

NOTTS UNISON ASCH newsletter February 2021

New for 2021 we are trialling some short newsletters for members in ASCH. If you like the idea please let us know. If you have any ideas for subjects to cover please let us know.



Hello from: Natalie Bryan Notts UNISON Convenor ASCH

I joined UNISON in 2013, I had been working for NCC for some years but didn't join UNISON until I started to work in ASCH. I don't know why I didn't join sooner, I didn't know much about unions and I don't think anyone had ever asked me until then. I soon started to realise why collective bargaining was so important.

Not long after I joined someone asked me if I would become a steward and I did. I learned a lot and had lots of support to get involved in areas that I had a particular interest in, gender issues, women's issues. Some time later I became a senior steward and this was great as it gave me

dedicated time for trade union duties as well as working in my CCO role too. I am now the lead steward (known as a Convenor) I really enjoy it and would encourage anyone to consider becoming more active within UNISON. I would encourage anyone who feels that representation in the workplace matters to consider becoming a steward – contact the Branch Office and someone will contact you – who knows where it might take you.

What can we tell you today?

1. Visit the UNISON website via the link for courses that may be relevant to you. If you do one of these, let us know and maybe you can share how it went with other members through a newsletter. <https://learning.unison.org.uk/2021/01/06/new-year-new-opportunities#membergroups>
2. Vaccinations: We have been assured by your employer that vaccination is not compulsory and that whether you tell your manager you have had one is up to you. Either way it will not be used to determine staff deployment.
3. Mental health matters, now more than ever it is important to take care of our mental health and be aware of how those around us may be experiencing difficulties. UNISON has organised <https://learning.unison.org.uk/events/mental-health-awareness-22-mar/>
4. The branch office building may be closed but we are still operating and working hard. We are planning some training courses in collaboration with our Regional Centre and external organisations. As soon as details are confirmed we will let you know