

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM UNISON

UNISON Loughborough Newsletter

Times are tough in universities these days. Cuts are biting hard and the pressure is on you to keep things running smoothly with fewer resources and fewer staff. If you are affected by any issues or have any concerns don't hesitate to raise them with us.

However, as the year enters to a close its time to focus on the festive season and look forward to bringing the present year to an end on a cheerful note making way for a fresh and bright new year.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us though out the year and took part in the many social and information events that we have organised.



Christmas Edition
December 2018

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Pay Ballot Outcome

The UNISON Higher Education Service Group Executive announced that it was pleased that an overwhelming majority of HE members voted to take strike action in our recent pay ballot. They thanked activists, branches and regions that put in significant work to achieve the result. However, there was not a high enough turnout for the vote to be legally valid.

Universal Credit

From January 2019 the system is changing, limiting awards to just 2 children and ONLY if you claim universal credit! The impact could affect everyone with three or more children born before 6 April 2017 and not for the better.

You are urged to read the link and consider whether you should claim, even if you are not granted an award now, as it may protect future applications.

<http://www.cpag.org.uk/content/tax-credits-claim-while-you-can>

There For You

Food Banks

1 in 5 people live in poverty in the UK as many families hit crisis. cannot afford to buy food and are going hungry in their own homes. Rising food and fuel costs, static incomes, high unemployment and changes to benefits are causing many families to struggle to put food on the table and the number of people needing foodbanks is growing significantly. Food Banks aren't just for homeless people, they are often needed by working families where parents skip their own meal to feed their children. If you're in crisis UNISON can refer you to a Food Bank don't hesitate to contact us 0800 0 857 857.

Are you eligible for a Winter Fuel Grant?

To be considered for a grant, you must be able to show that you meet the following criteria:

Either

You are in receipt of housing benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit.

Or

Your household **net income*** is less than £18,000.

If you meet this criterion contact us for an application form.

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Branch Activities

Information Fair

We are delighted that the hamper and goodie bag were won by two new members who joined on the day. The tombola raised £90 for Rainbows.



AGM

The **AGM** will be early in March. Please look out for the official notification and nomination forms.

Holocaust Memorial Day

We would like to invite you to take part in a series of events to celebrate the Holocaust these include lighting a candle for in remembrance of those that lost their life and a trip to the Holocaust Centre. Check out our website for more updates on other Holocaust events.

Christmas Coach Trip



Despite it being a windy day, the trip to the Victorian Christmas Market was a great success.



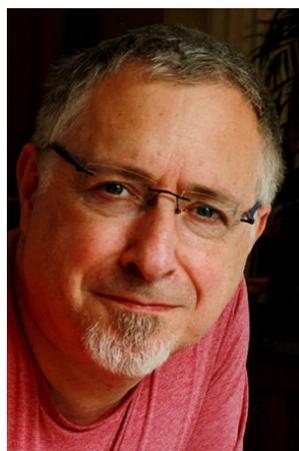
Get involved

We always welcome people who would like to be more involved, from putting up posters and filling envelopes to taking on a more active role. If you would like to find out more about the various UNISON roles please visit the website; <https://www.unison.org.uk/about/our-organisation/activists/branch-roles/> and don't forget if you recruit a new member you receive a **£10** gift voucher.

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Reading Ahead

You are cordially invited to attend this year's Reading Ahead Launch Event **on 9th January 2019 at 12pm**. We have an acclaimed guest to the event; alternate history, fantasy and contemporary crime author Rob Duncan. Whose novels have been shortlisted for the Philip K. Dick Award, the East Midlands Book Award and the John Creasey Dagger of the Crime Writers' Association. Rod will be reading an excerpt from his brand-new novel '*The Outlaw and the Upstart King*' and we will have an exclusive interview and Q&A conducted by Loughborough University Academic Deidre O'Byrne.



As well as the above we will be having literary themed activities, a mystery book raffle and refreshments will be available. The Launch Event will be a chance to sign up for the challenge, receive your diary and meet other people interested in the challenge.

Communications

Loughborough University UNISON Branch has recently released a website, Facebook page and Twitter account. Please visit the website, post on our Facebook page and follow us.

Website: <https://loughboroughuniversity.unison.site/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LoughboroughUn1/>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/LoughboroughUn1

We would also welcome any comments to help us improve communications using social media.

Your membership is important to us

To ensure that UNISON continues to a powerful voice to campaign against inequalities, challenge unfair pay practices and speak out on issues that affect our working lives and the quality of public services, we need you to tell us what the issues are so that we can address them.

THE UNISON COMMITTEE AT LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY HOPE YOU HAVE A FABULOUS CHRISTMAS SURROUNDED BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL IN THE NEW YEAR.

