

UNIview

WINTER 2010

The newsletter of Northamptonshire Police Branch of UNISON



your friend at work

UNISON



Inside this issue!

Discounts for members

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Most people join a union because they want protection at work - help with pay and conditions of service, legal or health and safety advice or representation in case things go wrong at work. That's what we're here for. UNISON negotiates on pay and working conditions at every level - local, regional and national.

UNISON also offers you

Excellent legal services at work and at home.

Education and training advice and courses leading to vocational and professional qualifications.

A colour magazine sent to your home four times a year; a fortnightly newspaper for our stewards and activists and a full range of publicity.

Pensions advice and welfare services as well as certain benefits guaranteed by our rulebook.

Why not get in touch and find out more?



UNISON AGM

Join Us for the Branch AGM 2010 and FREE Carvery!

Thursday 11th March from 5:30pm

The branch Annual General Meeting is **your** chance to influence what goes on within the branch and who represents your interests.

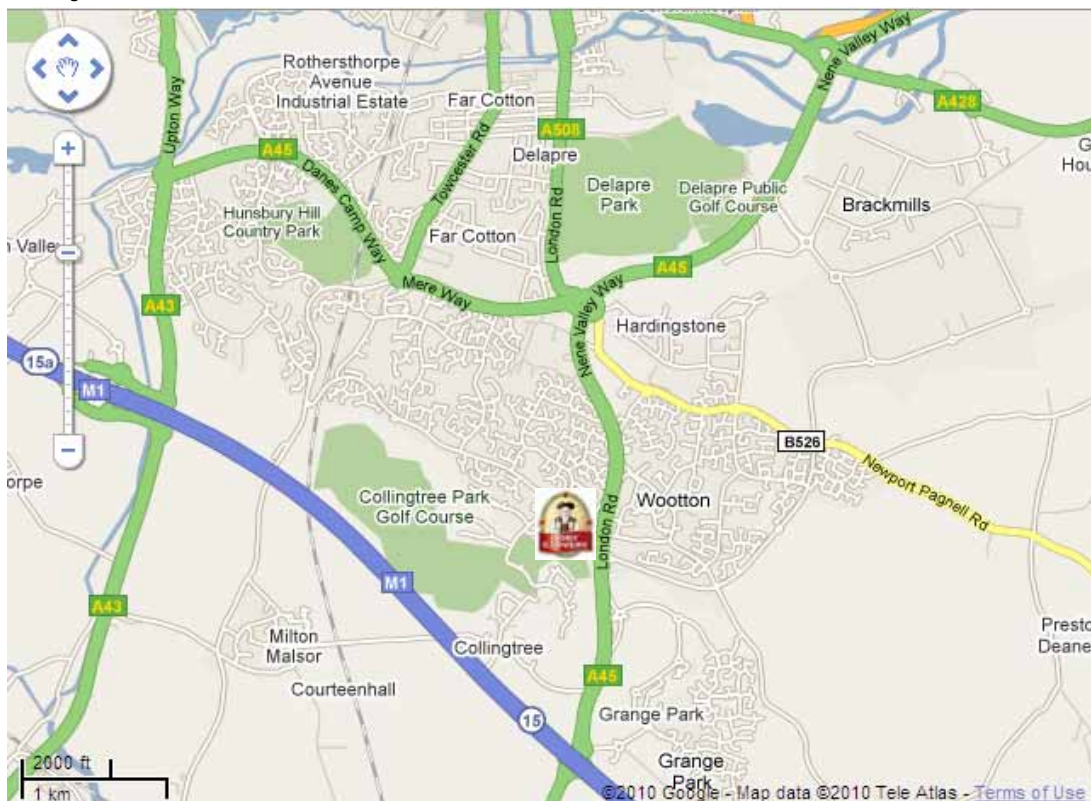
We have not had a bad turn out in previous years but we are always keen to try to increase participation in the AGM by members. We want to know what you think, how you feel about issues and most importantly meet you and get you involved in *your* union.

This year we thought we would try to make the AGM a little more fun to encourage more members to attend and to reward those members who take the time to get involved year after year. Although the business part of the meeting will have to take place as there are some very important decisions to be made, we will keep this as short as possible and then every member who attends will be invited to join us for a free Carvery!

The meeting will be held at the Toby Carvery on London Road, East Hunsbury, Northampton.

The AGM will take place from 5:30pm – 6:30pm and the Carvery will follow. **You must attend the AGM to receive your ticket for the Carvery.**

If you think you may have trouble getting to the venue but would like to attend please contact the branch office as we may be able to arrange a lift with a steward or another member in your area.



We will also be issuing raffle tickets to members on arrival at the AGM and this raffle will be drawn during the evening. We have been squirreling away some lovely prizes during the year including...

A video camera, bottle of bubbly, MP3 docking station, MP3 Radio and many more!

You should all have been casting your votes for the Branch Secretary election 2010-2011. The ballot closes on Tuesday 9th March and the result will be announced at the AGM.

The nominees are:

Geoff Gascoigne

PSD Investigator, UNISON Health & Safety Officer for 5 years



Peter Lake

UNISON PSD Steward for 5 years, Assistant Branch Secretary for 2

Years and Acting Branch Secretary since November 2009



As well as the vote for the Branch Secretary, every steward and officer position is re-elected every year at the AGM. This year we have received nominations for many of these positions and, as there was only one person nominated, they will automatically be elected to fill this role. However, there are still some positions that we have not received nominations for and if you would be interested in nominating yourself for one of them we can still accept you. So, please take a look as if positions are not filled it leaves a gap in our representation of our members.

The following positions have received no nominations as yet:

Black Members Officer

Custody Northern Area Steward

FCC Stewards

Northern Area Stewards

For an informal chat or to nominate yourself for a position please contact the branch office on 01604 703149 (ext. 2149).

Hope to see many of you on 11th March!

Peter Lake

Current Branch Secretary

A few benefits of being a UNISON member



To discover more about
UNISON Legal Services

[Click Here](#)

Did you know that as a UNISON member you are entitled to:-

Free expert legal assistance for:

ANY accident at work

ANY accident away from work for members and their families including road traffic and tripping accidents and accidents on holiday etc.

The development of an Industrial disease

A full advice and representation service for Unison members on employment law issues. If an employment law issue cannot be resolved industrially, Unison will refer the member to Thompsons for legal advice.

Free initial advice on any non-work matter e.g. noisy neighbours, credit problems, housing problems, etc.

Low cost fixed price conveyancing

Free wills Advice on medical negligence claims

A 24-hour helpline for work-related Criminal matters.

CHEAPER CAR INSURANCE

**Quality cover with flexible options
at a great price for UNISON members**

- Up to 75% No Claim Discount -
- Optional cover for a temporary replacement car in the event of a claim -
- UK Call Centre -
- Optional cover for up to 180 days when travelling to EU countries -
- Optional Road Rescue breakdown cover -
- 24 hour claims service -

LGBT Conference in Cardiff

Over the weekend of 20th-22nd November 2009 I attended the LGBT Conference which this year was held in the lovely City of Cardiff.

On the Friday I attended the LGBT Police forum, which was attended by police staff from differing forces affiliated to LGBT. It was apparent from this meeting all forces were advising similar problems with cut backs, and in fact some forces had already made key operational staff redundant.



The group Leader, (who leads all LGBT Police forums) advised unfortunately though the Government had now publicly, formally "put to bed" the thought of merges, it was however alive and kicking behind the scenes and indeed progress was being made on some amalgamation, no further details were offered on this and no named forces.



Saturday saw the start of the main conference with a message from the First Minister of the Welsh Assembly. One of the longest motions was over the BNP. Various delegates advised when the BNP had been elected, hate crime was seriously on the increase, hate crime to all aspects of minority groups from LGBT to Racial hate crime. One delegate advised conference of a threat to kill him from the BNP, he was directly standing for a seat on his local council, he is a gay male. He luckily was elected to sit on the council and the BNP lost their deposit. The delegate had to have police protection from the BNP whilst the election took place in his constituency.

**Pride in
our work**



We had a guest speaker from Palestine, (The speakers name will not be mentioned in this report as the security of this person is paramount, they have death threats from Palestine and Palestinian organizations around the world). The speaker talked to us about gay liberation in Palestine or not as the case is. The speaker mentioned though it was fully acceptable in Israel, being gay was certainly not allowed in Palestine. The speaker advised harassment and persecution of gay people who were found out, some of which would be killed by local people. The speaker mentioned about the appalling conditions on the Gaza/Israel border, for example, pregnant females in Gaza are not able to get medical support when going into labour. Every day on the border Israeli border officials do not allow these citizens access to medical care. Intervention is therefore needed to stop this, the sooner the better. On international issues we also had another guest speaker who was talking on Uganda, the government in this country have just passed a new bill as follows:

7 years imprisonment if a hotel is found to have gay people staying or working in the property.

3 years imprisonment and 5 million Ugandan schillings (£1600.00) for teachers who are found to have any colleagues or students who are gay.

5000 schillings (£1.60) if a member of the public is found to have seen something and not report it.

MP's and councillors have to publicly declare if they know anyone is gay at the start of their term so they can be protected from persecution.

Turkish Police have in the last years killed 18 Transgender persons for being allegedly "different". Families are persecuted by police if they have gay relatives. However, the official line of Turkey is they are now LGBT friendly and legislation has been passed to decriminalize homosexuality.

In Cuba, in their movement towards a more open and friendly society, Gay people are now allowed to be open.



The discussion over the Daily Mail and the printing of the article about Stephen Gately. The reporter, who has now officially apologised, said "being gay will kill you". In her article she advised that all gay people die eventually from one thing or the other. It was decided the LGBT will lobby the Daily Mail over this unacceptable article. I would like to confirm that at this time no has actually died from being gay!

Other discussions at the conference were as follows:

- **Gay Marriage** did you know that if a partner dies during a civil partnership they cannot be recognised as widow or widower, we are known as "survivor of a civil partnership".
- **Campaign for the press to show LGBT in a more positive light.**
- **Male rape** and the lack of access to services following this, as opposed to female rape where a good standard of service is now acceptable and in place.
- The **NHS** and Transphobic attitudes.

On a personal note I gained much from this conference, I made new friends and learned much about all the issues discussed - I was even on ITN Wales. They headed their news about the conference on Saturday, and there was me drinking a coffee - I hadn't even done my hair!

Finally, as a gay male and as with all other persons under the LGBT banner - we are someone's child, son or daughter, and in many cases someone's parent. We are just the same as everyone else - part of a family! It's just that we have preferences others either have or don't have. I like silver cars, perhaps you might like them or might not - its your choice. Does it really matter?

All the best and thank you for taking the time to read this report

Mark J Walker (MJ)

UNISON Welfare is a confidential service offering advice and support for UNISON members and their families, including:

- Debt advice
- Listening and support
- Financial assistance
- Breaks and holidays
- Personal advice

If you wish to seek some advice or support please contact Welfare Officer, Luisa Jepson at luisa.jepson@northants.pnn.police.uk or on 03000 111 222 ex 2664.



Re-claiming Subs Paid During Maternity Leave

You may remember one of our Friday Bulletins informing members that, if they had taken maternity leave since 1993, they may have paid too much in subscriptions and would be entitled to a rebate.

Many members sent off their payslips to our Regional office and I am pleased to tell you that many of them have received cheques to cover the overpayment of their subs. The amount varies but range from just a few pounds to over £70!

If you haven't claimed yet and you have your payslips available from your period of maternity leave then please contact the office and we will advise you what to do next.



Branch of the Year Award 2009!



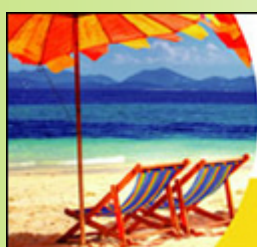
This branch was the runner up for the entire Region in the Branch Awards 2008. Not a bad achievement for a relatively small branch.

An even bigger achievement is to have maintained that high level of branch organisation and to have improved on it enough to be awarded the runner up prize *again* in 2009!

This makes us still 'top of the tree' amongst the Police branches and the only branch of 86 in the Region to receive an award two years running.

One of our members, Linda Treacy, is taking part in the Playtex Moonwalk round Hyde Park in May wearing a decorated tutu! The walk is to raise funds for cancer research.

If you would like to sponsor Linda she would be very grateful for your support. Either email her at lindahalltreacy@gmail.com or ring her on ext. 2377 or mobile 07752 885900



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Your **ONE STOP TRAVEL SHOP!**

CHRISTMAS REGULAR SAVER ACCOUNT



Christmas and New Year may seem a distant memory now but those credit card bills may still not be paid off, the overdraft is bulging bigger than the waistline and we are all having to tighten the belts to make up for the cost of Christmas 2009!

If you don't want to be in the same position next year then UNISON Welfare has a way to help you. In partnership with Britannia Building Society an account has been created to help UNISON members budget for the extra expense of Christmas.

In the past many UNISON members used companies such as Farepak, but with this company going out of business in 2006 and many people losing their savings, a lot of people have been put off from saving in this way.

The UNISON Christmas Regular Savers Account offers an excellent alternative. You can start saving from as little as £20 per month and as long as you make at least 10 monthly payments you will receive an enhanced rate of interest which will be applied on the account anniversary date. You can even make 2 withdrawals per year and still qualify for this enhanced rate!

For more information please contact your local Britannia Branch or speak to a Britannia Adviser free on 0800 422 0154*.

*Lines open 8am – 8pm weekdays & 9am – 12 noon Sat

There are Britannia branches on Abington Street, Northampton and Market Street, Wellingborough.

UNISON Mortgage and Savings

See if you could save money on your mortgage with Britannia's great mortgage deals

Set up fees and early repayment charges may apply



Britannia
BUILDING SOCIETY

Britannia also offers unique UNISON Savings accounts with attractive rates of interest

Website

www.unisonnorpol.org.uk

Northamptonshire Police Branch of UNISON have their own standalone website which is just bursting with information for you the members. It is constantly being updated with the latest Branch news, upcoming events and latest UNISONPlus benefits. It also has information about your team, direct links to the main UNISON website and the opportunity to ask the Branch Secretary a question.

Black Members Conference - Gateshead

The Black members Conference was held in Gateshead this year on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd January. We will update you in due course of the outcome of this conference as unfortunately no members or stewards were able to attend this year.



Women's Conference - Gateshead

The Women's Conference was also held in Gateshead on Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th February. Jackie Poulter attended on behalf of our branch and will report back to us in the next quarterly newsletter. Watch this space!

Get Involved

Become a Steward

Being a steward enables you to represent your views and needs and those of your colleagues.

Stewards have many roles and you can do as much or as little as you want.

Training is provided and you are entitled to paid release for training and to carry out your duties. All trade union training is accredited and you can use these credits towards eligibility for further or higher education.

If you would like to discuss the opportunities further then please contact the UNISON office on 03000 111 222 ex 2149 or e-mail unison@northants.pnn.police.uk



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Lines are open Mon-Fri 8.30am - 8.00pm and Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm *

*The quality and protection you will be offered. UIA exchange information with other insurance companies and the price is given first. **Compared to the standard price you would be offered if you did not. This only applies to Home, Buildings and contents and travel insurance. Claims covered for Home Buildings and contents for 10% and for travel insurance for 10%. UNISON is an Approved Representative of UK Insurance Services Ltd and UK Insurance Ltd, which are both authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Travel insurance is underwritten by Zurich Insurance Ltd. UK Pet insurance is arranged and administered by Thornhill Pet Healthcare Insurance, which is a trading name of GDM Limited. Thornhill Pet Healthcare Insurance is underwritten by British International. All these companies are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.