

The UNISON logo features the word 'UNISON' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. To the left of the text is a stylized graphic of three white, curved lines that suggest movement or a wave.

DERBY CITY BRANCH

Your friend at work

Newsletter - AGM Edition - December 2019

Branch Secretary Report

Hi Everyone,

This year has had numerous twists and turns I certainly wasn't expecting, however as a branch we are thriving with the new situations we find ourselves in. Lots of positive changes have happened within your branch of UNISON.

Membership of our branch is growing and our branch officers are engaging in weekly training. This is an amazing opportunity for our branch officers and a positive move to improving the already fantastic work we deliver.

Photos being attached to emails has been one of the biggest most recent challenges for Staff within DCC, work around this is far from over.

And the mice...!

TUPes, restructures, closures and redundancies is the reality of the suffering our members face as a result of direct government cuts, these situations really do affect the day to day lives of our members.

Further proposals to increase our Council Tax are shocking for all our members but for our low paid members the choice to feed the family or pay the council tax is very real and also very close to home.

Work Stress is very real, I receive calls daily from members who are suffering from work related stress, be it stress caused by management or stress caused by workload or even trying to manage a healthy work life balance, work

related stress IS work related stress and we can help you. Please ask for help.

Equal Pay Claimants heard the good news that 5 members have received a settlement, still a long way to go for around 200 members but after our meeting with the solicitor recently it was clear these members won't be giving up on there claim. I too have an equal pay claim and I won't be giving up either.

Update on contact details for the branch

help@derbyunison.org

or email me on

beckyeverett@derbyunison.org

I'd like to close by wishing all our members an absolutely fantastic Christmas holiday, however you celebrate the holidays, enjoy the time with your friends and family.

I hope to continue working with you in 2020.

Keep in touch.

Becky Everett - Interim Branch Secretary

you can call me on 01332 643216/7

#yourfriendatwork



Annual General Meeting

Save the Date...

Friday 21 February 2020

Derby Conference Centre

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DERBY CITY BRANCH

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Branch Officer Reports

Annual General Meeting
Save the Date...
 Friday 21 February 2020
 Derby Conference Centre



UNISON DERBY CITY BRANCH

Jill Cartwright Interim Branch Chair

Well been a busy few months since I started in September full time in the office.

I've had amazing support from the interim Branch Secretary Becky Everett, Treasurer Julie Walker and our Comms officer Richard Platt. I would like to give a great big thank you for all the support and I hope I've not annoyed you with my questions! When you have all this knowledge you have to tap into it.

Since September I've done lots of things for the first time and helped the amazing members with their issues.

I have attended disabled members conference this was my first time at self-organised group with Becky this was at a very windy Brighton. This conference was more relaxed than Local and National conferences.

Since being voted in as chair in September, I have chaired a few meetings and will be chairing the AGM! Hope to see you all there on the 21st February 2020.



Fantastic turn out at the Equal Pay Meeting tonight, thank you to all those that attended. For those who couldn't make it don't hesitate to get in touch with us to keep updated on future

Chris Wheeldon Retired members Secretary

The Retired Members AGM took place at Royal Oak House on Friday 8th March from 12 – 2pm. This had been advertised in a 2-page newsletter sent out in the previous few weeks. The retired members were very well looked after by all the Unison staff who had provided rooms and an excellent lunch etc. This first newsletter of 2019 contained articles around older peoples' issues such as, Unison's 25th anniversary year which was celebrated at the Retired Members conference with Dave Prentis, and other issues like the NHS and the TV Licence scandal.

During this meeting the retired members were asked to help hand over products which had been donated as part of the 'End Period Poverty' Campaign, to Diane Whitehead of 'Women's Work' and Cecile Wright, Prospective Labour Candidate. In the evening I attended one of the main AGM meetings held at the Brewery Tap.

The Retired Members committee usually meet as and when required at the Council House or the Quad.

We meet to discuss and plan each newsletter of which I try to publish 3 times per year. The latest newsletter was a 4 page one published on 8th November with the invaluable help of Richard Platt. Topics covered included, continuing attacks on pensions and benefits, Blue Badge expansion and the ongoing scandal of Universal Credit.

Unison Retired Members are affiliated to the National Pensioners Convention. NPC, which is a National campaigning organisation which can be very influential. Over the past five years until April this year, I was a member of the East Midlands Region Executive Committee. This involved travelling from Derby to Nottingham, Leicester, Long Eaton and Loughborough for meetings, rallies and campaigns. Derby City Unison can send 3 delegates to the Regional meetings at the Nottingham Mechanics Institute 4 times per year. Guest speakers cover a range of relevant topics such as the NHS, Pensions, Scams and WASPI etc.

I am currently starting work on the next 2-page newsletter for February 2020.

Richard Platt Communications & LGBT+ Officer

For the past 4 years I have been ensuring that the branch are communicating effectively where possible, using social media and the website as well as traditional communication methods.

Using my Marketing and social media knowledge from my job

roles I have made sure that the branch informs our members regularly. I am always keeping myself informed with national changes to Employee rights, National Campaigns, and anything that affects members.

I attend the Local Government, National and LGBT Conferences to represent our branch and provide in depth live blogs from these events to ensure that all members

are aware of what is happening as these conferences are in session, to ensure that members can understand what is being discussed and stay informed.

One of the areas that affects my Job role working in Derby Homes is the current housing situation and community issues and the affect this has on housing staff, an area which

I want to make sure is at the forefront of UNISONS policies over the year ahead.

I along with Julie Walker have been involved in the UK Work Stress Network to help increase their visibility and provide support using my skills to enable them to progress. They held a conference in November last year which I helped raise the profile and run the event.



Branch Officer Reports

Julie Walker Branch Treasurer & and Health and Safety Rep for Derby Homes

I am a Steward and Health and Safety Rep for Derby Homes, as well as completing my 8th year as Treasurer for the Branch. Within my role as Treasurer it has been an achievement this year to have recognition by both Region and National Office for the work I carry out over the year to ensure all the accounts are reconciled and closed down at the end of December each year. I also sit on the Region Finance Committee and I am delegate to Regional Committee to ensure, along with my colleagues, that Derby City Branch member's voices are heard

I attend monthly Trade Union meetings with my colleagues in UNITE and continue to raise member's issues, within Derby Homes, with Senior Management Team when needed.

I also sit on the Health and Safety Forum and attend when required workplace inspections.

This year so far I have attended Unisons Women's Conference and am due to attend both Community Conference and Health and Safety Conferences and feed back to the Branch on issues raised there and disseminate to members with issues relating to their workplace.

I am also part of the Steering group for the Work Stress Network where i keep upto date with current issue and information relating to work stress for our members.



It was Great to say hello and thankyou with breakfast bright an early to our members at stores road earlier this week. these are just a few of those who provide vital services across Derby every day.

Louise Wright

Health and Safety and Welfare Officer

Hello it has been a busy year with this being my first year as the branch welfare officer. I have been able to offer help and support to those members who have required the assistance and been able to signpost to other help and we have had some positives when we have been able to make the difference for members when they have needed it the most.

As we all know the cost of living has gone up yet our wages have stayed the same and many of us are on the lower pay scale, so most of us are on a strict budget, with very little money if anything left over to save for those rainy days for when a fridge freezer or the washing machine finally gives up and you haven't the money to replace it, we have had members who has come to us and with our help they have had their white goods replaced by the there for you charity. Along with help to pay for council tax arrears and rent arrears, for food and unexpected car repairs.

This year has given me ideas on what more could we do to help members in there time of need and I have got a lot of idea's which I would like to put forward for the coming year if I was to be re-elected so that we could help our members at that critical time when they need it the most, as it could happen to anyone of us at any point.

It has been a busy year once again, lots of issues regarding health and safety mainly the mice infestation

in the council house, I carried out a joint health and safety inspection of the council house on the hottest day of the year this was carried out with Ian Shepherd we discussed about the mice infestation and what facilities management has been doing to get rid of the mice but now they have brought in external pest control as well as our own pest control, they have been proofing the council house as well. All sightings must be reported to FM as they have a log of mice sightings.

Elsewhere in schools if the school you work in is an academy then unless they have brought back into the corporate health and safety package we wouldn't be informed if any of our members had been involved in an accident like we would do if they have brought into the health and safety package. If this happens if we are informed then we can give notice to the school to carry out a health and safety inspection on behalf of our members within that school, which goes for any workplace where we have members.

Work related stress absences is on the rise, and this has been due to a number of factors, restructuring, redundancies, teams being cut to the bare minimum of staff yet the workload is increasing not subsiding, everyone has breaking point. If this is reported then we can help you and support you.

Mental health we are trying to break the stigma that surrounds mental health and the message is it is good to talk as a adult mental health first aider we are here to help and support and to sign post you to the different areas of help you can now receive to help you to cope and also to help support to get you the reasonable

AGM (Annual General Meeting)

Friday 21st February 2020

6pm - Entertainment will follow

Derby Conference Centre, London Rd, Derby DE24 8UX

Parking Available on site

More Details to follow...



Retired Members

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.



Contact us

**UNISON Derby City Branch,
Royal Oak House,
Market Place,
Derby, DE1 3AR**

Telephone:
01332 643216 / 643217
Email:
beckyeverett@derbyunison.org
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

Winter fuel grants

there
for you supporting UNISON members
when life gets tough

Get help staying warm this winter



Are you on a low income? Help is on hand

There for You has set up a limited fund to help UNISON members. If your net income is £18,000 or less you may be eligible to receive a grant of £40.

To apply and download the application form visit unison.org.uk/thereforyou or simply contact UNISON Direct 0800 0857 857 between 6am-midnight Mon-Fri and 9am-4pm Sat.

Closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 14 February 2020**.

NOTE: The £18,000 net income applies only to the There for You small grants programme. Any member who is struggling financially due to an unexpected crisis should either contact their branch welfare officer, call us on 020 7121 5620 or visit www.unison.co.uk/thereforyou for more information.



There for You is the working name of UNISON Welfare, a registered charity supported by UNISON the trade union. Registered charity no. 1020560/SCC338205

Colder weather means higher fuel bills. If you earn £18,000 or less you could be eligible for a winter fuel grant from There For You. You can apply today!

Apply early and send your form and supporting paperwork in as soon as possible, contact us directly or call UNISON Direct on 0800 0857 857 and they can post a form out

Completed applications need to be sent to There for You, (WFG) UNISON Centre, 130 Euston Road, London, NW1 2AY by Friday 14 February 2020 at the latest. 857 for a form to be sent to you.

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

there
for you

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 or contact us for more information