



# DERBY CITY BRANCH

Here for you

## Our Year In Review - February 2023

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Friday 24 February 2023 - 6pm for 6.30pm start  
At Derby Conference Centre  
After UNISON Business, Live Band, Free First Drink, Hot  
Food Buffet and Disco. Book your place now.  
Read more inside...



## In this issue

Branch Officer Reports  
Free Training For Members  
Regional Report  
Annual General Meeting  
Fairness and Equality  
Workplace Helping Hand  
and much more...



# Our Year in Review - Page 2

## Branch Secretary Report

Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year to all members and activists of our Derby City Branch of UNISON.

2023 came round quite quickly and no doubt 2024 will be here just as quick.

This year is already filling up with difficult situations for members within Derby City Council - the shocking news of over 150 job losses sits very uncomfortable with me.

Derby City Council is going to lose a vast amount of experience, knowledge and loyal employees some of whom have worked for the Council for decades.

Losing the Community Managed Libraries is going to be a huge blow for the city, one of the only places you can just turn up, get warm, have a drink and a natter and there will always be a friendly face with no judgement. It wasn't that long ago we were fighting to keep the libraries inside the Local Authority and now fighting to keep them in the community is an ongoing battle.

We at Branch level continue to work to support local charities on the branch doorstep - we support the Local food bank with our #OneExtratem campaign - the foodbank needs every single donation we can gather and we thank you for the generosity you have showed the campaign.

We also support The Revive Centre by donating period poverty products and women's toiletries to help struggling girls and women in our very community. We also donated to the Secret Santa the Revive centre run. We are looking forward to hearing how the child we supported got his/her Christmas wish.

The work across the branch has again been varied this year our Schools, our Housing, our private sector, as well as Fire Service and The Local Authority have hit the ground running since the covid lockdowns - getting used to new ways of working for some and for others the way of working never changed. What all our members showed us is true grit, resilience and determination to not be beaten and you all continued to deliver for Derby and surrounding areas. We Thank you!

A couple of highlights for myself from the year was the Frontline Fortnight, Matt and Myself delivered Thank you packages to 44 Private Sector care homes in 2 days.

Putting on a Show Racism the Red Card event in October with our Black Members Officer - Curtis, was truly inspiring - more SRTRC events coming up in 2023.

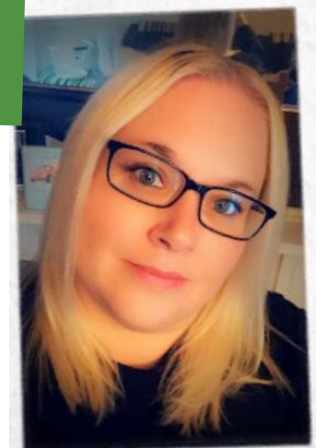
The NJC workshops were very well attended at the various locations. It's always good to hold such events and actually meet our members.

The Branch has worked hard all year and I know will continue to work hard in 2023. We are a great team and put the needs of our members first.

We look forward to working with you, be it when you need representation or a bit of advice, Free UNISON learning, joining in with campaigns and events or just attending the branch for a coffee. The kettle is always on at UNISON.

May I take this opportunity to remind you we are always on the look out for workplace contacts.

*continued on page 3*



HELP US END  
PERIOD  
POVERTY



## Can you Help us End Period Poverty?

We hope you will get behind our campaign to donate to our local charities who give sanitary products, unopened toiletries, or baby wipes to girls and women here in Derby.

When you go shopping buy an extra packet of any sanitary products, unopened toiletries, or baby wipes to donate to us, every donation will help someone in need.

If you are able to support please contact us on  
[contactus@derbyunison.org](mailto:contactus@derbyunison.org)  
or call us on 01332643216 / 643217



# Our Year in Review - Page 3

Stewards, Health and Safety Reps and Learning Reps - get in touch with us and #BeTheReason for change in 2023 whoever your employer - we need you! Members in your workplace needs you!

We hope to see you at the AGM on Friday 24th February - more details within the newsletter - it's promised to be a fantastic night, fabulous food, a fantastic raffle and a great opportunity to meet your branch officers for 2023.

It's a free event (apart from your drinks) it's our way of Thanking you for being our members of Derby City Branch.

**Becky Everett - Branch Secretary**

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

**WE SEND  
SOLIDARITY!  
TO ALL UNISON MEMBERS  
INVOLVED IN STRIKE ACTION**

**UNISON DERBY CITY BRANCH**



Is the team you work in paying for tea and coffee etc.?  
Do you think as a member that your workplace could benefit with a package of treats?  
If so, then get in touch at [contactus@derbyunison.org](mailto:contactus@derbyunison.org)

**UNISON DERBY CITY BRANCH**

**NEVER BEFORE HAVE WE NEEDED EACH OTHER AS MUCH AS WE DO NOW!  
JOIN.UNISON.ORG.UK**

We sent a branch helping hand to all employees at Stores Road at Derby City Council, the cost of living crisis is hitting people hard. If your workplace needs a



UNISON helping hand and we cover you at our branch and we can deliver a helping hand to you. email us at...

[contactus@derbyunison.org](mailto:contactus@derbyunison.org)

**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  
Health plans  
Vision Express  
Dental plans

Car insurance from  
LV  
Vauxhall partners  
programme  
Breakdown cover  
from LV = Britannia  
Rescue  
UNISON Drive  
Wellbeing  
UNISON rewards  
UNISON protect -  
family protection  
insurancePersonal

and career development  
courses  
Financial support for  
learning  
Courses for reps and  
activists  
Legal advice  
Travel club  
Croyde bay  
holiday resort

Scan Me...



**benefits.unison.org.uk**

# Our Year in Review - Page 4

**Annual General Meeting - Friday 24 February 2022**  
Arrival 6pm AGM Start at 6.30pm

We would like to invite you to our  
**Annual General Meeting**  
Friday 24 February 2023  
Arrival 6pm AGM Start at 6.30pm  
At Derby Conference Centre, London Road,  
Derby, DE24 8UX

The AGM will finish at 7.30pm and be followed by a 2 course Indian Hot Buffet, then a live band and Disco. The Bar will be open till 1am

On arrival each UNISON member will receive one FREE Drinks Voucher to be redeemed at the Bar.

Please let us know if you are able to attend and have any dietary requirements by using the QR code or going to <https://forms.gle/c2T3NBryQTT8fuSQ9>



If you would like to book a table for UNISON Members please let us know by emailing [contactus@derbyunison.org](mailto:contactus@derbyunison.org)

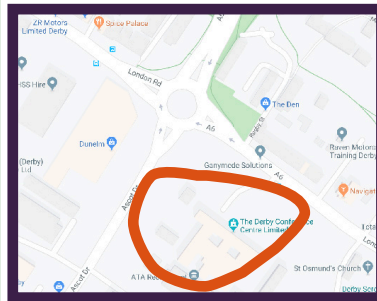
Non-members are able to wait in the bar until the AGM is completed

Please also contact us if you have any special requirements or details in accessing our AGM by emailing [contactus@derbyunison.org](mailto:contactus@derbyunison.org) or calling us on 01332 643217

You can also book a nights stay at Derby Conference Centre at <https://bit.ly/3Hfs1PU>



## How to get there...



Address - Derby Conference Centre, London Rd, Derby, DE24 8UX  
Parking will be available on site. (scan or click QR code to view location)



**DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE FUTURE OF YOUR BRANCH!**

## Free Training for Members

There are hundreds of free training courses for UNISON members Just follow this link: <https://learning.unison.org.uk/skills-academy/>



If you don't know your unison number send an email to [Contactus@derbyunison.org](mailto:Contactus@derbyunison.org) title membership number request and include full name and address inc postcode and we will respond within 3 days

# 2023

## YEAR OF BLACK WORKERS

Establishing legacy to generate change



<https://bit.ly/3XhvClo>

# Our Year in Review - Page 5

## Branch Treasurer Update

My name is Julie Walker and I have been Branch Treasurer for the last 12 plus years, and as most are aware I am also Steward and Health and Safety Representative for Derby Homes.

Finances this past year have not been as health as previous years due to drop in membership and the calculation formula for the monthly IMPS. We have this year invested in our members with various training courses, and workplace visits where promo items and goodies have been in abundance.

I am at present completing the Year End procedure to close the books to enable the Auditors to audit prior to the AGM.

I also sit on the Region Finance Committee as Vice Chair, and I am Chair for the Regional Housing Forum and Co-Chair for the Regional Women's Committee, I am also a delegate to Regional Committee to ensure, along with my colleagues, that Derby City Branch member's voices are heard.

## UNISON Annual Health and Safety Report 2021

It's now 2023 we are out of covid lock down and everything is back to normal. I have started doing site visits again. In was unable to do the last Health and Safety site inspection down at stores road, so I asked Ashley Cutts to cover for me, he is a health and safety rep and he did a great job with the inspection.

At the moment I am taking part in the updating of many of the councils health and safety policies, it has to be done regular to keep up with changes in the law and any changes in the work that people do, or changing PPE.

There was a problem with the paddling pools last year, I brought it to the attention of the councils health and safety people. Immediate changes where put in place. The paddling pools are now under review, there was a risk to the work force at the time, now that has changed and it is a safer place for all, to work and play.

Last year I received training for the Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator role I also hold within the Branch and work closely with our ULRs.

We have been looking at co-ordinating activities for our members with the wider East Midlands membership to enable us to offer a wider and varied programme.

Derby Homes - Going into 2023 Derby Homes has 3 Stewards and Health and Safety Stewards who have now had their accreditation training and are currently shadowing me to gain experience in representing our members, as part of UNISONs succession planning, which I know that this will enable UNISON to continue to grow the good industrial relations with management for future years. Our membership is continuing to grow, and I am pleased to welcome all our new members including craft members, apprentices and young members who have joined us this past year.

**Julie Walker**

[juliewalker@derbyunison.org](mailto:juliewalker@derbyunison.org)

Last year I was pushing for a policy for working in the snow, this is for anyone who drives down at stores road. It has not snowed since the policy was written so we are all need to wait and see how it works when it does snow.

Over the past year I have helped members who have found themselves on sickness monitoring and other ill health problems, and some have found themselves in disciplinary hearing which I am pleased to say I have been able to help a number of them.

I am looking forward to the new year and any challenges it might throw my way. I am very lucky that I work with a great team here at Unison, and with great leadership.

**Dennis Jackson**

[dennisjackson@derbyunison.org](mailto:dennisjackson@derbyunison.org)

## Did you know?...

Unisons emails are tailored to the information you give us, for Eg if you work in a school you will get emails relating to education - if you work in the care sector you will get emails related to care services - it's important to update your place of work details. **If your workplace has changed email us [contactus@derbyunison.org](mailto:contactus@derbyunison.org)**





# Our Year in Review - Page 6

## Retired Member Update

Happy New Year to all our retired members. Let's hope it's better than the last two! The brilliant officers at Derby City Unison office, organised a Christmas meal for retired members on December 5th at Derby Conference Centre. It was a lovely occasion, with great food and it was very good to meet up with some familiar faces. Approximately twenty people attended and all had a good time.

It's been a difficult time for everyone, but more and more clubs, churches and community centres are opening up and providing 'warm spaces and food for the local communities. What with illnesses and other problems we haven't been able to organise a retired members meeting, however I am now able to announce that we are holding a very informal

### **Retired Members AGM at Roosevelt Avenue Branch Office on Monday 6th March 12 – 2pm.**

As usual, there will be free tea, coffee and biscuits as well as a great buffet. I do hope you can join us on this day.

#### **Chris Wheeldon - Retired Members Officer**



## Assistant Branch Secretary Peoples Services and Labour Link

My name is Ian Middleton and this has been my second year in the role of assistant branch secretary. It has been a very busy and interesting time in representing members throughout the year in a variety of cases.

I am now in the council house four days a week. If any members want to pop by and say hello it will be lovely to see you. We are on the ground floor near fire exit 3. I have met quite a few of you through the year and it is always nice when people come to say hello.

I have responsibility for peoples services and have dealt with various cases over the last six months. It has been an interesting time and I will continue to work together with my colleagues to represent our members and ensure they are treated fairly.

It is going to be a difficult time for some over the next few months with possible job losses due to the councils financial situation. Unison will support any members affected by this. If you are involved in the achieving change process please get in touch by calling us or pop by for a chat.

We would love more of you to become workplace contacts and stewards. Often we can get small issues resolved by good collaborative working. If you are interested in how you can help support your colleagues please pop and see me or mail for more information.

It will also be lovely to see as many members as possible at our upcoming AGM.

### **Ian Middleton**

[ianmiddleton@derbyunison.org](mailto:ianmiddleton@derbyunison.org)



## Check your subs!

Check your wage sheet to ensure unison subs are being deducted (if you pay via salary) - especially important if you are TUPED over to a new employer.

When you need us, one of the first things we check is if subs are up to date. If you have a pay rise or pay decrease inform us so your subs are amended.

# Our Year in Review - Page 7

## East Midlands Regional Report

It was a busy end to year for the me as the Regional Organiser allocated to Derby City, supporting the branch with member casework and some really important negotiations with the authority regarding access to time off for officers supporting our schools members. School facility time is always a hot topic but we finished the year with some good results which will help support the branch for the first quarter of 2023. The branch were heavily involved with our excellent Stars in Our Schools week in November and Matta your local organiser was a credit to the events ensuring all the materials needed were in the right place and arrangements were made.

2023 is already set to a busy year where the regional team will be supporting the branch with notices of redundancy and change that we know DCC will issue. We will be finalising the branch organising priorities in the next few weeks and focusing building an even bigger and better Derby City branch.

Remember when it comes to liaising with and organising in employers for

your benefit, strength is in numbers and therefore encourage your colleagues not in a union to join UNISON, together we are stronger.

Could you “Be the Reason” in 2023 and become part of the UNISON family of contacts and activists striving for change? Do you want to get more involved? The best workplaces have local reps so get in touch to find out more.

All the best for 2023

## Regional Team- Emma & Matt



## Get involved, become a steward

Whatever your problem at work, from broken central heating to mass redundancies, UNISON workplace representatives (reps), stewards and other activists work together to protect the interest of members.

Get intouch with us if you want to get involved more, everyone can make a difference no matter how small.



# Our Year in Review - Page 8

## Branch Chair, Communications officer and LGBT+ Officer Update

For the past 8 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 including this annual review you are reading now.

I am always keeping myself informed with national changes to Employee rights, National Campaigns, and anything that affects members.

I am proud to say that I am the Chair of the Branch and ensure that branch business can be carried out effectively and efficiently to move branch business along, and that members are supported.

I am proud to be the Local Government SGE (Service Group Executive) Rep for the East Midlands General Seat, I have attended all the meetings that have happened since gaining my position, i have reported regularly back to branch secretaries aith the two other reps from the East Midlands. If you think of anything you would like me to pass to the SGE or any advice let me know.

Over the past year i have also attended the Local Government Conference, National Delegate Conference, Community Conference and the LGBT+ Conference all of which i have blogged live from and you can read these blogs on our website. I also attended the virtual LGBT+ Regional Meeting to ensure I'm networking with other LGBT+ members to support you.

I would also like to pay special thanks to the branch for participating in supporting and being part of Derby Pride 2022 on Markeaton Park, it was a wonderful day and the branch officers and regional staff all pulled together to create a wonderful day.

I am part of the Steering group for the Work Stress Network and we held a successful Conference this year in Nottingham..

**Richard Platt**

[richardplatt@derbyunison.org](mailto:richardplatt@derbyunison.org)

## Fairness and Equality

**PLEASE REMEMBER - Everyone is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. The ability to live and work without prejudice is a fundamental right, regardless of your background, sexuality, disability, identity and experiences.**

One of UNISON's main aims is to help workers fight for fairness and equality in the workplace and beyond. Challenging discrimination and winning equality is at the heart of everything UNISON does.

Besides the right not to be discriminated against or bullied, fair treatment also includes dignity at work, access to opportunities and equal working conditions and pay.

**There is never a wrong time to speak up!**

Contact us or read more here...

<https://www.unison.org.uk/about/what-we-do/fairness-equality/>



## Why Not Share this Newsletter with a Friend?

Go on and share this newsletter with a friend who you think would like to be kept informed. Also if they don't receive it help them to update their contact details, send us an email to [contactus@derbyunison.org](mailto:contactus@derbyunison.org)





# Our Year in Review - Page 9

## Welfare Officer Update

This has been another busy year for There for you Welfare charity; I am pleased that, at last, I have been able to meet members face to face.

I have continued to support members in completing finance claims forms ensuring they receive the support they need. This has included payments towards car repairs so that the member can continue to work and support with finances due to bereavement costs

Last year the charity raised £1m with our winter energy support appeal. This enabled us to provide a winter fuel grants to low-income members. This is a one off, non-repayment grant of £200

School uniform grants have continued to be available, this is a grant of up to £70 per child to help towards the cost of school clothing.

We are now supporting Pay Plan, who provide free debt advise and support to all Unison members, including self-employed.

No other trade union offers a welfare service on a scale such as UNISON and I am proud to be part of this charity.

**Jayne Daniels**

[Jaynedaniels@derbyunison.org](mailto:Jaynedaniels@derbyunison.org)

## Free Confidential Listening Service

For members who may not want to take their problems further within Unison, but still need someone to talk to in confidence. you can Call Jayne any Wednesday or leave a message and she will you back. **You can call Jayne on 07963258748**



## Schools Conveanor and ULR Lead

Well 2022 was a busy year for me and my family, I became a Nanny for the first time in April and my daughter got married in August- both of these events were amazing and my grandson has already got me wrapped around his little finger! Hoping that you have all had a great Christmas and wishing you and your families a very happy New Year.

### Schools

Thank you to all School Support Staff for all your hard work and dedication to the children of Derby. This year has been hard for a number of reasons- cost of living and lack of funding for schools.

During the year I have attended TUPE transfer meetings ensuring that our members terms and conditions remain or are improved as they TUPE across to their new employer. Also being there for members during the process is important so that feel supported and able to discuss their fears about what is happening. Once again as 2022 ends and we begin a new year Covid is not going away and all staff are now having to deal with the outbreak of Strep A.

It has been great getting to visit schools once again especially for Unison's Stars in Our School, whilst delivering lots of cakes and being able to have photos with all the support staff. This year I am hoping to visit lots of schools to meet everyone and say a great big thank you not just from me but Derby City Branch. Please make contact if you like a visit with biscuits and goodies for all.

### ULR

The branch has put on a few activities this year, we have members taking part every Friday in Yoga. We are looking to put on chair yoga.

Over the next year we are hoping to start our family baking as this is very popular with members. It is always great to see families baking and having fun together.

For our retired members we had a Christmas lunch, it was great to see new faces enjoying the lunch and having lots of laughs. We are hoping they will join us at the AGM, for a dance and a bite to eat.

Makaton has been popular as usual, we put on a couple of sessions last year. Along with Derbyshire Learning Forum we are looking to put the taster session again. The feedback form these is always positive.

If you have any suggestions please don't hesitate to contact us and put your ideas forward.

I wish you and your family a very happy and healthy New Year and hope that it brings all you wish.

**Jill Cartwright**

[jillcartwright@derbyunison.org](mailto:jillcartwright@derbyunison.org)

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.

Please feel free to cut out the below to keep to remember how to contact us

## Free UNISON courses for members working in local government

UNISON is providing free training courses for members working in local government. Full details of the courses, along with sign up details, are provided on the link below. Members can sign up for the courses themselves. All courses will be for 2.5 hours and will be held online on Teams - we hope this makes it easy for members to attend. Please circulate these courses to members in your branches.

Two of the courses are specifically aimed at social workers and the other courses will be of interest to members working with the public.

### Dealing with difficult telephone conversations

21 February 10am-12.30pm

### De-escalation strategies

21 February 1.30pm - 4pm

### Lone working - for social workers

7 March 1.30pm - 4pm

### Conflict management - for social workers

9 March 1.30pm - 4pm

### De-escalation strategies

16 March 10am - 12.30pm

### Dealing with difficult telephone conversations

16 March 1.30pm - 4pm

<http://msg.unison.org.uk/c/1Z3fH785aEVPvem9bHkbHf>



## Contact us

UNISON Derby City Branch,  
59 Roosevelt Avenue,  
Chaddesden,  
Derby, DE21 6JR

Telephone:

**01332 643216 / 643217**

Email:

[contactus@derbyunison.org](mailto:contactus@derbyunison.org)

## Keep informed

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

[facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/unisonderbycitybranch)

[unisonderbycitybranch](https://www.facebook.com/unisonderbycitybranch)

[twitter.com - @unisonderbycity](https://twitter.com/@unisonderbycity)

or visit our website on

[www.derbycityunison.co.uk](http://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)

there  
for you

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.

supporting UNISON members  
when life gets tough

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