Welcome

By Jenny Underhill

Hello all, and welcome to the autumn newsletter from UoY UNISON. Below you’ll find information on the campaigns currently being run by UNISON, and on some of the benefits currently on offer to members. I’d like to highlight our learning bursaries, which are open to all current members. You’ll also find details on branch drop-in surgeries, and contact details if you have a specific request. Finally, please do save the date for our Christmas party (details on page 4), it was a lovely event last year and the branch is excited to run it again.

Call for University leadership to back EU citizens

The University of York branch of UNISON will be writing to the University Vice Chancellor, Koen Lamberts asking him to publicly back the rights of EU citizens working at the university during the BREXIT negotiations.

There are 45,000 EU- citizens working in the Higher education sector in the UK (11% of the HE workforce) and they face an uncertain future whilst Britain negotiates its exit from the European Union. EEA staff face uncertainty around their residential and working rights. This, despite the fact that these individuals play an invaluable role in making Britain’s university sector one of the best in the world.

Jenny Underhill, Branch Secretary said: “We are now calling on Vice-Chancellors across Yorkshire’s Universities to publicly support EU citizens working in our region’s Universities. Regardless of where you stand on BREXIT, you can’t deny that our universities are propped up by an army of hard working EU nationals, working in both academia and wider support roles. Many of these people have contributed greatly to the fabric of our country and HE sector and it’s important that we now stand up and fight to secure their futures in the UK.”

This follows the move by The London School of Economics who are reimbursing the cost of some postal permanent residence applications. Newcastle University and Imperial College are offering interest free loans to cover the cost of visa applications for EEA staff and their family.
Leonie Sharp, Regional Organiser at UNISON said: “There are over 45,000 EU citizens working in Britain’s Universities, undertaking roles from Vice-Chancellors and academics to cleaners and grounds staff. As yet, we don’t know what the position of EU citizens living and working in the UK will be post-BREXIT. Meaning there are no guarantees on the rights of EU citizens to remain in the UK and continue in their work. It’s not right that these workers are pawns in the ongoing BREXIT negotiations.”

Support this campaign by signing our petition
Yorkshire and Humberside UNISON will be delivering a petition to the Vice-Chancellors of the region’s ten universities. Please add your support to the campaign by signing the petition: http://chn.ge/2x42QKn

Campaign stalls, Thursday 12th October 2017
UNISON will be holding two stalls on Thursday 12th October, where staff can find out more about this campaign or ask any other questions about their membership:

- 10 am – 12 noon: Ron Cooke Hub Atrium, Heslington East
- 1 pm – 3 pm: Derwent Reception

All are welcome – we look forward to seeing you there!

Forthcoming drop-in sessions
The UNISON branch office is in Wentworth, W/022. The branch regularly runs drop-in clinics for all your work related questions and requests. The next clinics will be:

- Wednesday 25th October 2017
- Friday 1st December 2017

Bookable appointments are available from 12 noon to 1 pm, and drop in times from 1 pm to 2 pm. Book an appointment by emailing unison@york.ac.uk

You are also very welcome to call at the stalls on 12th October if you have any queries.

Encourage a friend to join UNISON
Know someone you think will benefit from joining UNISON? Encourage them to join and the branch will reimburse one month of your membership.

How to sign up
Contact unison@york.ac.uk for a membership form. Return the completed form (including your contact details) before the end of the year. When the form is processed, branch will contact you to reimburse you one month’s membership.
Education bursaries available

The branch is continuing its education initiative this academic year by offering bursaries for courses covering education, training and well-being. Bursaries are available for most courses offered by York Learning, Languages for All or another training provider in the York area, such as York College. All Level 1 / Introductory level and recreational courses up to £125 pounds will be paid for on a first come first served basis. We have 15 bursaries available. All you have to do is: look through the York Learning brochure: [https://www.yortime.org.uk/yortime_home/default.aspx](https://www.yortime.org.uk/yortime_home/default.aspx) Find them on: Facebook - York Learning or Twitter #Learningforeveryone Choose your course, pick up the phone and call an advisor on 01904 552806. Quote your membership number and complete the form with the advisor.

We have 3 bursaries of up to £250 for Level 2 / Intermediate Level courses paid in full on a first come first served basis. Complete the attached form and send it to: unison@york.ac.uk

We have 2 bursaries of up to £350 for Level 3 / Advanced Level courses paid in full on a first come first served basis. Complete the attached form and send it to unison@york.ac.uk Please note: you cannot apply for more than one course per term and all courses are offered subject to funding. First come first served basis. Reviewed termly. You have to be a member for a minimum of 4 weeks to qualify.

Please DO NOT pay for any course before checking funding is available at the branch and your application for Level 2 and 3 has been approved.

UNISON members’ training courses

There are a number of members’ training courses available this autumn:

**Pre-Retirement Workshops, October and December 2017**
*Description:* This workshop run by True Bearing Chartered will make you aware of your choices and aid you in your decision making.
*Is this workshop for me?* If you are retiring imminently or considering retiring within the next 18 months and want to be informed of the issues affecting your retirement you need to plan for your next phase of life.

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Location: Regional Centre, Leeds

**Dementia Workshop: 22 November 2017**
*Description:* A short workshop run by The Open University providing an introduction on Dementia Care.

Location: Regional Centre, Leeds

Closing date to apply: 20 October 2017
Confidence Building (Power to be You): 25 November 2017

*Description:* this one-day workshop will help to improve self-esteem, provide ideas and tips for addressing your own confidence and assertiveness issues, look at how to deal with criticism and help to speak with confidence.

*Location:* Regional Centre Leeds  
*Closing date to apply:* 20 October 2017

To find out more about these courses, visit:  
http://www.unison-yorks.org.uk/education.html

To apply: download and complete a non-residential application form from the UNISON Education webpages, and Branch to authorise the form by sending it to unison@york.ac.uk.

UNISON supports WASPI campaign

The Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign group was created to fight the unfair treatment of women born in the 1950s affected by the changes to the State Pension Law, increasing their state pension age. The changes were implemented much faster than promised, with some women given as little as one or two years’ formal notice of up to a 6 year increase to their state pension age. UNISON is supporting the WASPI campaign by raising awareness, lobbying government ministers including the Pensions minister, and holding state and workplace pensions courses. Find out more about the campaign here.

Save the date… Christmas Social

**Friday 15th December 2017, H/G21, 12:30 – 1:45 pm**

Join us for a Christmas social with a buffet lunch. Please RSVP through this [google form](http://www.unison-yorks.org.uk/education.html) (by Friday 8th December).

**Call for raffle prizes**

We will also hold a prize draw to raise money for, [York Mind](http://www.unison-yorks.org.uk/education.html). We are looking for prizes – if you are able to donate something, please indicate this on the google form when replying to the RSVP.