

# ONE UNISON VOICE



Newsletter of Salisbury Health Branch

Autumn 2021

## UNISON wins for our members formerly employed at Glenside HC

UNISON Legal Services have helped about thirty of our members win compensation from the administrators of their former employer, Glenside Manor Health Care Limited, as a result of failures when the site closed in 2019. A recent Employment Tribunal ruled in favour of our member's claims that they were not adequately consulted prior to closure and were not paid what they were due in terms of owing annual leave when they were forced to stop work prior to being

made redundant. Members who were part of the claim will receive information about this outcome shortly.

Branch Secretary, Mark Wareham, who first picked up the cases for our members and the referred them to our solicitors, Thompsons for the legal claims, said "it's been a long struggle to get these claims resolved due to the company going into administration and then delays because of the effects of the

pandemic, but hopefully this award that we have now won for these members is at least some extra compensation for the shoddy treatment by their former employer who, in my opinion, had a track record of poor employment practices which I believe probably contributed to the failure of their service in South Newton. This award yet again shows the benefit of union membership, even in an employer which was virulently anti-union."

## Care plans fall well short

Commenting on the recent announcement of a new social care fund, our General Secretary Christina McAnea said "Put simply the government has no plan for social care. The money promised is nowhere near what's needed – £5.4bn over three years doesn't even come close."

"Social care needs more than just a tweak, it requires wholesale change from top to

bottom. Those currently in receipt of care and the thousands more who need support but can't get it for love nor money will feel extremely let down today. Fund the sector properly, deliver for low-paid staff and take the profit out of caring. That is what's needed, but the government has fallen far of that short today"

Christina also added that the government have their priorities all wrong and that the increased funding won't be as beneficial without the much needed reforms of the sector, such as the creation of a National Care Service.

Christina said:" The focus on funding instead of reform is a cart-before-the-horse approach. A detailed plan is needed first to mend and future-proof a sector broken by years of neglect. Only then will the cost of making good the damage become clear. A care blueprint must outline the government's vision for a national service that matches NHS principles and values."

Our union is also at the forefront of demands for better pay and conditions for care workers, who are currently undervalued and facing a recruitment crisis.



## Taking Pride

Pictured below are Branch Officers Mehdi Belbahi (left) and Mark Wareham (right) running a UNISON stall at the

Salisbury Pride festival event on 4th September at Queen Elizabeth Gardens in Salisbury. Our branch have

been a major sponsor of the LGBT+ event Salisbury Pride over the last couple of years and it was gratifying to be part of the fun event after a couple of years of cancellations.



## Branch General Meeting

The next general membership meeting of the branch, to which all branch members are welcome, is taking place on -

***Tuesday 12th October  
6.15pm till 7.30pm***

It will be in Room 1, Salisbury Methodist Church Street, St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury, SP1 1EF with entrance via the front glass doors. There will also be a facility to join the meeting via remote video conferencing and if you want a link to join the meeting this way please contact the Branch Secretary in advance (see page 4).



# Ice Creams bring out the people

The offer of free iced creams brought out people to chat to the union on Friday 3rd September at Salisbury District Hospital. Funded jointly by the branch and UNISON South West region, the idea of hiring an ice cream

van came from previous successful events ran at other hospitals in the last month and thanks to the weather and publicity over 300 people came out to take advantage of a treat and to talk to the union about membership and NHS

pay.

Pictured below are Branch Secretary, Mark Wareham (left), regional employee Tom Pearce (centre) and Regional Organiser Michael Sweetman (right).



## Congratulations Mark

Our local rep Mark Wareham has been elected to UNISON's National Executive Council for a two year term. In an election for the male seat representing over 20,000 members in the union's south west region, Mark was elected in preference to two other candidates and came above his nearest rival by just over 100 votes. The NEC is the unions supreme decision making body between our annual conferences and is the most senior lay committee of UNISON.



## UNISON National Women's Conference

This event will be happening 17th to 19th February 2022 in Edinburgh. If you are interested in attending please contact the Branch Secretary (see page 4) before 12th November. Thanks.

## Help available via There For You

Our Branch Welfare officer was recently successful in helping another member receive a grant from the union's charitable funds to assist them with their financial difficulties. There For You provides debt advice, listening and support, financial assistance, breaks and holidays, and personal advice for those with financial or emotional difficulties and can be access via our Welfare Officer email—[salisburybwo@gmail.com](mailto:salisburybwo@gmail.com)



## 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

UNISON, Staff Side Office,  
Admin Block 25, Salisbury  
District Hospital, Salisbury,  
Wiltshire, SP2 8BJ

Tel—01722 336262 x 2452  
or 07503 448318  
e-mail—  
mark.wareham@  
nhs.net

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



## Well done Caroline

Our steward and Branch Women's / Labour Link Officer, Caroline Corbin was elected as the Mayor of Salisbury earlier in the year. After having been re-elected as a city councillor for Bemerton Ward in May, Caroline was then given the honour by her fellow Councillors of serving the people of the city in this role for the next year. Caroline was also elected as a Wiltshire councillor in the elections in May. A big well done to Caroline from all of us!

## RIP Stephane

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of our friend and colleague Stephane Guegan earlier in the year. Stephane (pictured left below) was a supporter of our campaigns and lobbying to help EU citizens through the UK's exit from the EU. We will miss him.



*Deadline date for next issue—January 2022*

*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**

