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UNISON
Police Staff

FUSIONNEWS

The newsletter of the Derbyshire Police branch of UNISON

SUMMER 2011

UNISON National Delegates' Conference

By Carol Standish-Leigh, branch chair

Each June UNISON holds its annual national conference which is attended by every branch in the United Kingdom.

It is the primary decision making body for UNISON where policies are formulated and rule changes can be enacted.

This year the conference was held at the Manchester Central Convention Centre and the Derbyshire Police branch was represented by Marie Davey and me acting as job share delegates. The

conference was attended by around 2,500 delegates and 1,000 visitors.

The main topic of debate was the savage cuts facing the public sector due to the current Government. There was a good deal of anger at the way public sector workers are being penalised for the current economic situation.

As one delegate put it: "We did not create the crisis, but we are being made to pay for it." Outsourcing was also highlighted as a major threat to members around the country. In our region, Lincolnshire Police are actively looking to outsource the majority of

their police staff. In Cleveland, both the control room and IT department were outsourced earlier this year.

Pensions also figured quite predominantly with the blatant unfairness of members being expected to pay more, work longer and yet receive less.

During conference, we worked long hours, attending all the debate sessions, networking with members of the wider union, sitting in on fringe meetings and, in particular, representing Derbyshire at a meeting of all the police branches where the Winsor report was discussed.

It was announced at the meeting that Tom Winsor has accepted an invitation to attend the national Police and Justice Conference in Chester in October (diary commitments allowing). We look forward to putting over our views on the report to him at that event. No doubt there will be a frank exchange of views.

Contact your MP over Winsor proposals

Members are being urged to contact their MPs in the fight against public sector cuts.

UNISON has prepared two letter templates for staff to send to the local MPs to raise their concerns about the recommendations contained within the Winsor review.

The first letter (LetterMP_with_loss) is for members who would lose allowances if the recommendations were implemented. There is a section towards the end of Page 2 for members to insert the sum of money that they would lose.

The second letter (LetterMP_without_loss) is for members who would not lose any allowances but wish to support this initiative.

The letters can be found on the UNISON Information Zone on the intranet. You can find your MP at <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/>. The letter can either be sent by post or by e-mail. Writing to your MP is your right, and cannot be interfered with by the Force.

Staffordshire UNISON has reported a very positive result with all four of its local MPs contacting the branch asking to arrange a meeting to discuss the Winsor report.

"We would urge members to access the link and use the letter templates. At the bottom of the letter is a section where you can add your home address if you would like a reply from your MP," says Marie Davey, branch secretary at Derbyshire Police UNISON.

PCSO survey

PCSOs will be asked to take part in a survey aimed at finding out more about how the shift pattern changes have affected them.

UNISON has been told that some are now using annual leave instead of taking sick leave – an issue it is seeking to resolve.

"We intend to conduct a survey of PCSOs to see how often this happens and how we can help our members," says Marie Davey, branch secretary.

In July, there will be a PCSO forum with Chris McLean from NPIA attending. Chris is helping Brian McKeown with the PCSO review and UNISON is asking PCSOs if they have any issues to raise.

If so contact either your local PCSO rep, email Ann Cooper at branch office, or, if you would prefer to do it anonymously, 'phone or write in - you do not have to give your name.

Young members meet in Wales

This year's National Young Members' Weekend took place in the Barcelo Cardiff Angel Hotel.

On the Friday there was a welcome from the chair, Graham Smith, whose main topic was the continuous attack on public services and the consequences for young people.

Cuts to child benefit, Sure Start provision, school buildings maintenance, Education Maintenance Allowance, youth services, the Connexions service, the Future Jobs Fund and higher education have all hit young people hard, he told members.

Added to this the uncertainty of pensions and high university fees and the future for young people becomes bleak.

During the mid-May event, there were regional discussions on some of the key issues and caucus meetings for minority groups such as women, LGBT, black, and disabled members discussing the issues that most concern them.

Members also campaigned with the public, stopping people in the street and asking them to fill in a form on their opinions on the Government.

There was also a Cuba themed night as some of the members had just returned from a delegation to the island.

Did you know?

If you are leaving through redundancy you can remain as an unemployed member for just £4 for two years.

There is also a retired members' section which costs just one payment of £15.

Contact either the membership officer or branch office for more details.

Members are reminded that UNISON has many resources that can help you through this transitional period.

Members can be supported by our representatives during one to one meetings or appeals for selection for redundancy and defend any unfair dismissals.

UNISON has negotiated early releases for some members and can arrange for Thompsons Solicitors to inspect and sign off any compromise agreements.

Can you afford not to be a member of UNISON during these uncertain times? Join now by contacting your area rep or request an application form from branch office.

Book Swap - HQ

Book Swap was introduced by the BBC RaW programme a few years back and small pockets of book swapping have been operating in the Force for a while.

Neil Brunt, who was very much involved with UNISON over the years as branch secretary, chair, assistant branch secretary, membership officer and until recently retired members' officer, has kindly donated a bookcase to us for the Book Swap scheme. It is a lovely piece of furniture made by Neil's father.

Now, with the donation of this bookcase, UNISON will centralise the main swapping point and offer a larger selection of books.

How Book Swap works

Finished with your old books and not sure what to do with them? In need of some fresh reading ideas but buying books is a luxury you can't afford at the moment?

Are you an 'Eco' or 'Green' reader? In 2003, Greenpeace produced evidence that the UK publishing industry was inadvertently fuelling the destruction of ancient forests in Finland and Canada.

It found that one Canadian spruce produces just 24 books, which means that if you read one book every two weeks, your habits destroy almost one large tree every year.

Despite the campaign, only 40 per cent of the UK book industry has introduced paper with a high level of recycled content, largely choosing to use paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council instead.

The obvious thing to do to cut



down on the number of books in circulation is to reduce, re-use and recycle (guardian.co.uk).

All donations of books and reading materials are welcome – just pop it in an empty slot in the bookcase.

This bookcase will be located in the HQ canteen for staff to use. The terms of use are:

- **Loan of the books is FREE to all**
- **Borrow a book and swap it with one of your own**
- **Borrow a book and bring it back when you have done with it**
- **Do not keep or sell any books that you borrow**
- **You may wish to write the donor details in the front cover**
- **Books donated become the property of UNISON Derbyshire Police Branch.**

If you want to set up a Book Swap in your local area – contact Gill Pryor by phone **(5869) 730 3707** or by email.

Are your details up to date?

It is important that the details about you held by branch office are accurate. Many members have moved jobs and locations but have not let the office know.

"It is extremely important that this data is kept up to date so we can ensure our communications are relevant to you," says Ann Cooper, the branch office administrator.

You can now access your personal information from the national UNISON website. There is a My Unison Members' section (<http://www.unison.org.uk/membership/update.asp>) where you can update your personal information or request a new member's card.

Members are encouraged to enter their personal email address as in future emails will be able to be sent from the membership database, which is independent of the Force's network.

Alternatively send your name, home address, job title, department and workplace to either our membership officer Sarah Bagguley or Ann in the branch office.

A first for Derbyshire Police UNISON Branch

Reiki, Indian head massage, eyebrow threading treatments and therapeutic drumming were among the activities available to members as alternative forms of stress relief during a pilot event organised as part of Adult Learners' Week.

The treatments, which can be quite expensive, were free for members and just £3 for non-members; a gift from UNISON for members in these challenging times.

Activities at each location were dependent on the venue, but they generally consisted of sign language taster sessions, crochet basics and tests on driving theory knowledge.

Money Made Clear had an information stand and details on adult and further education were available from local colleges and other learning bodies.

"Although this was a fairly successful pilot event, we would have liked more participation from across the board, especially as we held the event at or in close proximity to each DHQ and opened it up to all employees, not just UNISON members," says Christine Gdula, HQ ULR.

UNISON also ran a book swap table with an array of reading matter for staff to borrow and a table from with lots of freebies and information on free courses for members. UNISON learning representatives (ULRs) were on hand to advise and support both members and non-members alike.

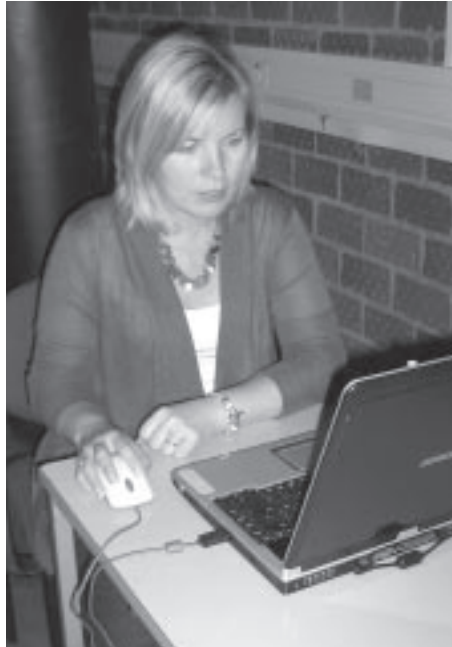
A writing competition was held in the run up to the event. The top entries in the poetry competition were displayed as a slide show presentation in the multi-purpose hall at headquarters during the event on 20 May. Winners were:

- **Poetry - Chris Hart, £25 voucher**
- **Story - Mary Murray, £25 voucher.**

On each day of the event, people attending were asked to complete a short learning survey, which was entered into a prize draw.

Winners were: member - Sally Daniel, £25 voucher; non-member - PC Breakwell, £10 voucher.

As this was a pilot, a brief post event



feedback survey has been emailed to all members seeking their opinions on:

- **How useful/interesting they found it if they attended?**
- **If they didn't attend – why not?**
- **How can we improve it in the future?**

"The main lesson for us to learn from this year's event is advertising, advertising, advertising. Naively, we thought that advertising on the 'Market Place' would reach everyone, or at least 90 per cent of staff. A4 posters were also sent out to all divisions, but they arrived either too late or not at all. We are looking into ways of improving advertising for next year," says Christine.

"Another area to improve in the advertising is letting you know what the event is about. A few people who

completed the survey didn't attend because they believed it wasn't for them or because they weren't sure what it was about. We will make sure for the next one that as much information is put out to you as soon as able before the event.

"That said, we have had a vast amount of positive feedback from those who did attend."

Here are just some of the comments received:

"I found the event very useful regarding the management of money which I was keen to attend. The literature handed out was very informative. I then had an Indian head massage which was a new experience and definitely worth trying - it is also something I may try again."

"I picked a couple of books up that will be useful as well as looking at courses that are coming up in adult learning."

"Very useful and really enjoyed the reiki and Indian head massage - may look into this further. The information provided by UNISON itself was helpful and it would have been good to have managed to use some of the other groups and facilities that were there but ran out of time."

"I found the sign language very insightful and helpful and the other stands quite useful too. Thanks for organising it."

Writing competitions

There will be another poetry competition running in September, so start writing now. All entries from that and Adult Learners' Week in May will be made into a booklet for distribution to members.

We may even run a competition for the design of the cover – watch this space.

Adult Learners' Week 2012

We are looking now for suggestions for Adult Learners' Week 2012.

What would you like to see at the event?

Would you like to get involved?

Have you got a skill you can pass on to others?

Contacts

For more information on anything in this article, details of learning opportunities or if you would like to know more about the role of the ULRs speak to or email them:

Gill Pryor (5869)

HQ education officer, life-long learning co-ordinator and ULR

Judith Wardley (4988)

HQ life-long learning co-ordinator and ULR

Christine Gdula (3614)

HQ ULR

Richard Lee (4596)

C Div ULR

Glenn Burton (3950)

HQ ULR.

WIN a mystery prize!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
							U				N	

Cryptogram

In the following sentence the letters have been replaced by numbers. Each number represents the same letter throughout. When you have cracked the code you will find your prize. Two letters have been given to start you off. Hint: two letters have not been used. Entries to branch office by 31 August 2011.

26	21	15	20		17	24		15	13	1	16	23	25	14	
10	24		5	21	23	9	3		5	21	23	12			
24	13	21		9	13	21	1	11		6	23	25		7	
4	23	14	4		15	20	22	2	2	20					
15	4	13	18	18	23	25	14		16	13	21	9	4	2	22

Name:

Department:

Contact number:

Derbyshire villages and towns

Anagrams & cryptic competition

Answers to our place names quiz in the April edition of Fusion.

1. A bendy sort of place - **DENBY** - (anagram of bendy)
2. Could be found in a wallet - **ETWALL** - (anagram of wallet)
3. Mashed up half a turnip times one hundred - **PINXTON** - (half mashed up turnip X (times) TON one hundred.)
4. Baxter, Unwin or Holloway - **STANLEY** - (Christian name of all three)
5. Sort and apply reem for this village - **MAPPERLEY** - (anagram of apply reem)
6. Large amount with smallest cathedral city point taken - **STAVELEY** (vast Ely)
7. No partridges in this one - **PEARTREE**
8. A weighty sweeper - **STONEBROOM**
9. This town sounds like rabbit genders with weight - **BUXTON** - (Bucks Ton)
10. Called Mike to sort out lover with a point - **MICKLEOVER** (Mick anagram of Lover and E)
11. Part of chicken that is not off - **BREASTON**
12. Looks like you could be lending the embers - **BORROWASH**
13. It could be a bale day here - **DALE ABBEY** (anagram of bale day)
14. Sounds like saying hello at the summit - **HIGH PEAK**
15. A rare bowl in parts - **OWLER BAR** (anagram of rare bowl)
16. Sounds as if it's the score for the course with half a sandwich - **PARWICH**
17. Find Lord Reginald in the beginning - **GRINDLEFORD** (anagram of find lord Reg)
18. Sounds like a little letter - **SMALLEY**
19. Gets vocally harmonic in a carton - **CARSINGTON** (sing between carton)
20. Dares to go to the moon - **DANESMOOR** (anagram of dares and moon).

Celebrating achievement awards

Sally Fogell represented UNISON at the Celebrating Achievement Awards at Force Headquarters at the end of the year.

UNISON sponsors the Police Community Support Officer of the Year, which was won by PCSO David McMillan who works in Swadlincote. Congratulations to David and everyone else nominated.

Would you like to be a member of UNISON?

If you are interested in joining UNISON, the union for police staff, please fill out this form and return it to the UNISON branch office at Force Headquarters. A member of the branch team will then be in touch with more details about joining.

Title:

First name:

Surname:

Day-time telephone number:

Email address:

UNISON is encouraging more members to become union representatives as it faces the challenging times ahead.

Please tick this box if you are interested in finding out more about becoming a representative.

Competition winners

Fusion November 2010 wordsearch winner - **Yolanda Bates**.

April BEC lottery

£50 - **Reuben Walker**, £30 - **Neil Wilson**, £20 - **Dawn Shawcroft**.

Easter eggs

1st - **Mary Ball** (see photo), 2nd - **William McDermott**, 3rd - **David Bull**.



(Left to right): Sally Fogell (assistant branch secretary), Carol Standish-Leigh (branch chair) and Mary Ball.

May lottery

£50 - **Gavin Williams**, £30 - **Jennifer Hobson**, £20 - **Emma Hanford**.

May 4th bear competition - Hannah Blockwell.

Fusion April 2011 winner - Kay Jennison.

June lottery

£50 - **Laura Buchanan**, £30 - **Tony Atwal**, £20 - **Helen Brown**.

Midsummer madness competition

David Swirles.