

ONE UNISON VOICE

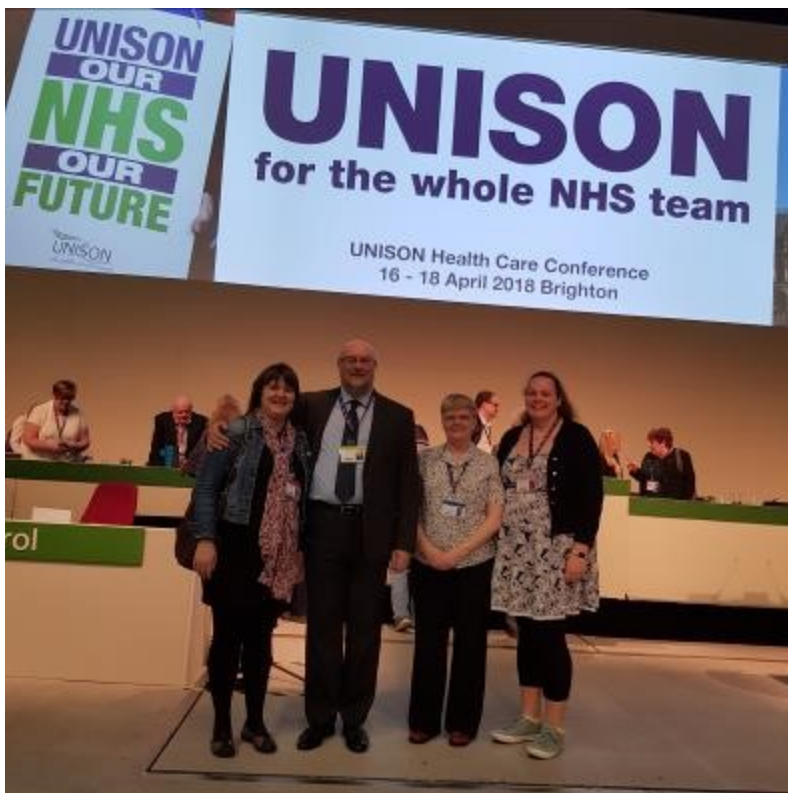


Newsletter of Salisbury Health Branch

May 2018

Making our mark at health conference

Your branch was well represented at UNISON's health conference in April that took place in Brighton. Pictured below are our four members who attended this conference—right to left are our branch Chair Zara Poole (who was present from national Young Members), our branch Treasurer Sheila McQueen (who was present as our branch delegate) and our Secretary Mark Wareham (who was present for the Health Group Executive) and Mark's wife Ildiko (who was a visitor). For a comparatively small branch of the union, this was a remarkable presence at the event. You can find the report from your branch delegate, Sheila, on page 2.



Tolpuddle Martyrs Trade Union festival

Salisbury & District Trades Union Council are hiring a minibus to the annual festival and rally in the south Dorset Village which this year takes place on Sunday 15th July. The coach will leave Salisbury by 10.30am and leaves Tolpuddle at 6pm and returns via a stop at Blandford. If you are interested in going please contact the Branch Secretary. (see page 4)



Branch Meeting

The next open meeting of the branch takes place on Thursday **14th June** 2018 from 6.15pm till 7.30pm in Room 1, Salisbury Methodist Church, St Edmunds Church Street, Salisbury.

All members are welcome.

Please contact the Branch Secretary if you want further information (see page 4).

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Salisbury Health Branch

Health conference report

From our branch delegate Sheila McQueen

I recently attended our union's national health conference with our Branch Chair, Zara Poole, who was there representing our young members. Conference lasted for four days and started with a welcome briefing on the Sunday evening when we arrived in Brighton followed by a regional meeting.

Monday morning and the start of the conference was the President's address and a report from Standing Orders (who arrange conference and the agenda), and the presentation of the Health Group's Annual Report for 2017.

There followed a keynote address from our General Secretary Dave Prentis who spoke of the pressures the NHS is under due to cut backs, staff shortages and bargain basement offers as well as the threat of private companies running the NHS saying this will fragment the services the NHS provide. Dave spoke of the Windrush scandal, which has been in the news recently.

We then heard from guest speaker Aneira Thomas who was the 1st baby born in the NHS 12.01am 5 July 1948 and she spoke of the pressure nurses are under we have trouble recruiting and retaining them due to poor pay and excess pressure of work and having to work outside their banding as well as long hours, Aneira was a qualified nurse and she said we have come a long way from the early days of the NHS and that we should be proud the service the NHS

provides for the patients. There then followed 57 motions up for discussions debates and voting and I sat and listened to all the debates and cast my vote on behalf of our branch.

Tuesday started with a presentation on the NHS pay proposals we had several speakers. Following debate a motion was passed to recommend the proposal to members through an online and telephone ballot that runs until 5th June.

Agenda for change, pay, terms and conditions was discussed as well as other topics such as our Earnings Maximisation strategy which is about making sure that our members get what they are contractually entitled to, Our Branch Secretary spoke for the Health Group Executive on a motion about apprentice pay and conditions and a strategy that commits UNISON to fighting exploitation and unfairness.

There were then motions on violence in the workplace, NHS Wholly owned subsidiaries, Workload pressures, Equality issues but NHS pay and conditions dominated the conference today. Our objectives are to try to ensure that we get a good pay deal and help workers go through the bands more quickly and progress to better jobs with better pay. What is being offered is better than what we have been offered in the past few years the pay rise is over 3 years it will give us something to build on as we

work towards even better rises in future.

Wednesday we debated Defending the NHS and campaigning against privatisation which includes opposing wholly owned subsidiaries companies. There are concerns regarding the members who are employed by the NHS being transferred to limited companies owned by the NHS but no longer part of the Trust. These companies can be used to undermine Agenda for change (as we have seen with our own laundry at Salisbury hospital) and members won't get benefits of NHS pension. It can also affect your terms and conditions and we think that it is a way the NHS can bring in privatisation through the back door and so we are campaigning against this happening.

We then discussed recruitment and organisation, Mental Health, Disability in the work place, Racism, occupational therapy issues and many other matters.

We took part in Focus Groups and Fringe Groups at lunch time and evenings and I attended one of the groups and got a better understanding of what goes on in the work place

I found the Conference very interesting and hope as your rep that I have made a difference with regards to your future in the NHS. Thank you to the branch for supporting me to attend.

Women's conference report

From our branch delegate Dianne Bartlam

This conference took place in February in Liverpool and my hotel, was amazing; a converted dockside warehouse from about 1840 and needed to be seen to be believed, by comparison the conference centre was ultra modern.

One of the many motions that was debated at the conference was: about "The Nordic Model Now". Rather than full decriminalisation of the sex trade, the Nordic Model is the human rights based and equality model. Also known as the Sex Buyer Law, it decriminalises all those who are prostituted. provides services to help them exit, and makes buying prostitution a criminal offence, while imposing tough penalties on pimps and traffickers. The aim is to change behaviour and reduce the demand that drives sex trafficking: thus setting new social norms.

This conference welcomed the support of other unions in our stance on prostitution and it is heartening to know that governments are acting in support of the Nordic Model and already Denmark, Finland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, France, Sweden, Norway and Iceland have appropriate legislation in place. Canada is considering a version of the Nordic Model and following on from Mary Honeyball, MEP's work in the European parliament, all European countries should now be considering moving to a legislative framework that decriminalises the prostituted women, but criminalises the purchasers.

Conference applauded the work of Space International, an organisation made up of women survivors of prostitution, both committed to raising consciousness of the harm of prostitution and to lobbying



governments to do something about it.

UNISON recognises that prostitution is a deeply exploitive trade that has massive adverse impact on gender equality. We have to change social attitudes and to support that we have to change the law, to tackle demand, to support those that wish to leave prostitution.

The conference was disappointed at the Amnesty International policy stance, but was heartened that the BMA at their recent conference voted not to legitimise pimps and punters, rejecting a motion by Junior Doctors to 'fully decriminalise' the sex industry (which means decriminalising pimps, brothel keepers and punters as well as prostituted women).

The National Women's Committee voiced their commitment to continue its work with the Nordic Model Now campaign, campaign to change Labour Party policy and to lobby Amnesty International to change its policy position.

There were also five workshops held on the following topics: The Nordic Model

Getting the balance right – achieving proportionality in UNISON

Bargaining on mental health in the workplace

Supporting families in work Brexit and the Henry the VIII clause: the threat to women

Just the word on the street? How do we end street harassment for women and girls

I enjoyed the conference and thank you to the branch in supporting me to attend.

Interested in Mindfulness?

Do you want to:

Get more out of life and feel more positive?

Learn how to take control of your own emotional wellbeing?

Develop self-compassion?

Aspire to increasing your health and well-being by reducing your levels of stress?

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The E-learning guides you through the evidence-based programme, originally designed by Jon Kabat-Zinn, providing all the tools you need to experience the benefits of mindfulness via this flexible learning format.

This E-learning course is interactive and includes all you need to complete the 8 week.

You will receive a certificate on completion of the course.

If interested, please send an email for the attention of Anne Marie Fitton, your branch Lifelong Learning Officer, via the Branch Secretary (see page 4).

WHO'S WHO IN THE BRANCH

Chair & Young members—
Zara Poole

Secretary & membership—
Mark Wareham

*Treasurer—*Sheila McQueen

*Vice Chair & Lifelong
Learning—*Anne Marie Fitton

*Women members & Labour
Link—*Caroline Corbin

*International & Ass't
Secretary—*Ed Dadd

*Equality & Disabled
members—*Mehdi Belbahi

*Black members & Health and
safety—* Denis Bangura

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<http://www.unison.org.uk/>

Congratulations to our Mark!

Our Branch Secretary, Mark Wareham, has been re-elected for another two years to the regional General Seat on the union's national health group executive committee. This time Mark was unopposed (having first been elected by just a seven vote margin in 2012, and much larger majorities in 2014 and 2016).

Mark also had a bit of media exposure recently with a BBC South TV report (pictured below) on the financial challenges in the NHS and at Salisbury. He spoke about the extreme pressures that staff at the hospital are under to meet targets with government funding failing to keep pace with the needs of the service.



*Deadline date for next issue—*August 2018

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 public service 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.

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To join contact your UNISON rep

See above

UNISON *direct*

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

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