

Catalogue of the  
**Bath Trades Union Council  
Collection**



Title:	Catalogue of the Bath Trades Union Council Collection
Compiled by:	Lizzie Richmond and Adrian Nardone
Description level:	Fonds
Date of material:	1893-2012
Extent of material:	3 boxes, approx. 41 items
Deposited in:	University of Bath Library
Reference code:	GB 1128 BTUC

Cover image shows Bath Trades Union Council banner designed by Terry Harris in 1981.

NOT ALL THE MATERIAL IN THIS COLLECTION  
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## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

### PROVENANCE

The Collection was donated to the Library by Dr Michael Carley, Secretary of Bath Trades Union Council, in 2023.

### BRIEF HISTORY OF BATH TRADES UNION COUNCIL

Bath Trades Union Council (also known as Bath Trades Council) was founded on 2nd February 1891 to strengthen and support the cause of trade unionism in the city and district of Bath. Its aims included securing fair wages and working conditions for all workers, bringing about the amicable settlement of disputes between workers and their employers, advocating for beneficial legislation and educating the public on trade matters. Composed of delegates elected by local branches of trade organisations paying an annual subscription fee, by 1908 groups affiliated to Bath Trades Union Council included bookbinders, bricklayers, miners, engineers, railway workers, musicians and shop assistants.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

The material is presented in the order given in the contents list. It covers the period from 1893 to 2012 and mainly comprises a set of handwritten minute books but also includes photographs, memorabilia and an accounts ledger.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Dr Michael Carley and to Bath Trades Union Council for their assistance in making this material available.

L. Richmond and A. Nardone, University of Bath, 2023

## SECTION A                      RULES, CONSTITUTION & HISTORY                      1966, c1981

This section contains a small amount of material relating to the constitution, governance and history of Bath Trades Union Council. Further information can be found in the minutes of Bath Trades Union Council meetings.

See also B/2 and B/12.

A/1                      Printed booklet (annotated) entitled 'Bath Trades Council: Rules', c1981.

A/2                      'Class and Ideology in a Provincial City - Bath 1800-1850', R. S. Neale, *Our History*, Pamphlet 42, Summer 1966.

## SECTION B                      MINUTES OF MEETINGS                      1893-1979

This section contains minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council. Meetings generally took place once or twice a month, though sometimes more frequently when required. The minutes provide a record of attendees and a brief summary of discussions and actions. They also give a more general overview of the Council's operations, priorities and achievements over time. A huge range of subjects relating to the working life of the city of Bath as viewed by the Trades Union Council are represented from disputes with employers, housing and holiday allowances to poor relief, tram fares and women's suffrage.

For the minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council from February 1891 to December 1892 see the Hollingworth Collection (Section B), Archives & Research Collections, University of Bath.

The presentation is chronological.

B/1                      Hardback notebook (red) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council, 20 January 1893-15 October 1902.

See also B/2.

- B/2 Loose material found within hardback notebook (red) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council (1893-1902), 1891-1896.
- Includes 1p printed text entitled 'Rules of the Bath Trades Council', administrative correspondence, accounts and 3pp annual report.
- See B/1.
- B/3 Softback notebook (black) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council, 5 November 1902-31 January 1912.
- See also B/4.
- B/4 Loose material found within softback notebook (black) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council (1902-1912), 1907-1908.
- Includes Bath and District Trades' Council reports and financial statements for 1907 and 1908.
- See B/3.
- B/5 Softback notebook (black) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council, 28 February 1912-16 March 1916.
- See also B/6.
- B/6 Loose material found within softback notebook (black) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council (1912-1916), 1913.
- Includes Bath and District Trades' Council report and financial statement for 1913.
- See also B/5.
- B/7 Hardback notebook (blue) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council, 29 March 1916-30 May 1919.
- B/8 Softback notebook (black) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council, 11 June 1919-20 April 1921.

- B/9 Hardback notebook (blue) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council, 27 April 1921-4 June 1924.
- B/10 Hardback notebook (red) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council, 10 January 1938-13 January 1943.
- See also B/11 and B/12.
- B/11, B/12 Loose material found within hardback notebook (red) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council (1938-1943), 1937-1943.
- See also B/10.
- B/11 Includes correspondence, flyers, Bath Trades & Labour Council report and balance sheets for 1938 and newspapers cuttings, 1937-1942.
- B/12 *The TUC in War-Time*, February 1943.
- B/13 Hardback notebook (black) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council, 27 January 1943-10 July 1946.
- B/14 Hardback notebook (blue) containing manuscript minutes of meetings of Bath Trades Union Council, 20 February 1974-14 February 1979.
- B/15 72pp manuscript notes relating to minutes of meeting of Bath Trades Union Council from 1891 to 1919, nd.

**SECTION C FINANCE**

**1974-2012**

This section contains a small amount of material relating to Bath Trades Union Council finances.

- C/1 Hardback ledger (red) containing Bath Trades Union Council accounts, 1974-2012.

**SECTION D                      PHOTOGRAPHS                      1934, 1981-2007**

This section contains various photographs mainly recording the participation of Bath Trades Union Council members in various protest activities during the 1980s.

The presentation is chronological.

- D/1                      Black and white photographic group portrait (mounted) of members of No. 4 Divisional Council NAOP (National Association of Operative Plasterers), Bristol, 1934.
- D/2                      Six colour photographs (mounted and laminated) of Bath CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) Peace Rally, 1981.
- D/3                      Four colour photographs (mounted and laminated) and eight black and white photographs of Bath Trades Union Council anti-cuts campaigning, 1982.
- D/4                      Three colour photographs (mounted and laminated) of members of Bath Trades Union Council at an anti-apartheid rally in London, 1982.
- D/5                      One black and white photograph and one colour photograph (mounted and laminated) and seven black and white photographs of Bath Trades Union Council involvement in a 'peoples march for jobs', 1983.
- D/6                      Three colour photographs (mounted and laminated) of protest demonstrations during the miners' strike, Cardiff, 1984.
- D/7                      Black and white photograph (mounted and laminated) showing John Bampfylde, Chair, Bath Trades Union Council, presenting a letter at the House of Peace and Friendship, Leningrad, USSR, 1988.
- D/8                      Two colour photographs of members of Bath Anti-Poll Tax Union (BAPTU) attending a protest demonstration, London, 31 March 1990.

- D/9                      Three colour photographs (mounted and laminated) entitled 'Restore Trade Union Rights at GCHQ', nd c1990.

- D/10                      Five colour photographs of members of Bath Trades Union Council attending various events, 2006-2007.
- Includes image of the Bath Trades Union Council banner (8ft. x 3ft.) designed by Terry Harris in 1981.

**SECTION E                      EPHEMERA & MEMORABILIA                      1980s-2005**

This section contains a miscellaneous collection of ephemera and memorabilia, including promotional leaflets and flyers, badges, neckties and a flag, assembled by members of Bath Trades Union Council mainly during the 1980s.

- E/1                      Newspaper cuttings relating to a 'Save the NHS' protest march and other demonstrations against cuts organised by Bath Trades Union Council, 1982.
- E/2- E/5                      Leaflets, flyers, newsletters and other printed material relating to a wide range of organisations, events and causes, in the UK and overseas, including poll tax, apartheid, the National Justice for Mineworkers Campaign and the Iraq War, of interest to Bath Trades Union Council members, c1980s-2005.
- Four folders.
- E/6                      Rubber stamp inscribed 'Urgent B.T.C. Bath Trades Union Council', nd.
- E/7                      Necktie (green), Bath Trades Union Council, nd.
- E/8                      Necktie (blue), Trades Councils Annual Conference, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, UK, 1987.

- E/9-E/11 16 pin-back button badges relating to various organisations, events and causes, including ambulance workers, the NHS, axing the poll tax, the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) and 'Save Britain! Thatcher Out!', of interest to members of Bath Trades Union Council, c1980s-1990s.
- Three folders.
- E/12, E/13 20 metal and enamel pin badges relating to various organisations, events and causes, including the National Teachers' Union (NUT), Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924), miners' unions and James Connolly (1868-1916), of interest to Bath Trades Union Council members, c1980s-1990s.
- Two folders.
- E/14 Cloth state flag (75cm x 160cm) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), nd.