

retired
members
secretary

GRAHAM SKINNER



Left Clay Cross Academy for Pit Pony Drivers at 15 years old and embarked on a career hauling supplies from the pit bottom to the coal face with Kim a little grey pony who I treated with apples and carrots when I could pinch them off the fruit and veg cart that visited Holmgate.

After four years left the pit and went to work for DCC Highways for a pound a week more with only the sky to fall on your head. But I was pushing this white lining machine down the middle of Derbyshire's roads before reflective vests were invented. My, couldn't lorries bounce off them.

I went to the 'Tec' passed some exams and with those bits of paper became a CLERK of WORKS supervising the building of roads. Didn't they tremble when I strolled onto the site? Ha, Ha.

Trade Union History - 4 years NUM. NUPE 1961. Clay Cross Branch Secretary 1964 -

1997. Area Secretary Unison 1997 to present. Past delegate to Regional Council, Regional Committee, East Midlands Provincial Council, TUC, National Conferences.

Politics - Member of The Labour Party since 1960. Clay Cross UDC Councillor 1972-74. Bankrupted and disbarred from office to 1986 for refusing to carry out the government's unwarranted increase of council house rents. (Something I have never regretted)

North East Derbyshire District Councillor 1987 - 1991. After 6 months I was removed from all committees and delegations of the council for supporting a refuse collectors' strike. (Again I didn't regret that either)

Interests - Growing trees. Teaching my grandchildren how to cook, operate the vacuum cleaner, lawn mower, hedge trimmer, and eventually how to iron a shirt.

Favourite flower - Blossom