

UNISON

DERBY CITY BRANCH

Your friend at work

## Newsletter - November 2019

### Branch Secretary Update

Hi Everyone,

Thank you for taking the time to read our first newsletter since my election as Branch Secretary for UNISON Derby City Branch. Communication is so important, I want to make sure you know exactly what your branch is working on and what's coming up

I got involved in our branch through the Derby City Support Staff dispute in 2015. It was during this strike that I got more involved with my union. I learnt that UNISON is way more than just a road-side recovery service for problems at work; it is a living breathing mass movement of workers who achieve positive change for good by fighting for it. We won't win every battle, but we will always fight for what is right, whether it's holding on to parking permits, fighting against redundancies, helping members who have been bullied and harassed by their managers, the list goes on.

One thing is for sure, as a union we will only ever be as strong as our members. UNISON is the biggest union in Derby City Council, but we are always looking to grow bigger and stronger. Now

that we have lost two of our long serving branch officers, Nicole and Paul Berrisford, who have left their UNISON positions to take on exciting new management roles, we are keen to recruit new UNISON workplace stewards and activists who can help take the branch forward. UNISON provide full training and negotiate paid time off for union duties – if you're interested please speak to me for more details. With all the new changes happening in our branch, now is a great time to get involved!

I am setting up fortnightly branch surgeries where any UNISON member can speak to me or other UNISON officers in our Branch Office, Royal Oak House (opposite QUAD). The first one will take place in December (date to follow) Please feel free to drop in any time between 9:00-5:00pm for a cuppa and a chat.



**Becky Everett - Branch Secretary**

[beckyeverett@derbyunison.org](mailto:beckyeverett@derbyunison.org) #yourfriendatwork

**Many of our branch officers are Mental Health First Aiders, please don't hesitate on contacting the branch for advice with getting help and support. We can help guide you get the correct support. Please don't suffer alone. #maketimetotalk**



## NOT JUST BREXIT



This general election isn't just about Brexit. It's also about the future of our public services. **Make sure you use your vote!**



### Vote for public services on 12 December

This election is your chance to use your vote to support public services

So:

- Make sure you are registered to vote
- Sort a postal vote if you need one. Go to [www.gov.uk/voting-in-the-uk](http://www.gov.uk/voting-in-the-uk)
- Remind your colleagues, friends and family to use their vote on 12 December.

It's important because the public services we all rely on are in crisis.

Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been slashed and budgets have been cut for hospitals, schools, police forces and local services. We can't go on like this.

But hard-working staff like you are still out there delivering vital services and helping our communities in spite of these cuts.

Now it's your chance to make your voice heard by voting for public services on 12 December.

**Vote for public services**  
[unison.org.uk/ge19](http://unison.org.uk/ge19)

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## Health and Safety Update

We wouldn't be happy if there was a rodent infestation in our own homes, so we shouldn't have to put up with them in our work space. Mice can carry a number of dangerous pathogens such as E.Coli, C.Difficile and Salmonella. Colleagues who suffer with lowered immune systems are especially at risk and should seek individual risk assessments.

UNISON completed a Health and Safety inspection the summer and Derby City Council did put measures in place to address the infestation. However, due to more recent complaints and sightings of mice again, our Health and Safety Officer is following up the actions of the last meeting. Please continue to keep us informed. As soon as we have an update we will share with you.

We are always looking for new UNISON Health and Safety Representatives, if you're interested in protecting your colleagues from harm - we provide full training and negotiate paid time off for you. Please ask the branch for more details.



### Equal Pay Meeting

Friday 29th November 2019  
5pm - 7pm  
Derby Conference Centre



We have managed to set up a meeting with Mathew Pull from Thompsons solicitors to discuss and provide advice on your Equal Pay Claims.

The meeting is on: Friday 29th November 2019  
Time: 5pm - 7pm  
At: Derby Conference Centre, London Road, Derby, DE24 8UX

Parking is available, Tea and coffee will be available, please complete the link below, and advise us of any dietary requirements.

<https://forms.gle/smPr7pgGdiZDsCtG7>

## Annual General Meeting

Save the Date...

Friday 21 February 2019  
Derby Conference Centre



**UNISON DERBY CITY BRANCH**

**Our members receive our essential cover and support, have access to exclusive benefits and can take advantage of many training opportunities.**

Lighthouse Financial Advice  
Travel insurance  
Pre-paid Plus Mastercard  
UNISON protect accidental death insurance  
UIA home insurance  
Pet insurance  
UNION energy  
Learning and development

Car insurance from LV  
Vauxhall partners programme  
Breakdown cover from LV = Britannia  
Rescue  
UNISON Drive  
Wellbeing  
Health plans  
Vision Express  
Dental plans

Personal and career development courses  
Financial support for learning  
Courses for reps and activists  
Legal advice

Travel club  
Croyde bay holiday resort

UNISON rewards  
UNISON protect - family protection insurance

Simply Visit...

**benefits.unison.org.uk**

Did you know we have a retired members group? Would you like to still be involved and take part in helping future activists with your knowledge and experience? you can join for a fixed price of £15 to Join don't hesitate to contact us below.

## Meet our Chair



Hello I'm Jill Cartwright, mum to a beautiful daughter aged 27! (I know I don't look old enough.)

I joined Unison when I started my job as a Teaching Assistant over twenty years ago! In recent years I

have taken on a more active role within the branch, Starting mainly with The School Support Staff Dispute. This gave me the confidence to speak about what I felt was unjust not only in my workplace but others across the city.

I then began supporting members with any problems they have within their workplace, this has been done with the support from the amazing branch

officers we have in our branch. They have supported me through some tough situations and helped me learn about how our Union works and strives to improve all our working lives may it be getting better terms and conditions, sickness absence or our free member learning programmes. Please contact me if you require any information on any of our free learning courses.

I'm also a big fan of George Michael for my 50th (yet again I still don't look old enough) my family brought me a full size cut out of him! I can be found at Royal Oak House Mon - Fri between 9am - 5pm.

You can contact me on  
01332 643216 / 7  
Or by email  
Jill.cartwright@derby.gov.uk



## Contact us

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**help@derbyunison.org**

## Keep informed

Make sure you Like us on Facebook and follow us on twitter for regular updates and information

**facebook.com/  
unisonderbycitybranch**  
**twitter.com - @unisonderbycity**

or visit our website on  
**www.derbycityunison.co.uk**

## How do I Join?



You can become a member anytime for support and help.

Call FREE to join - 0800 171 2194  
or Visit [join.unison.org.uk](http://join.unison.org.uk)



supporting UNISON members  
when life gets tough

Members experiencing financial and emotional difficulties can contact our welfare charity, There for You, which provides a confidential advice and support service for members and their dependants.

For more information contact us on 020 7121 5620 or email [thereforyou@unison.co.uk](mailto:thereforyou@unison.co.uk) or contact us for more information