

## **'Happy New Year'**

from

All at the Blackburn with Darwen Branch.

We hope you have had a lovely Christmas, a well-earned break and are ready to face the challenges that come along in 2018!

Your Branch and Community Officers Peter and Janet are here to support you in your workplace. If you have any queries/concerns or would like some general information please contact:

Peter - 07895619090

Janet - 07434708148

## **AGM & Quiz Night**

1st March 2018

5.30pm

Blakeys Café Bar, Northgate, Blackburn

Free drink per member!

Quiz & Hot Supper starts at 6pm

Non-members welcome to join in the quiz - team of 4 needed!

Registration Form attached—please fill in and return asap to the Branch office.



**The workplace representative is UNISON's most important link between the union and its members.**

You don't have to have much experience or free time to become a representative. UNISON gives training and support and is happy for you to do as little or as much as you feel able.

## **WE NEED YOU!**



### **Workplace Contact:**

The workplace contact is an ideal role for members who would like to get more involved in UNISON but do not want to take on the full role of an elected steward.

Workplace contacts can get involved in a variety of ways, including:

- Being a point of contact between members and the branch
- Recruiting new members
- Distributing information
- Keeping notice boards up to date
- Helping with branch organisation

### **Steward:**

UNISON aims to have at least one steward in each workplace and department. As a steward your involvement and activity will depend on your experience, skills and the time you are able to commit. You will be involved in:

- Talking to members, distributing information and getting their views
- Recruiting and organising
- Helping members get advice for workplace problems
- Being a spokesperson or representative for your workgroup.

Being an elected steward gives you access to important rights and support including:

- Recognition as a UNISON representative
- Training by UNISON and the TUC
- Paid time off for training, meetings with members and managers and other union work
- Access to UNISON advice and information
- Mentoring and support from branch and regional officers.

### **Health and Safety Representative:**

We aim to have at least one health and safety representative to cover every workplace where we have members. As a health and safety representative you have a wide range of rights and functions including:

- Making representations on behalf of members on health, safety or welfare matters
- Inspected designated workplace areas
- Investigated potential hazards, complaints by members and causes if accidents, dangerous occurrences and diseases
- Facilities and support in your role as safety representative from your employer
- Time off with pay for training.

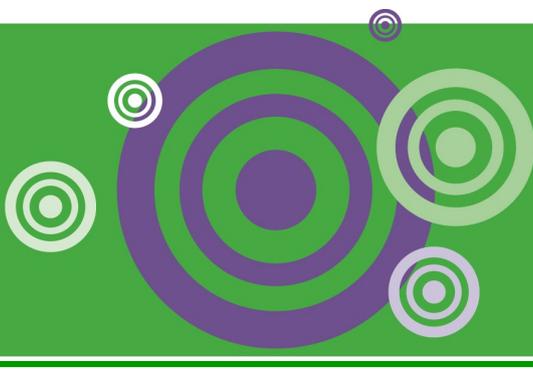
## Employment Law and Brexit

As the UK moves towards its exit from the European Union, unions will continue the work of holding the government to task over aspects of the European Union (withdrawal) Bill which will impact on member's interests. Of particular concern to unions will be the threat posed by the Bill to existing employment rights.

### Because of Europe you get:

1. **Protection At Work**—You are safe in your work place from dangerous machines, chemicals or any other risks to your health
2. **Holidays**—Europe is responsible for making sure you get 28 days paid leave a year
3. **Time off Work**—you and your colleagues aren't made to work more than 48 hours a week and aren't made to work more than 13 hours a day
4. **Fairness At Work**—all workers get the same rights, it doesn't matter if they are full-time or part-time, temporary or permanent, in-house or agency
5. **Sickness Rights**—you don't lose out if you are ill when on annual leave
6. **Equal Pay**—Men and women must be paid the same for doing the same job
7. **Maternity Rights**—statutory maternity leave if wanted
8. **Parental Leave**—new parents are entitled to time off work to look after their children
9. **Discrimination**—protection from you being discriminated against for your age, gender, race, sexual orientation or if you are disabled
10. **Healthcare on Holiday**—protection if you get ill when you are on holiday, you won't have to pay for your healthcare

We must keep fighting and stand together to protect our rights at work.



**This year's Community Conference will be taking place in March at the Southport Convention Centre.**

**Peter & Janet will be attending and speaking on behalf of all members in the Community & Voluntary Sector.**

**Janet is representing the Region and will be moving Motion 1 - Raising the Bar in the North West and Motion 10 - Collective Sectoral Bargaining. It's Janet's first time as a delegate and as a speaker.**

**A full report will be sent out after the meeting.**



**FREE** Drinks Bottles for all members—  
contact the Branch office on 01254 585220

The Branch at its Branch Committee Meeting in December has agreed to put forward a motion to National Delegate Conference in June 2018 to look at increasing participation from Branches to send delegates to the Community Conference.

**'Good News Stories'**  
Please send in your good news, we would love to share this with all members of the Branch.



# UNIONS

**UNIONS FOR EVERYONE'S WORKING LIFE**

**Unions and their network of workplace reps help working people every day. In workplaces all over Britain there are unions making sure we are safe at work protecting our jobs, pushing for higher pay and helping us get learning and training.**

**The more people in the union at your workplace, the stronger it is.**

**The stronger your union, the more likely they are to win better deals for you. Your voice has more weight when you join with colleagues and speak together.**



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