

Stephen Aselford

Trade Union, Labour and Transport Activist

Stephen was brought up in Croydon attending St Andrews school in Old Town. As an adult he lived in Selhurst and known and like by drivers on his local 74 and 157 bus routes.

Stephen Joined Croydon Branch of the GMB around 1970 while working for Croydon Council in one of their supported employment workshops. He was a committed trade unionist and through his GMB membership he campaigned on behalf fellow members. Despite a number of disabilities, he was a campaigner through and through. Whenever he could he would appear on marches and demonstrations especially when this involved cuts for people with disabilities.

One of his first campaigns was to get the GMB and other trade unions to campaign on behalf of workers in supported employment workshops, to recognise their genuine work and to be properly paid on local authority rates of pay.

He was a prominent member of the unions who fought against the closure of Crossfields supported employment workshop, which was not only against the loss of jobs, but for the loss of a safe environment where people with disabilities and learning difficulties could contribute to society. He attended many trade union courses, conferences and functions representing members with disabilities.



Stephen joined the Croydon Labour Party around 1975 and was one of the GMB delegates to his Constituency Party now Croydon North right up until his death. Until he was physically unable to, he delivered leaflets by the hundred and helped out at many a street stall.

Yet this was never enough for him. He was active outside the Labour and trade union movement in many other ways. He was a founder member of Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) and a co-founder of Bromley and Croydon branch of DPAC.

As somebody who could not drive he was passionate about public transport and buses in particular. He used his knowledge of public transport and the needs of people with disabilities advocating their needs to bodies such as TfL, GTR, Network Rail and Croydon Council.

He was a prominent member of Croydon Council's Mobility Forum and their delegate to the Public Transport Liaison Panel and a member for Transport for All (TfA) and Disability Croydon.

He was an active user of modern technology using, Facebook and Twitter to communicate with the outside world.

Even in adversity Stephen was always cheerful and willing to help others regardless of any cost to him. He will be missed by us all.

Charles King
Oct 2019

RIP Steve from your comrades, friends and activists.

Funeral and celebration of the life
Stephen Aselford
Friday 25th October 2019

The family would like to invite you to join with us in celebrating the life of our son, brother, comrade and friend, Stephen Aselford, who sadly passed away in September.

Funeral starts 10.30am at Croydon Crematorium, Mitcham Road, Croydon, CR9 3AT (no flowers please).

Commemoration event to be held from 12pm at Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon, CR0 1BD.

We are inviting people to **wear red** for the occasion to reflect both Stephen's socialism and his love of London buses!

All welcome to come and share your happy memories of Stephen's life and activism.

**C60 BRANCH
MEETING @ 6pm**

Dates for your diary

11 November 2019
9 December 2019 – Social

Venue

Croydon Town Hall,
Katherine Street,
Croydon
CR0 1 NX

BRANCH DETAILS

GMB Union
Croydon C60 Branch
Basement, Room 3
Town Hall
Katherine Street
Croydon CR9 1XW
020 8604 7103
c60Croydon.gmb@gmail.com



We look forward to seeing our members at the next branch meeting. We will have a discussion as to how best we can commemorate our dearly departed member.

Nana Jackson-Ampaw – Branch Secretary
Ava Payne – Branch President