

UNISON news

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BRANCH WINS TOP PRIZE IN SCOTTISH COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS!

The branch has won two prizes in this year's UNISON Scottish Communications awards, with winners announced earlier this month at UNISON's Scottish Council meeting.

This year the branch submitted two entries. The first one was for our relaunched printed newsletter which is sent out to all our members. This has been well received by members and we aim

to continue to produce several issues a year.

We won the top prize "**Gold Award**" for the *Best Printed Publication*, and received a prize cheque for £150!

Our second entry was for our website, sporting its new responsive design, which works well with today's mobile phones and tablets. It also has a clean modern look to

it and links in to social media Twitter and Facebook feeds. We won the second prize "**Silver Award**" for *Best*

Online Presence, and received a cheque for £100. Have a look at: www.aub-unison.org.uk



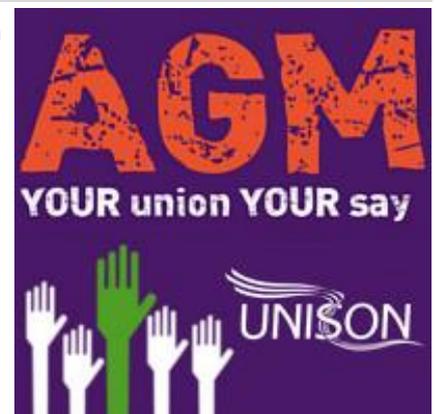
BRANCH AGM 2016 DATES ANNOUNCED

Dates for the branch Annual General Meeting have been set, and this year we're doing things a bit differently, so we

hope you'll be able to come along. The AGM will be held on two different days at lunchtimes, with one meeting at RGU and the other at UofA. Please make every effort to come along to one of them!

University of Aberdeen
Tuesday 8th March
12 noon – 2.00pm
Johnston Hall, AUSA

Robert Gordon Univ.
Thursday 10th March
12 noon – 2.00pm
Room SB01, Garthdee
House Annexe



Valuing public services and the people who provide them

BRANCH JOINS IN "THE BIG WORKPLACE MEETING"

As part of the TUC's ♥UNIONS week, the branch took part in the "Big Workplace Meeting" on 9th February.



This video linkup by the TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady, with special guest presenter Eddie Izzard, was broadcast live simultaneously to branch meetings all over the country.

We had set up meeting rooms at both RGU and the University of Aberdeen for members

to attend and watch, and heard how the measures in the Governments "Trade Union Bill" are being fought by unions, and how many aspects of the bill are being questioned in the House of Lords, and even by Conservative MPs!

With draconian regulations on industrial action ballots, removing the law prohibiting agency staff being used to break strikes and direct attacks on the funding of unions amongst others the bill

is a direct attack on union organising. Watch the video:

www.heartunions.org



WORK YOUR PROPER HOURS DAY—26TH FEBRUARY

Work Your Proper Hours Day (26th Feb 2016) is the day when the average person who does unpaid overtime finishes the unpaid days they do every year, and starts earning for themselves.

We think that's a day worth celebrating. Over five million people at work in the UK regularly do unpaid overtime, giving their employers nearly £32 billion of free work.

If you're one, why not take some time to reflect on how well (or

badly) you're balancing your life?

This is one day in the year to make the most of your own time. Take a proper lunchbreak and leave work on time to enjoy your Friday evening; You deserve it!

Long hours are not good for us; they cause stress;



WORK YOUR PROPER HOURS DAY

they're bad for our health; they wreck relationships; they make caring for children or

dependents more difficult — and tired, burnt-out staff are bad for business!



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PROFILE OF A UNISON REPRESENTATIVE

Your Name

Owen Cox, UNISON Steward

How long have you been active in UNISON?

I have been with the University of Aberdeen for over ten years, but it is only in the past couple of years that I actually joined a trade union, which in turn led me to be successfully nominated as a UNISON steward.

What made you want to become a UNISON representative?

First and foremost, I observed the good work that Trish Burnett and Chris Mcleod had undertaken to get the security deputy supervisors allowances revisited and adjusted. They got an allowance every year for being a deputy supervisor, but this had never risen with inflation or wage rises. UNISON sorted that out for us.

There were other issues that I felt passionately about and with the University negotiating with unions through the collective bargaining agreements, I thought that joining the union, was a no-brainer, to be part of a voice that is listened to.

What help did you get?

The branch were very supportive and I got paid time off to attend the UNISON stewards training which helped me understand what I needed to do in discussions with members and when representing them.

What do you enjoy about being a UNISON representative?

I have always enjoyed healthy debate and do believe in being part of the solution, rather than the problem. I believe in honesty, integrity and transparency and hope to demonstrate these values in my



performance as a steward. I attended UNISON's National Delegate Conference this year and was very proud to be able to represent the branch as a delegate.

We're always looking for more people to get involved in UNISON. If you'd like to find out more just get in touch with one of your local stewards (details on the back page).

UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL PRESSURES

Both universities have been in talks with campus trade unions over recent months with regard to financial pressures they are experiencing.

The University of Aberdeen, having continued to try to make very significant cuts recently reached agreement not to go into any immediate compulsory redundancies until the ongoing funding picture is clearer, and even then agreed to put in place a focused Voluntary Severance scheme first.

The Robert Gordon University

also met with trade unions over significant concerns regarding a shortfall in student numbers which is having a major impact on finances. Although no specific measures other than to look at ways to increase revenue had been put forward at the time of going to press, the University could not rule out any measures including the potential for redundancies in

the longer term.

We'll continue to represent members' interests at these negotiations and will provide updates on the situation whenever we have further information or more details.



Three simple ways to join UNISON today:



Join online at
joinunison.org



Call us on
0800 171 2193



Ask your UNISON rep
for an application form

GET INVOLVED

Christmas Competition Winners

Our competition this year was a spot the difference and members were asked to say how many differences there were. The correct answer was **SIX**.



First prize was a top of the range Amazon Kindle Voyage and a £50 Voucher to get their e-book collection started. Our two second prizes were our ever popular Dinner and a Show for Two vouchers, and our third prizes were our fantastic Silent Night Christmas hampers.

Congratulations to our winners:

1st: Colin Shearer

2nd: Laura Benvie, Paulina Sikora

3rd: Lynne Price, Janice Longhurst

WE NEED YOU!

We still want to hear from members who would be able to get more involved in the branch.

We really need you to join the team!

You can choose how much or how little you want to do, depending on the amount of time you can spare, or the type of practical assistance you can give.

Drop us an email for more information or to have a chat!

uni@aub-unison.org.uk

Find us online:
www.aub-unison.org.uk



Here are a few ways you can help:

- ⇒ Hand out recruitment material
- ⇒ Help at our recruitment stalls
- ⇒ Train as a workplace rep
- ⇒ Attend conferences and events
- ⇒ Put up posters and newsletters
- ⇒ Contribute to the local newsletter



For as little as **£1.30 a month** (depending on salary) you get a range of services including:

- advice, support and help when you need it at work;
- a helpline that is open until midnight (on weekdays, 4pm Saturday);
- legal help for you at work and you and your family at home;
- financial assistance and debt advice in times of need;
- compensation for accidents and injuries at work;
- a range of exclusive member discounts that can save you and your family money when you are shopping, buying insurance or looking for a holiday;
- access to training and education courses;
- a members magazine sent to your home address four times a year;
- discounts for members and their families at Croyde Bay, the union's holiday resort on the North Devon coast.

YOUR BRANCH STEWARDS

ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY

Name	Location	Telephone
Julie Yackiminie (Chair)	Nursing & Midwifery, Garthdee	01224 262950
Colin Jones (Treasurer)	IT Services, ICRGU, Garthdee	01224 262178
Iain McLenan (H&S)	Janitorial Group, Garthdee	01224 263444
Anne Campbell	Gray's School of Art	01224 263675
Clare Parks (LLC)	Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator	01224 262167

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

Name	Location	Telephone
Trish Burnett (Br. Secretary)	Student Association	01224 273951
Elizabeth Robertson (H&S)	School of Education	01224 274507
Georgia Mannion-Krase	Data Co-ordinator	01224 438193
Owen Cox	Security Officer, Estates	n/a
Christine Burnett	School of Language & Literature	n/a

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the public service union