

Melksham - Trades Union Membership



The origins of trade unions can be traced back to 18th century Britain, where the rapid expansion of industrial society then taking place, drew women, children, rural workers and immigrants into the work force in large numbers and in new roles. This pool of unskilled and semi-skilled labour spontaneously organised in fits and starts throughout its beginnings, and would later be an important arena for the development of trade unions. Trade unions have sometimes been seen as the successors to the guilds of medieval Europe, though the relationship between the two is disputed, as the masters of the guilds employed workers (apprentices and journeymen) who were not permitted to organise.

The first attempts at setting up a national general union were made in the 1820s and 30s. The National Association for the Protection of Labour was established in 1830 by John Doherty, after an apparently unsuccessful attempt to create a similar national presence with the National Union of Cotton-Spinners. The Association quickly enrolled approximately 150 unions, consisting mostly of textile related unions, but also including mechanics, blacksmiths, and various others.

More permanent trade unions were established from the 1850's, better resourced but often as radical.

Recent historical research puts forward the view that trade unions are part of a broader movement of benefit societies, which includes medieval guilds, Freemasons, Oddfellows. Friendly Societies, and other fraternal organisations.

Date of Admission Year Date	Surname	Given Names	Date of Birth		Age at Entry	Name of Union	Trade	Number of Years	Union Branch and No.	Company Employed By	Union Exclusion			Status at Entry	Date of Marriage		Date of Death		Place of Death	Notes
			Year	Date							Year	Date	Year		Date	Reason for Exclusion	Year	Date		
1926	06-Feb	Abbott	Hubert	William		19y 9m	Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers	Carpenter & Joiner	4	Melksham				Single						Next of Kin - Mrs. L. Abbott of West End, Melksham (Presumably his mother)
1914	09-Mar	Adams	Oliver		1877	27y 3m	Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers	Carpenter & Joiner		Melksham				Married						Next of Kin - Edith May Adams, Wife; Transferred to Bath Branch in 1914
1915	17-Aug	Adams	Oliver		1877		Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers	Carpenter & Joiner		Melksham				Married						Next of Kin - Edith May Adams, Wife
1922	11-Feb	Adams	Oliver		1877	35	Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers	Carpenter & Joiner	20	Melksham	1931	??-Sep	Arrears	Married						Next of Kin - Edith May Adams, Wife
1919	06-Dec	Alford	Edward		1898	22y 10m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner		Melksham				Single						
1919	16-Aug	Alford	Wilfred		1885	36y 8m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	20	Melksham				Married						
1922	06-May	Alford	Wilfred			39	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner		Melksham				Married						
1919	18-Jul	Blake	Albert	Ed.		30y 1m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	15	Melksham				Married						
1919	10-May	Brooks	Harold			21y 1m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	6	Melksham				Single						
1913	28-Jun	Crees	Oliver			23y 1m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	6	Melksham										Joined from Frome; Transferred back to Melksham on 26th April 1919
		Duckett	Frederick				Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner		Melksham										Transferred to Bath No.1 on 27th September 1919
1919	22-Nov	Fido	William			23y 6m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	11	Melksham				Single						
1913	21-Jul	Gracey	Thomas			31	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner		Melksham										Joined from Pendleton Transferred to Liskeard on 28th November 1919
1919	26-Apr	Hayward	George	1872		47y 6m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	33	Melksham				Married						Next of Kin Mr. G. Hayward
1919	16-Aug	Hindy	Edward			38y 2m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	20	Melksham				Single						
1919	30-Aug	Hunt	Herbert			37y 7m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	19	Melksham				Married						
1919	01-Feb	Newman	Walter	Sidney	1898	21	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	6	Melksham				Single						
1919	26-Sep	Norris	Frank			20y 9m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	6	Melksham				Single						
1919	26-Apr	Orum	Victor	1898		21y 10m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	6	Melksham				Single						
1919	10-May	Scammel	William			32y 8m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	16	Melksham				Single						
1919	06-Dec	Sheppard	Herbert	J.		25y 3m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	11	Melksham	1920		Arrears	Married						
1919	02-Aug	Wood	Isaac			36y 1m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	22	Melksham				Married						
1919	06-Dec	Wootton	Henry	G.		32y 4m	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinetmakers & Joiners	Carpenter & Joiner	16	Melksham				Married						