



NEWSLETTER

March 2025 | Volume 02
Stronger Together: Your voice, Our Action

WHAT A MONTH ITS BEEN!

From representing our members in various meetings to diving into the conversations around the new rostering principles with EMAS, we've been busy. We've also been part of the negotiations around the PTS rebranding – lots happening on that front!

Earlier this month, we held our AGM where we saw some fantastic new elected officials ratified and a boost in our overall reps. You can check out all the details on our website.

Looking ahead, we've got a jam-packed few months as we roll into the spring and summer seasons. The UNISON Healthcare Conference kicks off in early April, so get ready for some exciting updates in next month's edition.

If you'd like to contribute to the newsletter, feel free to get in touch – we'd love to hear from you. And don't forget to check out the fun competition on the second page, brought to you by your branch comms team!

Enjoy the read!

UNISON SOURCES FUNDING TO REVAMP STAFF FACILITIES AT EOC

Our branch is proud to announce the successful revamp of the staff facilities at the EOC, thanks to generous funding sourced by our dedicated EOC lead, Jo Mills, through charitable donations. This initiative has transformed the space, not only with brand-new furniture and decor but also with a completely new kitchen that creates a more inviting and functional environment for all staff.



The updated facilities have been carefully designed to provide staff with a comfortable, relaxing space where they can unwind during their breaks. The new kitchen is now fully equipped and ready for use, allowing staff to enjoy meals and drinks in a modern, refreshed setting.

Additionally, extra tables and chairs have been added, ensuring that there's plenty of room for colleagues to socialise and take a well-deserved break from their busy roles. This revamp isn't just about upgrading the eating area; it's about creating an environment that supports staff well-being.

By providing a comfortable and relaxing space, we're helping ensure that everyone has the opportunity to decompress and recharge, which ultimately contributes to a positive work atmosphere and boosts morale.

A special thank you goes to Jo Mills, whose tireless efforts and commitment to securing this funding have been key in making these improvements a reality. We're excited to see the staff enjoying the new space, and we hope it continues to provide a welcoming and rejuvenating environment for everyone at EOC.



REP SPOTLIGHT... MEET STUART HALLOWS



Each month, we're putting the spotlight on one of our dedicated reps! This month, let's meet **Stuart Hallows**, our **Branch Secretary**.

About Stuart:

Stuart has over 16 years of frontline experience, initially in NEPTS and later in 2013 to A&E. He then progressed from ECA to a Technician. Stuart was elected to Branch Secretary in March 2022, motivated by a strong desire to support his colleagues and ensure their health and well-being are prioritised alongside patient care were top priorities for the trust.

In addition to his role as Branch Secretary, Stuart serves as Vice Chair of the Regional Health Committee and is a member of the Regional Council. He also represents us at the national level, helping influence key healthcare policies and ensuring that our members' voices are heard across the board.

As Branch Secretary, Stuart coordinates branch reps, handles member enquiries, and leads negotiations. He also plays a crucial role in working groups within the Trust, collaborating on policy changes to better support our members.

Q: What's the best part of being Branch Secretary?

A: "Making a real difference for my colleagues and knowing I'm helping ensure their well-being."

Q: How did you get involved with Unison?

A: "I wanted to stand up for my colleagues and ensure their voices are heard."

Q: What's a fun fact about you?

A: "I was known as Simon until I was christened, where my Mum and Dad changed their mind on the day of my christening - to everyone's shock!"

Q: If you had a superpower, what would it be?

A: "Time Travel! It would make my life a lot easier."

Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

A: "I build Star Wars Lego to relax in my downtime."

COMPETITION TIME! - PRIZE UP FOR GRABS!

S	T	R	A	C	A	M	P	A	I	G	N	F
O	A	R	E	Y	O	I	R	A	A	O	E	U
L	D	T	I	M	M	E	E	A	N	E	I	I
I	U	R	I	E	O	O	S	L	O	D	A	E
D	T	I	S	O	L	I	D	A	R	I	T	Y
A	Y	I	Q	F	L	U	R	F	Y	M	G	Y
R	N	L	A	S	E	M	B	T	H	S	K	D
I	T	R	A	S	T	R	C	E	Q	H	E	O
T	H	S	M	D	R	A	L	A	A	F	W	M
Y	M	O	F	C	E	A	W	J	C	B	T	A

Find the words related to UNISON within the grid. They can appear horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. Once you've found them all, use the leftover letters to reveal the secret message!

After discovering the message, email your answer to comms@unisonemas.org.uk. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries. Terms and conditions for the competition can be found on our website.

Words to Find:

1. Union
2. Members
3. Support
4. Rights
5. Equality
6. Solidarity
7. Justice
8. Fairness
9. Campaign
10. Community



LEARNING FOR MEMBERS

Unlock Your Potential with UNISON East Midlands Learning Opportunities

Each year, over 2,000 East Midlands UNISON members engage in various learning opportunities, enhancing their skills, knowledge, and career prospects. As part of our commitment to continuous education, we provide a diverse range of courses and grants to support our members in their personal and professional development.

Open University & general learning grants

DID YOU KNOW UNISON OFFERED LEARNING GRANTS TO MEMBERS?

In 2022 £10,000 was awarded to members across the East Midlands to support their learning journey

To find out more visit:
learning.unison.org.uk/financial-support

UNISON East Midlands **UNISON College**



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Member Learning Programme January - July 2025

Learning Grants

To further support lifelong learning, UNISON offers learning grants to help cover the costs of training and education. These grants make it easier for members to invest in their future without financial strain.


EXCEL ADVANCED 3 & 4 APRIL 10AM – 1PM (MS TEAMS) Aimed at members with good knowledge of Excel	Dyslexia Awareness 28 April 9.30 - 1pm via MS Teams
LOSS AND BEREAVEMENT IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 30 April, 10.15am - 12.45pm Via Zoom	ADHD Awareness for School Staff 6 May 10.00am - 12.30pm via Zoom
Living Well With Anxiety 9 & 16 May 10.00am - 1.00pm Via Zoom	EXCEL BEGINNERS 20 & 21 MAY 10AM – 1PM (MS TEAMS) This course is aimed at members new to Excel You will need basic computer knowledge including using a mouse and how to save files
NEURODIVERSITY FOR MANAGERS 12 JUNE 9.30AM - 1.00PM VIA MS TEAMS	Deaf Awareness & Intro to British Sign Language 24 June 9.30am - 12.30pm via zoom
EXCEL IMPROVERS 1 & 2 JULY 10AM – 1PM (MS TEAMS) This course is aimed at members with some experience of Excel	Pre-Retirement Planning 16 July 9.30am - 4.00pm Delivered in-person in Leicester

For details of each course visit:
<https://eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/members>

PASSIONATE ABOUT LEARNING?

BECOME A UNISON LEARNING REP (ULR)!

2025



1 PROMOTE
Let colleagues know about courses and opportunities

2 GIVE SUPPORT
Help overcome barriers that stop people (time, confidence, bad experience etc)

3 IDENTIFY NEEDS
What do people want to learn? What do they need?

4 ORGANISE COURSES
Talks, workshops, stalls, book-swaps, quizzes, courses. Anything to help get members back into learning!

LOCATION	DATES
Lincoln	23, 30 Jan & 6 Feb
Leicester	30 April & 7, 14 May
Derby	18, 25 June & 2 July
Northampton	2, 9 & 16 October
Nottingham	3, 10 & 17 November

Most ULRs will get paid time-off. For details see:
<https://eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/learning-reps/>

DISABLED MEMBERS UPDATE



But that's not all!

We also work closely with the trust, whose Disability, Neurodiversity, and Carers Network plays a vital role in providing additional resources and support. Recently rebranded to include neurodiverse individuals, this network is a place for everyone, from carers to those with neurodiverse conditions, to get the help and solidarity they need. The support provided by EMAS is a fantastic complement to what we're doing at UNISON, and together, we're making sure all our members have the tools and support to thrive.

How Can You Get Involved?

It's simple! You can join the UNISON Disabled Members Network today by reaching out to Danny Thomas at daniel.thomas@emas.nhs.uk. Plus, if you'd like to stay up to date with all the latest news and support, don't forget to sign up for the Disabled Members Newsletter online!

Additionally, if you're interested in joining the EMAS Disability, Neurodiversity, and Carers Network for even more support and resources, you can connect directly by emailing disabilityandcarersnetwork@emas.nhs.uk.

Whether you're looking for advocacy, resources, or just a community of people who understand what you're going through, we've got you covered. Get involved and let's keep pushing for a workplace where everyone is respected and supported.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS AND STAY INFORMED!

We want to make sure you receive the most up-to-date information and campaign news from us. To help us do this, please take a moment to update your contact details. It's quick and easy!

How to Update Your Details:

- **Option 1:** Update your information directly through the MYUNISON portal.
- **Option 2:** Email your updated details to enquiries@unisonemas.org.uk.

Please ensure your contact details are current, so you never miss important updates!

TO LEARN MORE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.unisonemas.org.uk



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