

The UNISON logo, featuring the word "UNISON" in white capital letters on a green background with stylized white waves to the left.

DERBY CITY BRANCH

Here for you

Our Year In Review - Winter 2023/24

A group of people, mostly wearing purple and green UNISON t-shirts, are gathered outdoors at a community event. In the background, there is a purple tent with the text "UNISON Your Friend At Work" and rainbow bunting. A man in the foreground has colorful dot-paint on his face. A green semi-transparent box containing text is overlaid on the lower part of the image.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Friday 23 February 2024 -

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
2024 The Year of the LGBT+ Worker
Workplace Helping Hand
and much more...

NEWS

A yellow icon of a newspaper with the word "NEWS" at the top and several lines of placeholder text below.

Our Year in Review - Page 2

Branch Secretary Report

Hi Everyone,

Are we really at this time of year again? It's been a fantastic year for the branch, many of your branch officers sit on National, and Regional Committees and dedicate a lot of their own personal time to the Branch Officer Role, many of our key activists that keep the branch turning do not get any facility time or very little for the work they do for you (the Members)

Our office at Derby City Council is now up and running and the Derby City Team regularly holding stalls and doing walk arounds to meet members and discuss any issues you may be having. Dennis and Ian can be found near the staff entrance to The Council House in the far corner. They can also be contacted on 01332 643217. If you're working in The Council House pop and see them, they will have a box biscuits and can offer a cuppa. Both are also able to arrange meetings at the Chaddesden Office if members would rather that.

The Roosevelt office in Chaddesden is open Monday -Friday due to our work being mainly based in workplaces it is a good idea to book an appointment, Any documents can be posted and the letter box is checked daily Monday – Friday.

We have had a few changes at the branch this year, Jills facility time was reduced by her employer, and she now only covers DDAT Schools, Jayne our Welfare Officer retired and we gained a new Black Members Officer.

We continue to cry out for Workplace contacts, Stewards, Health and Safety Reps and UNISON Learning Reps. Your workplace will be much better for having a UNISON Activist on the ground, we have far less issues in any workplace

or Work Team of our Larger employers where we do.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if this is something you would like to know about, its not as scary as it seems, its very rewarding, and opens up so many opportunities for you and the members in your workplace.

We need you but YOUR workplace needs you more!

We've had a range of events over the year, we worked with our members at Ashgate Nursery to save the Nursery, we've held a number of pension sessions ran by Derbyshire Pension Fund, The branch officers have now completely moved over to Case web and in 2024 we will move the stewards on to the Case web system (this will give our stewards more help and advice with situations much quicker) We had a crazy August and held Summer school surgeries for our School members, we held a "We care for carers day", we also had a day dedicated to our members at Derby College, we increased our visits to Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service,

We held a Fill the Food bank event where we were overwhelmed by the generosity of our members and the Local Community. We recently celebrated Local Government Champions Day, we visited Ashgate Nursery, Derby Homes, Derby City Council and visited most of Derby Libraries celebrating all that is good with Local Government Champions – YOU! The recent floods in Derby have caused additional work for many of our members across



**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
or call us on 01332643216 / 643217**

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Derby City Council and Derby Homes – I thank you for all you did to keep the city moving, a small number of families lost their homes as a direct result of flooding and will potentially need to be rehomed. At the branch we held a collection day to help the families we know have lost everything including white goods and personal items.

We also held a charity event, Brew for Breast Cancer Now! We raised £237 and had a few online donations too.

I can't express enough how the Branch Team and Stewards have worked this year, seeing a reduction in facility time is our biggest barrier, to continue to keep up the great work we do – We really do need YOU! We must fight for more facility time, we must continue to fight for better working conditions for all, we need to ensure Health and Safety is a top priority in all workplaces, and we MUST ensure that everyone is treated how they deserve to be treated in the workplace – Everyone is welcome in UNISON, Everyone has a place to be safe and Everyone of our members will have their voice heard and listened to.

We all look forward to seeing you at the AGM in February for what promises to be another great night out.

Becky Everett - Branch Secretary

beckyeverett@derbyunison.org

How to... be a trans ally
UNISON recognises the importance of being loud and visible in support of its transgender members, especially at a time where anti-trans hate crimes are increasing,

Trans people are a tiny minority in the UK, yet the number of anti-trans hate crimes has doubled in recent years – an increase of 56% in 2022 from the year before.

Allyship is the practice of actively supporting the rights of a marginalised group you're not a part of. Being a trans ally is crucial, because many trans people face real isolation.

Find out more here by scanning the QR Code or the link below...
<https://magazine.unison.org.uk/2023/12/04/how-to-be-a-trans-ally/>



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

UNISON 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

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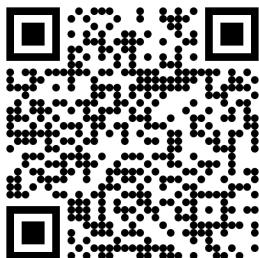
Annual General Meeting - Friday 23 February 2024 Arrival 6pm AGM Start at 6.30pm

We would like to invite you to our
Annual General Meeting
Friday 23 February 2024
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/3GXkxV772x29Jc5C6>



If you would like to book a table
for UNISON Members please let us
know by emailing
contactus@derbyunison.org

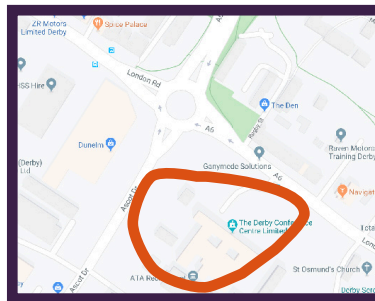
Non-members are able to wait in the
bar until the AGM is completed

Please also contact us if you have
any special requirements or details in accessing
our AGM by emailing contactus@derbyunison.org
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/](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



**Celebrating 2024
Year of LGBT+ workers**



<https://magazine.unison.org.uk/2023/12/04/2024-the-year-of-lgbt-workers/>

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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 the lead Steward and Health and Safety Representative for Derby Homes. Derby Homes has a further two amazing Stewards being George Hill-Camp and our Branch Young Members Officer Josh Holmes, they both continue to support and advise our members at London Road.

I am pleased to say our membership at London Road continues to grow this past year and myself and Richard attended the induction training for the new apprentices, in September along with Unite, to welcome our new apprentices, and explain all about UNISON and how they can get more involved. I am so proud of how many young members we have within Derby Homes.

Finances this past year have improved considerably, compared to previous years, as our funding calculation was reassessed. We have again this year invested in our members, by making members aware of the various training courses available, and workplace visits where promo items and goodies have been in abundance.

I will be starting to complete Year End procedure to close the books to enable the Auditors to audit prior to the AGM.

As in previous years I remain to 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.

I am also a Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator, and I work closely with our ULRs to promote all the courses being offered to our members.

I was so pleased in August that Derby Homes was the first Local Government organisation to sign the UNISON Learning Charter, an event attended by all our apprentices and learners. Mike Ainsley, Derby Homes Chair of the Board, sign the charter as one of his final duties before he stood down, and I am so very honoured that he took the time to do this for both Derby Homes and UNISON, along with Rachel Hodson UNISON Regional Head of Local Government.

Myself and the ULRs will continue to look at co-ordinating activities for our members with the wider East Midlands membership to enable us to offer a wider and varied programme, as it opens up so many more activities that the Branch cannot single handedly offer.

Julie Walker

juliewalker@derbyunison.org

UNISON Annual Health and Safety Report 2021

I am Dennis Jackson and I have been a Steward and a Health and Safety rep for 23 years and so far It's been another busy year going through Health and Safety policies and going on Health and Safety site visits. these things are an ongoing and have to be done on a regular basis, new starters might not know about or understand the dangers of the work that they are carrying out, and old hands might slip in to bad habits.

There have been some very serious incidents this year, most people don't even know they have taken place. A collision between a refuse vehicle and a bus, and people being hit by cars. I went to Keele University in September, I think it is always a good idea to stay up to date with any changes in Health and Safety law and to improve my own knowledge of Health and Safety.

I went to a few very good fringe meetings while I was there, one of them was on suicide, men are 3 times more likely to commit suicide than women. So guys

if you need help reach out it is not a sign of weakness. I have been a Health and Safety rep for more than. Covid is on the increase again so I urge everyone who can to get their covid jab. One of my colleagues and myself have been helping to put together an equities charter called the uncomfortable conversation.

I am also pleased that I was the delegate for the Disability Conference this year as well. Last year I won an award for taking part in education courses, I am also a unison learning rep, if you think you need any help with your English and math's call UNISON and we will set something up for you. over the last year I have defended many members with a lot of favorable outcomes.

Dennis Jackson

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**



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Retired Member Update

Happy New Year to all our retired members. This year we have seen an upturn in the numbers attending our meeting and are hoping to see more of you over the next year! Our next meeting will be:

2024 Retired Members AGM at Derby Conference Centre on 23rd February at 1 pm.

As usual, there will be free tea, coffee and biscuits as well as a great buffet.

The Branch Officers organised a Christmas meal for retired members on December 12th at Derby Conference Centre, which was attended by 24 Retired Members and 6 Branch Officers, It was preceded by our December meeting and it was very good to meet up with some new and familiar faces.

We are working to get better at communicating with our Retired Members and will be producing quarterly newsletters by emails (or post if requested) with other updates as and when we know of events or activities.

We are also planning on arranging some days out and would welcome any ideas you have!

We now have our own email address which you can contact us on: Retiredmembers@derbyunison.org

Hopefully you can join us this year at our meetings and activities.

Chris Wheeldon - Retired Members Officer



Assistant Branch Secretary Peoples Services and Labour Link

My name is Ian Middleton and I am now in my third year in the role of Assistant Branch Secretary.

I am 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. If you have any queries please drop by and we will do our best to answer them. If you have any colleagues that would like to know more about UNISON please send them our way.

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. If you experience any problems at work please get in touch early so we can work together to make sure you are treated fairly.

I have attended annual conference this year and UNISONs Health and Safety Conference. There are always some interesting things learnt here which help in support of members. The rise of people suffering from mental health issues and stress at work is certainly a concern. I have supported many members over the last year with some difficult issues and will continue to do my best to help our members in any way I can.

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 AGM in March. It is always a fun night with entertainment and some great food.

Thank you for continuing to be members and remember we are always happy to speak to you.

Ian Middleton

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.

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East Midlands Regional Report

2023 has been another busy year for your Regional team. We have been supporting the branch with a number of different redundancy situations across the council and in the wider arena. In a great result for collectivism and branch perseverance we saw redundancies in care employers halted earlier this year with all jobs saved. Not every case ends that way of course and we know we have seen cuts to public services again across the city.

Matt has been busy with a year long series of events meeting many of our existing members and plenty of new ones at various council work places and Learning at work week went down a storm with our Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Members.

It was a pleasure to support the branch at the great Derby Silk Mill Rally. A fab day had by all and it was great to speak to so many members along the way.

Derby City schools members who are part of the St Ralph Sherwin Trust have seen an injection of organising power from a team of Local Organisers that are working with me on some schools projects. The work of the team has really contributed to the branch membership this year. The Trust along with all others in the Nottingham

Catholic Diocese also signed up to UNISON's Learning Charter which has already seen excellent member led learning events being arranged.

Active members are the lifeblood of a branch and your UNISON and if you want to get more involved and Be The Reason a something happens for you and your colleagues do get in touch. A visit to your workplace to have a chat about getting more involved, could be just the place to start!

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.



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Branch Chair, Communications officer and LGBT+ Officer Update

For the past 9 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 and the Region with 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. some that i hope to continue in the future.

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 2023 on Markeaton Park, it was a wonderful day and the branch officers and regional staff all pulled together to create a wonderful day. as this year is the year of the LGBT+ Worker i am very proud to champion this.

Richard Platt

richardplatt@derbyunison.org

Fairness and Equality

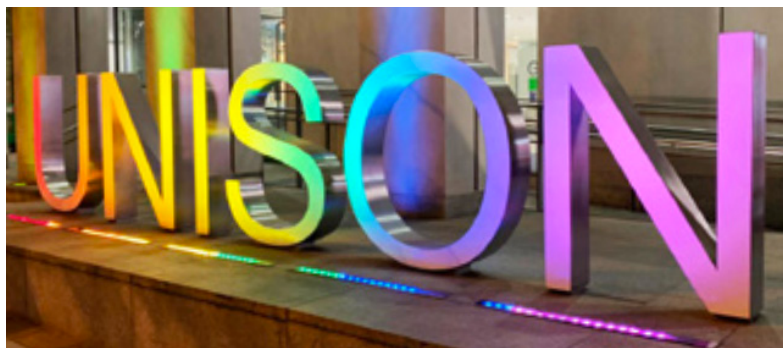
PLEASE REMEMBER - Everyone is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. The ability to live and work without prejudice is a fundamental right, regardless of your background, sexuality, disability, identity and experiences.

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



Celebrating 2024 Year of LGBT+ workers

This year is the year of the LGBT+ Worker, as a branch we will be taking part in events this year so look out for more information. Below are some useful links to find out more information...

2024: The Year of LGBT+ Workers
Members of the union's LGBT+ committee explain why they think the year is so important, and what it can offer LGBT+ members

<https://magazine.unison.org.uk/2023/12/04/2024-the-year-of-lgbt-workers/>

Let's get ready for 2024: The year of LGBT+ workers!

https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2021/11/27612_Out_in_Unison_75.pdf

UNISON president welcomes the union's Year of LGBT+ Workers
Libby Nolan says she looks forward to helping make it 'the best year possible'

<https://www.unison.org.uk/news/article/2023/11/unison-president-welcomes-the-unions-year-of-lgbt-workers/>

Schools Conveanor and ULR Lead

Over the last year my role within the branch has changed a lot. I am now the lead rep for DDAT, this means I support the members who work in the trust. Since this move has happened, I have supported members with sickness absence, ill health retirement also attended disciplinarys to support members.

I have also had the pleasure of visiting schools in the DDAT Trust. This has been lovely to see you all as not just members of UNISON but a fellow colleague in the trust. i hope before the end of the year to visit all the DDAT schools and observably there will be cake and treats! If you wish me to visit your school and your part of DDAT please get in touch.

In June I attended the Local Government Conference in Liverpool, as usual being part of this was amazing. At the conference I spoke of the first time with regards to the cost of living and what impact it has on local government staff but especially support staff. We are doing more for less pay! It was a nerve wrecking experience but also a great feeling telling the conference what impact it was having on me, you, and my colleagues.

ULR

The branch has put on several pension sessions over the year, we know these are very popular and will be looking to put some more on in the new year.

We as a branch are part of the Derbyshire ULR Forum, this means Derby City Branch members have access to free learning. We hope you can take part in the activities. If you have any suggestions for training, you would like to be put on please make contact.

Jill Cartwright

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

Local Government



The UNISON Local Government Podcast



Did you know there is a dedicated UNISON podcast for Local Government Workers?

This Podcast covers issues surrounding, Stars in Our Schools, Understanding Pay, Fire Safety, Further Education, Care Services, Libraries, Local Service Champions, Social Workers, Black Workers, Food Safety, Leisure Centres and many more topics to come.

You can listen at by clicking on the below link or the QR Code Above.
<https://www.unison.org.uk/the-unison-local-government-podcast/>

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



Contact us

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

Telephone:

01332 643216 / 643217

Email:

contactus@derbyunison.org

Keep informed

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

or visit our website on

www.derbycityunison.co.uk