

Durham Local Government **UNISON** Branch Newsletter

March 2017



Message from Branch Secretary

Thank you for your continued support following this year's AGM. Over the last year the branch has assisted a large number of members across both the Council and external employers. I would also like to thank our stewards for their hard work and efforts to ensure that members are given advice, support and representation when needed.

The current economic climate means another challenging year for local government but the branch is well-placed to meet those challenges and will continue to be there: challenging proposals, representing members in grievances and disciplinaries, as well as providing advice and guidance.

There are many opportunities to get more involved in your local branch and I'd encourage you to contact us if you would like to know more.

Neville Hancock

AGM 2017

The 2017 AGM was extremely well attended this year and the branch business was conducted in good time before the FREE prize draw and raffle took place. £150 and £50 prizes (vouchers) were awarded to the lucky winners with many other interesting prizes available including Flamingoland, theatre and football tickets.

This years Phil Hanns award was presented to Lauren Crawford (ICT assistant from DCC) and Dan Westwick (Care worker with Voyage Care), The award is presented to active new stewards who have made a significant impact with their union activities and representation of members. Phil was an exceptionally dedicated UNISON activist who died suddenly in 2013. Lauren and Daniel are pictured below receiving their awards from David Glew, the Assistant Branch Secretary.



The branch office is open:


Monday to Friday

Telephone :
03000 263300 / 263301

Email:
unison@durham.gov.uk

Website
www.durhamunison.info

 Follow us on twitter
[@DurhamUNISON](https://twitter.com/DurhamUNISON)

 Follow our Facebook group: Durham Unison




UNISON
the public service union

Thinking of joining, contact us in the branch or you can join on line at **www.joinunison.org**

Quiz

Once again the General Knowledge Quiz followed the AGM and an excellent pie and peas supper. 10 Teams took part in 7 rounds of general knowledge and picture rounds and the winning team, 'Think Tank' took the title by a single point from long-time leaders 'Tome Raider 2' in the final round. Think Tank comprised school based staff from who had gone close to winning in 2016.

DCC Budget 2017/18

In response to DCC's savings plans for 2017/18 there are a number of restructures that the Branch is currently engaged in across a range of services. If your service is currently undergoing a restructure and you have not heard from us, please contact the Branch Office for advice.

Membership Services Calendar

The Branch has organised an extensive calendar of events / trips for this coming year. Please visit our website (see QR code) or visit [our website](#) for more details including dates, prices and booking info.

Recruitment

Colleagues from UNISON Regional Office are currently visiting a variety of work locations across the County Council to explain the benefits of membership especially during the continuous cuts to services and jobs which the sector is faced with. If you do not have a visit scheduled, and would like us to arrange one at a suitable time for your workplace / service, please contact the Branch Office. We'd also be happy to arrange a specific staff group meeting if required.

Pictured, right, are a number of new stewards who recently completed their New Steward Training course along with Helen Metcalfe, Regional Officer. Well done to those who participated and I am sure that they will become excellent ambassadors and representatives for the Branch.



Want to get more active in UNISON?

On our workplace visits we are always on the lookout for members who want to get active. This can be in many different ways, which fit in with your work and home life.

Workplace Contacts help to distribute UNISON communications to fellow members and colleagues in the work place.

UNISON Stewards are the first point of contact for members in the workplace. They are fully trained, mentored and given support by UNISON regional staff.

Interested in any of the above? Contact us to discuss in more detail.

Thinking of joining, contact us in the branch or you can
join on line at www.joinunison.org

Join UNISON – essential cover if you work in public services

Simply complete the form below and hand it to your branch rep or post it to the address on the back page

1 Tell us about you

Title		First name	
Surname/family name		Date of birth	
Home address			
Postcode			
email			
Phone number (please indicate if home, work or mobile)		National insurance number (from your payslip)	

Please give your ethnic origin: (tick one box)

<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> Black African	<input type="checkbox"/> Black UK	<input type="checkbox"/> White UK
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian UK	<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> Black other	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian other	<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> White other	

2 Tell us about your job

Employer's name
Your job title/occupation
Workplace name and address
Postcode
Payroll number (from your payslip)

3 What you will pay each month

Please tick the appropriate box for your earnings before deductions

Annual pay	Your subscription
Up to £2,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £1.30
£2,001–£5,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £3.50
£5,001–£8,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £5.30
£8,001–£11,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £6.60
£11,001–£14,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £7.85
£14,001–£17,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £9.70
£17,001–£20,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £11.50
£20,001–£25,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £14.00
£25,001–£30,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £17.25
£30,001–£35,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £20.30
over £35,000	<input type="checkbox"/> £22.50

4 Choose your political fund

One of the ways UNISON works on your behalf is through political campaigning. Your subscription includes a political fund payment so you won't pay any extra, but in UNISON you choose how you want that money to be used.

Please tick one box only.

- ☐ Our Affiliated Political Fund takes UNISON members' views directly into the Labour Party, working to promote UNISON policies.
- ☐ The General Political Fund is used to pay for branch, regional and national campaigns but is independent of any political party.

5 Choose how you wish to pay Please tick ONE box only

EITHER deduct from salary:

- ☐ I wish to join UNISON and authorise deduction of subscriptions from my pay by my employer.

Signature

Date

OR pay by direct debit

- ☐ please complete the direct debit form below
- ☐ I wish to join UNISON and authorise deduction of subscriptions by direct debit

Please go to unison.org.uk/privacy-policy to see how we will protect and use your personal information

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit

Please fill in the form and send to UNISON, 130 Burton Road London NW1 2AW

Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To: The Manager

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account holder(s)

Bank/building society account number

Branch sort code

Signature(s)

Date



Service User Number

9 7 0 0 5 0

Reference number (for office use only do not complete)

Please pay UNISON Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguarding assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with UNISON and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account