



THOMPSONS  
SOLICITORS

STANDING UP FOR YOU

Commemorating  
30 years since  
The Miners' Strike

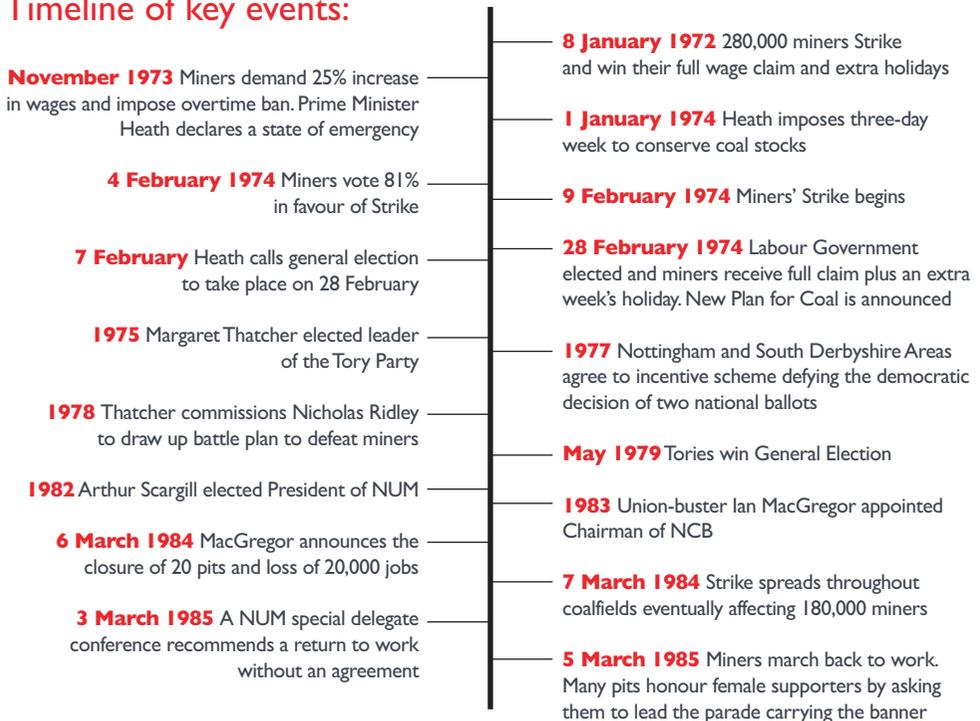
© Keith Pattison, 'No Redemption' 1984-85 Miners' Strike.

## The Miners' Strike 1984/85

2014 marks the 30th anniversary of The Great Miners' Strike which proved to be the longest and most bitter struggle in the history of the British trade union movement. In the course of the year-long conflict over 11,000 miners were arrested, 7,000 were injured, hundreds jailed and two were killed on the picket lines.

Throughout the Strike Thompsons actively defended the rights of striking miners and unions. Our commitment to the movement remains steadfast to this day.

### Timeline of key events:



- **In 1984 there were 195 deep mines in Britain employing 195,000 men**
- **Today there are three deep mines and the membership of the National Union of Mineworkers is fewer than 2,000.**

## **EX-MINERS WIN BIGGEST INDUSTRIAL INJURIES CASE IN BRITISH LEGAL HISTORY - 1999**

### **Thompsons' role in the Strike**

Throughout the Strike, the police denied miners their lawful right to move freely about the country. They used gratuitous violence against defenceless men and women. In many cases they arrested miners and their supporters for offences they did not commit.

Thompsons unhesitatingly committed huge resources and time into supporting the miners and their families. Members and supporters of the NUM (Durham Area), South Wales NUM and NUM (Durham Colliery Mechanics Association) arrested and detained for picket line offences had access to 24 legal protection.

Thompsons was successful in ensuring members were bailed and released as quickly as possible, while pushing for the charges against them to be dropped or reduced.

Immediately following the Strike, Thompsons dealt with deafness claims for thousands of miners with substantial success. The firm went on to form a unique partnership with the Durham Miners and the Durham Mechanics, fighting and winning a number of test cases for miners suffering from the industrial disease Vibration White Finger (VWF) and bronchitis and emphysema. The result saw massive compensation awards to miners throughout Britain; with Thompsons securing substantially more in average compensation for miners than any other law firm.

# Standing up for you when you need us most

Thompsons Solicitors has been standing up for unions and representing the injured and mistreated since Harry Thompson founded the firm in 1921. We have fought for millions of people, won countless landmark cases and secured legal reform.

We have more experience of winning personal injury and employment claims than any other firm – and we use that experience solely for the injured and mistreated.

We never work for employers and we never work for the insurance industry.

We never have, we never will.

The Spirit of Brotherhood by Bernard Meadows

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