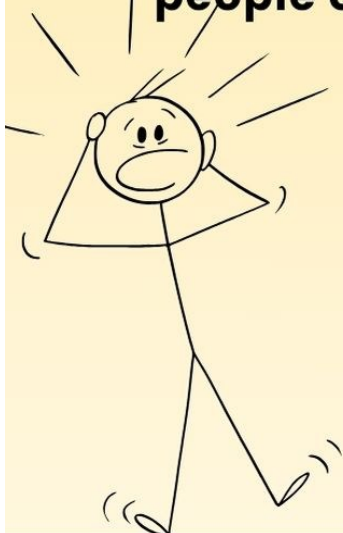




# WHAT AN EMBARRESSMENT!!

**Colin Hampton, Co-ordinator of the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centres that has an accessible office in Shirebrook that was the Jobcentre back in the 1990s, commented, "The idea of using a van is all very well in rural areas where there is no alternative, but not in a conurbation like Shirebrook. It is a waste of money and, when no one uses it, will be withdrawn. We've seen it all before. The MP, Natalie Fleet needs to put some pressure on the Department to reinstate a proper job centre with full services in Shirebrook as soon as possible. If Sports Direct moves to Warwickshire, as seems likely, a job centre will be a much-needed service to support the community facing mass unemployment. Colin Hampton hopes the appearance of the embarrassing van 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.**



# Work experience Students

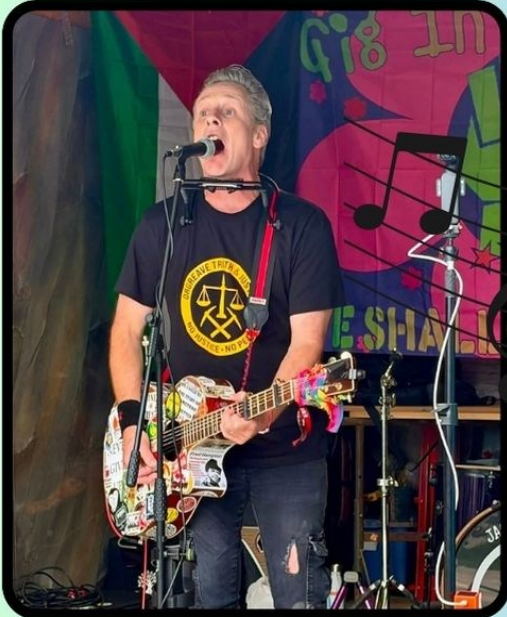


**This year Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' Centres have taken part in the work experience programme for students from Parkside school. Asaria and Liliana spent a week in July with us in the Chesterfield office. They were working with the benefit advisors and learning about all the important work we do. It was great to have some inspiring young people around. We hope they enjoyed it and we look forward to meeting two more work experience students next year.**





# GIG IN THE GARDEN 2026



This summer one of the supporters of DUWC, Gabrielle Moran, hosted an event in her garden whereby bands and musicians were performing in order to raise much needed funds for the our charity. It was a great success with a number of fantastic live acts throughout the day and into the evening. We were so thrilled to be supported in this way and the whole event was an amazing experience. £993 was raised for DUWC. Thank you so much to the supporters of 'We shall Overcome'



# Cost of Living



It may be baking hot out there with yet another heatwave but for people needing to ramp up the heating this autumn and winter their bills will have them in a sweat!

With massive price rises for energy, many people will be facing difficult decisions in trying to get through the colder months.

Energy is not a luxury but the lifeblood of our economy and daily lives.

Households face soaring bills, over a quarter of which now goes to company profits, while investment has withered. If we're serious about energy security and decarbonisation, the model is indefensible. We need an energy system organised around the public good, not shareholder dividends, which means bringing our networks and generation into public hands.

On October 1st we will again be staging a tug of war between those representing the community and those representing the fat cat suppliers who took out at least £70.7bn in dividend payouts between 2010 and 2025, rather than reinvesting that money or reducing bills.

Our stunt will invite the public to come and join our campaign for public ownership and lower prices. Watch out for more details.

**DAY OF ACTION**  
**OCTOBER 1ST**





# Meet the newbees....

Welcome, Mark Sparshatt!  
He is our new volunteer at  
Chesterfield.



"I found out about the DUWC on the Volife website after my Work coach suggested volunteer work as a way to improve my CV, I saw working at the DUWC as a way to help other people who are in a similar position to me. I spend my free time on photography and creating digital 3d art"

## **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](mailto:esther.fisher@duwc.org.uk)





# Volunteer wins award at Bolsover Community and Voluntary service



This year our long time volunteer, Jon Jarvis, was nominated for 'Older volunteer of the year' award at Bolsover Community and Voluntary service. The awards took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> June and we were so thrilled to hear that he won! Jon volunteers 3-4 days a week at DUWC, he helps people at Clay Cross, Alferton, Pinxton, Somercotes and Grassmoor.

Well done Jon!

# FOCUS GROUP and SHIREBROOK BBQ



In July we helped set up a focus group with the organisation FLEX, Focus on Labour Exploitation, where we focus on improving working conditions for outsourced, migrant workers, particularly in sectors like warehousing, logistics, cleaning and security.

We were able to bring together workers from different sectors and discuss their experiences, common issues faced by workers and what fair working conditions look like from the workers perspectives. After the event, we held a BBQ at our Shirebrook office to celebrate the work we do in that area and bring people together.



# NEW PROJECTS



This year DUWC have been successful with obtaining more funding from the Postcode Lottery. We are using this funding to promote our services in the Amber Valley region, specifically, Alferton outreach. We currently work out of Alferton House 3 days per week, working closely with the foodbank and supporting clients with maximising income and helping with benefit claims. We want to reach as many people as possible and encourage people to seek advice.

We have also been successful in being awarded funds from HNED Partnership Financial Inclusion Grant Scheme. This is for work we do in North East Derbyshire. We want to target individuals in areas that are not close to our current drop-in sites. These include the areas of Shirland, Holmewood, Kilamarsh, Mickley, Stonebroom and all other surrounding villages. We will be doing a 'Take up' campaign throughout 2026/27 to reach people within these communities.



**North East  
Derbyshire**  
District Council

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



**Alfreton**

**Belper**

**Bolsover**

**Creswell**

**Brimington**

**Chesterfield**

**Shirebrook**

**Clowne**

**Eckington**

**Grassmoor**

**Clay Cross**

**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](http://duwc.org.uk/nearest office)**

**or call us on 01246  
231441**

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

**WE ARE CLOSED BANK HOLIDAY  
MONDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST AND  
TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026  
RE OPEN FOR DROP IN AND  
OUTREACHES ON WEDNESDAY  
2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER**