

ONE UNISON VOICE



Newsletter of Salisbury Health Branch

January 2021

Your Branch Annual General Meeting

You are cordially invited to the Annual General Meeting of Salisbury Health Branch of UNISON which will be taking place on:

Thursday 25th February 2021

Via GoToMeeting online conferencing

Please contact the Branch Secretary (see page 4) for a weblink to join the meeting

Starting at 6pm, finishing no later than 7.30pm

What is the Annual General Meeting?

The AGM is your opportunity to decide who your union representatives will be for the for the year ahead. We elect your Branch Officers and accredited workplace reps (e.g. stewards and safety reps) every year.

Your branch officers are the senior representatives of the local organisation of our union and they have a responsibility to work on your behalf on the Branch Committee for the following year managing member engagement, organisation, resources, strategy, policy, recruitment, communications and representational arrangements.

The branch officer positions that are up for election this year are:

*Chair & Vice Chair
Secretary & Assistant Secretary
Treasurer
Health and Safety
Education Co-ordinator (union activist training)
Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator
Welfare
Equalities inc. Lesbian & Gay and Transgender+*, Black & Ethnic Minority*, Disabled*, Women*,
Communications
International
Membership
Environmental
Young members*
Retired members*
Labour Link*
Auditors*

** Please note that those posts marked with an asterisk have some restrictions about eligibility for nomination.*

You can apply in advance to become a branch officer by submitting a nomination form, signed by two other branch members, by **18th February** (please contact the Branch Secretary for a form). Where no advance nominations are received then a vacancy is open to volunteers from the floor at

the meeting on 25th February. An election will be held for any contested positions at the AGM meeting or by a ballot of the whole membership depending on the role.

The AGM is your opportunity to hear what your officers have been doing on your behalf since they were last elected and to set the priorities and policy for your branch for the year ahead. The AGM also receives a report on how the Branch Committee has used it's share of our union's finances over the last year and gives updates on other activity and recruitment and organisation.

Access

If you need any assistance in accessing the AGM please contact the Branch Secretary in advance of the meeting.

Motions

You are encouraged to submit a motion if there is an issue or policy that you feel strongly

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about and that you wish the union to take up or about any campaigns that you think we should run. You can submit motions for debate and discussion at the meeting by sending the text to the Branch Secretary by **18th February**.

Do please be aware that for individual case matters you should raise them in the normal fashion via your accredited local representative, or if you have any issues or complaints about specific representation issues from the branch or our representatives then you should raise them in accordance with UNISON's complaints procedure (please contact the Branch Secretary for information).

Branch rules

The AGM may consider amendments to our branch rules and copies of the existing branch rules are available on request from the Branch Secretary, or are posted on UNISON's hospital intranet page. Proposals for any changes to be sent to the Branch Secretary by **18th February**.

Conduct at the AGM

We want the AGM to be a friendly and comradely experience and all members attending the meeting will be asked to conduct themselves according to UNISON's 'Working Together Guidelines', copies of which are available from the Branch Secretary in advance.

This year we will not be meeting physically due to the pandemic measures still ongoing and we will do our best to facilitate a decent meeting despite the unusual circumstances.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Mark Wareham,
Branch Secretary

Donation to There For You

Our branch made a donation of £1000 to our union's There for You charitable welfare fund at the end of last year. The fund has focused attention recently on providing grants to members in financial hardship as a result of the Covid-19 measures.



about workplace safety.

What do Safety reps do? Safety reps: talk to members about their health and safety issues

To learn more about becoming a rep, you can take part in some of our taster webinars.

Although there is legally no training required your branch may ask you to undertake some training. Safety reps are entitled to time off for training. Your branch will help in getting this agreed by your employer.

Become a Safety Representative

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted why workplace safety is so important. But we can't make workplaces across the public sector safe without YOU.

The words 'Health and Safety' may conjure up visions of clipboards, regulations and paperwork, but it's really not like that.

Being a Safety rep means you will be playing a crucial role in making sure your workplace is safe, secure and clean for all your colleagues and service users.

You'll also gain new skills and meet others who are passionate

and work together with management to resolve these issues. investigate potential hazards raise concerns with your employer to improve safety in the workplace and deal with specific problems that arise at work promote better health and safety in the workplace and encourage everyone to get involved in the union – UNISON is the union that gets things done.

How do I become a Safety Rep? We don't expect you to be an expert from day one, we'll train you in every aspect of the role. Ideally you should have reasonable experience of your workplace and how the work is done. However, you'll be supported all the way by one of our union organisers from your regional office.

UNISON provide various online options including a short introductory course, or a course of six 90 minute classes, once a week. There'll be a chance to chat with other new safety reps and get more one to one time with the tutor if you need it. There are also other specialist courses, including one on COVID-19.

We also have an online community, our Organising Space, where you can chat with other Health and Safety reps around the country.

Please contact the Branch Secretary (see page 4) if you are interested in more information in becoming a safety rep, or any other kind of union rep. We are very keen to support you in getting active in your union.

Photo Highlights from 2020



In March, just before the lockdown struck, we bid farewell to long serving rep and officer Anne Marie Fitton in a presentation at a Branch Committee meeting (left)



In April our Branch Secretary, Mark, visited the TUC memorial tree at Churchill Gardens on Workers Memorial Day (above)

In October we launched our One Team £2k pay campaign and sent the collage below to the local MP and media to highlight calls for a substantial pay rose for NHS workers (below)



Just some of the hundreds of NHS workers in Salisbury who are calling for a £2k pay rise for all NHS staff now! NHS workers deserve it.



In November we marked UNISON's One Team Day and our local rep, Caroline Corbin, who works on the hospital's switchboard, featured in national media celebrating the work of the whole health team (right)



Caroline
NHS Switchboard Operator
Salisbury

"We're the first line of communication to anxious patients and concerned families. We've had to adapt during the pandemic: directing people to the right part of A&E and reassuring patients that clinics are still running. I'm really proud of what we do."

NHS staff are all One Team

#oneteamNHS



WHO'S WHO IN THE BRANCH

Chair —
Zara Salisbury

Secretary & membership—
Mark Wareham

*Treasurer, Health & Safety
and Black Members*—Denis
Bangura

*Women members & Labour
Link*—Caroline Corbin

*Equality & Disabled
members*—Mehdi Belbahi

Welfare—Clare Christopher

Retired members—Dianne
Bartlam & Sheila McQueen

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UNISON's website -
<http://www.unison.org.uk/>

Upcoming UNISON Events

Please let us know if you are interested in attending any of these events or conferences (some of the plans for physical conferences may change depending on the national pandemic measures)-

Black Members Live! Online event 22nd and 23rd Jan

Empowering Women in UNISON, Live! Online 17th to 20th Feb

Health conference—12th to 14th Apr, Bournemouth

South West Region Get Active event—7th and 8th May, Croyde Bay, Devon

Young members weekend—14th to 16th May

National Delegate conference—15th to 18th June, Liverpool

Retired members conference—

12th to 13th Oct, tbc

Disabled members conference—30th Oct to 1st Nov, Liverpool

LGBT+ conference— 19th to 21st Nov, Brighton

2021 Diaries and A3 Wall Calendars

We still have a limited number of diaries and calendars available for members. Please contact the Branch Secretary if you would like one.

Salisbury Pride 2021

Our branch became an official sponsor of this event when we made our second substantial donation to support the LGBT+ event that is hopefully taking place on Saturday 29th May at Queen Elizabeth Gardens. We plan to have a presence on the day too.

Deadline date for next issue—Apr 2021

Edited by: Mark Wareham

This newsletter is published by SALISBURY HEALTH BRANCH UNISON

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of UNISON, the branch or the editor

It is in all our interests that we have a strong union. The more members we have the better job we can do. Why not encourage colleagues to join? Please do give them the slip below and advise them to drop us a line.

Everyone needs a helping hand at work sometimes.

Joining UNISON — Britain's biggest union — gives you a voice that's heard. So from negotiating better pay and conditions to supporting you in cases of grievance or disciplinary action, advice on health and safety or education and training, your UNISON branch is there to help. And it offers a great range of extra membership benefits too.

Join **UNISON** — altogether a better union.

To join contact your UNISON rep

See above

UNISON *direct*

Or call the UNISON recruitment hotline **0800 0 857 857**

