

# The Wakey Worker

WAKEFIELD DISTRICT UNISON

#6

# JOB CUTS!



# PRIVATISATION LOOMS!

# Job Cuts!

Members may remember the council wide EOI scheme, the one that ran twice and allowed any member of staff to put their name forward for Voluntary Redundancy in the name of helping out in the financial difficulties that the Council found itself in. You may also recall putting in for VR in good faith and being turned down, because the foresight to limit the scheme to the areas in which savings 'could' be made was not present at the time.

But even after releasing hundreds of staff on to pastures new, The Council are back for more. UNISON have been inundated with organisational changes and restructures that are proposing even more job cuts, with many of these workers being placed at risk of Compulsory Redundancy, a practice that is both against the wishes of the Political Leaders and their own Council Policies.

During these organisational changes, The Council have kindly reopened Expressions of Interest in Voluntary Redundancy for any effected

staff that didn't fancy leaving the first two times that they were asked.

UNISON have already submitted one formal failure to agree to a service that has refused to remove the possibility of Compulsory Redundancies from their plans and we fear that there will be more in the future!

To counter these cuts to jobs, members need to be standing together, in unison, to make sure that The Council know that this is unacceptable! During any Org Change, you need to be telling management that these cuts WILL cause failures to the vital services that you provide! UNISON is arguing that case at every meeting we have with WMDC and the Politicians, however YOU are the experts in your own jobs and it is vital that YOU use your expertise to hammer this point home.

## VACANCIES

**Due to a number of voluntary redundancies recently... WMDC are seeking to hire an array of senior managers, as it transpires that it 'may' have been a 'bad idea' to let so much experience go... plus interims are expensive...**

## WMDC Convenor Team



Sam Greenwood  
Branch Secretary



Dave Evans  
Branch Co-Chairperson



Adam Temple  
Communications Officer



## ORGANISING MEMBERS

For members that are unaware, **UNISON** has a number of Self Organized Groups that operate at all levels of the union. These groups are a great way of: becoming more involved with **UNISON**, making a difference in YOUR workplace and ensuring that **UNISON** is fighting for issues that are important to **YOU**. In Wakefield we currently have a Retired Members SOG, however regionally and nationally there are SOGs for Black Members, Women, LGBT+ Members, Disabled Members and Young Members. If joining an existing SOG or starting one up in Wakefield is something **you** are interested in, please get in contact with us at the branch.

**UNISON** is **YOU** and our strength is in numbers. If you have any colleagues that aren't a member of **UNISON** yet, please encourage them to join with the QR code, not only for their protection in the workplace, but to increase **YOUR** collective bargaining powers. If you fancy helping your colleagues more; by becoming a steward or workplace contact, please get in touch with us at the branch.

Join here ----->  
Call us: 01924305360



**PLEASE** make sure that the details we hold for you are correct, this is the only way we can get in contact with you if you need our support! Or to inform you of upcoming events, demonstrations & days out. You can do this here:  
[my.unison.org.uk](http://my.unison.org.uk)  
01924 305360  
[contact@unison-wakefield.org.uk](mailto:contact@unison-wakefield.org.uk)

# Outsourcing - The Modern Way...

If the risk of losing your job at Wakefield Council has you worried, don't fret, as the possibility of a bright future in the wonderful private sector may be within your sights. You could enjoy the benefits of reduced terms and conditions, pay freezes, lack of Trade Union Recognition, Draconian policies and the delights of Statutory Sick Pay.

Although any changes to a private sector employer will be sold to you with TUPE protections (the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006), these aren't guaranteed to last, with many unscrupulous employers knowing exactly how to get YOU to break TUPE, without realising, giving them the ability to further damage your working conditions.

## A Terrible Pay Offer

A few months ago, the branch sent a survey out to members about the pay claim that UNISON were submitting to the NJC. This pay claim was for £3,000, an approach to meet a minimum pay of £15 per hour within the next 2 years, an extra day of annual leave for all staff, a reduction of the working week by 2 hours with no loss of pay and for school staff to have the ability to take (at least) one day of annual leave during term time (with no loss of pay).

The Wakey Worker wishes that we could be more positive when it comes to the services currently undertaking job cuts to protect staff from privatisation. However we have massive worries that these services, that have already been cut to the bone, are being managed into a decline to allow for the future selling off to private companies when the lack of staff inevitably leads to service failings, despite all of your hard work.

Help us, to help you, by asking your colleagues to join UNISON so we can show a strong, unified collective in opposition to the privatisation of public sector workers!



JOIN  
HERE

The NJC have come back to the Joint Trade Unions with a, lackluster, offer; completely ruling out the £15 per hour minimum pay, the reduction in working week and both of the claims relating to annual leave.

In terms of pay, in rebuttal of our claim of £3,000 for all members of staff, they have offered a meagre 3.2%, which works out as an increase of about **£930** for the majority of our members or approximately **48p** per hour with no mention of central funding.



**SATURDAY  
10TH MAY  
2025**

**Wakefield  
Exchange**  
STAGE & STALLS NOW INDOORS!  
Union St, WF1 3AD

**YORKSHIRE'S BIGGEST TRADE UNION EVENT**  
**ASSEMBLE 10:45AM**  
**SMYTH ST  
WF1 1ED**  
**WITH BANNERS  
HELD HIGH**  
**EDUCATE, AGITATE  
ORGANISE**  
**FORTY YEARS ON THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES**  
bring your banners & good comrades  
**MAINSTAGE SPEAKERS ENTERTAINMENT STALLS**  
**FOOD DRINKS MUSIC BRASS BANDS**  
**WORKSHOPS EXHIBITIONS FILM FRINGE EVENTS**  
Keep an eye  
online for  
Fringe Events  
and other  
updates!  
FIND US ONLINE [f @BANNERSHELDHIGH](#) [t @BANNERSHELDHIGH](#)  
[HTTPS://LINKTR.EE/WITHBANNERSHELDHIGH](https://linktr.ee/withbannersheldhigh)  
[WITHBANNERSHELDHIGH@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:WITHBANNERSHELDHIGH@OUTLOOK.COM)

**there  
for you** supporting UNISON members  
when life gets tough

- Financial assistance
- Debt advice
- Wellbeing breaks
- Support and information



**If you are a UNISON member  
struggling through an unexpected  
crisis There for You is here to help**  
Speak to your branch welfare officer or call  
**020 7121 5620**  
For immediate debt advice call  
**0800 389 3302**  
[www.unison.org.uk/thereforyou](http://www.unison.org.uk/thereforyou)  
UNISON the public service union  
Registered charity number 1020502 Scotland 1020502

Wakefield District UNISON feel that this pay offer falls well short of what our members deserve and maintain our position that all pay offers should be centrally funded to relieve some of the financial pressures that Local Councils are facing.

**PAY OFFER:  
3.2%**





*Wakefield District*

# Days out for members

## Beningborough Hall



Tuesday

3rd June 2025

£30

Wakefield Bus Station  
10am

## Durham Miners Gala



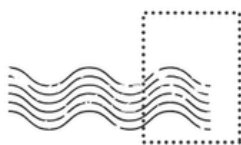
Saturday

12th July 2025

£19

Wakefield Bus Station  
8am

## Ripon Races



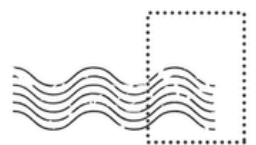
Saturday

19th July 2025

£20 + Ticket

Wakefield Bus Station  
10am

## Whitby



Friday

19th Sept 2025

£20

Wakefield Bus Station  
9.30am

Contact the branch for  
an application form  
[contact@unison-wakefield.org.uk](mailto:contact@unison-wakefield.org.uk)  
01924 305360

## Croyde Bay holiday resort

UNISON's Croyde Bay Resort, Devon, offers 20% off holidays for UNISON members for hotel, self catering and summer b&b accommodation.

**UNISON owned and operated Croyde Bay Resort, in North Devon, offers 20% off any holiday or short break for UNISON members, rising to a huge 50% off for low paid UNISON members.**

**The resort features a modern 56-bedroom Hotel as well as self-catering Cottages and Lodges.**

**The brilliant location next to the fabulous Croyde Beach, rated as a 5\* holiday village with top quality accommodation, lots of free facilities and a super friendly welcome, have all contributed to Croyde Bay Holiday Resort receiving TripAdvisor's Travellers choice for 3 years running!**

**This popular surfing mecca has a well-earned reputation with all age groups and makes a great base for exploring all that beautiful North Devon has to offer, on land and sea.**

**[www.croydeunison.co.uk](http://www.croydeunison.co.uk)**



# The NEC

The union's national executive council (NEC) is elected by members to speak on their behalf.

NEC members are elected by all members of UNISON via a postal vote. Members elect candidates to represent their region and their service group. There are also additional seats for Black members, young members and disabled members.

**Results are usually announced around one month after the voting deadline.**

## AGM 2025

The branch would like to thank all members who attended the AGMs held both virtually and in person last month. We were able to ratify all of your Branch Officers, Stewards and Convenors, along with passing a motion to move money from the industrial action fund to the general fund to allow the branch to better support members in the workplace.

Two great speeches were given by our guest speaker Andrea Egan and your Branch Secretary, Sam Greenwood. Both speeches were focused on the importance of putting pressure on the Labour party to improve worker's rights and properly fund Local Government and to encourage all employers to sign the migrant care worker charter to abolish the horrific treatment of migrant workers in the UK, that is comparable to modern slavery.

As with all other UNISON elections, the union's principles of "proportionality and fair representation" means that some seats are reserved for women and low-paid members, so that the make-up of the NEC fairly represents the wider union.

Elections take place every two years, with members receiving a ballot paper with a prepaid envelope to return it to an independent scrutineer (an independent person who checks the ballot is fair and counts the votes).

Before the AGM, the branch ran a representing members training course for stewards, to aid in their development as activists and give them the confidence and skills to effectively represent members at all levels of meetings. This training went down well, and everybody involved left with new skills and knowledge that is essential for their role as stewards.

Following the AGM, stewards continued with their training and a discussion was had about the development of the branch and how best we can support members in the workplace and how the branch should work for YOU. If you have any suggestions, please get in contact with the branch as it is imperative that YOUR union works for YOU.

# Branch Nominations

During February's branch committee meeting, we shared all of the nomination requests that had been received from candidates standing in the upcoming NEC elections. Once these requests had been shared, the floor was opened for members of the Branch Committee to propose candidates for the branch to nominate.

All of the candidates proposed were nominated by the Branch Committee, unanimously, and can be found within this issue of The Wakey Worker.

These lay members have been nominated by the branch as we believe that their interests best align with the interests of you, our members within Wakefield District, and the interests of UNISON members nationally.

The ballot opens on 21st April 2025 and will close on 21st May 2025 with results expected to be announced on 11th June 2025.

**Have your say on how  
YOUR union is run and  
VOTE!**



# Wakefield District UNISON Branch's Nominations

## Local Government Seats



Andrea Egan  
Local Government (f)



Jane Doolan  
Local Government (f)



David Jones  
Local Government (g)



Jenny Black  
Local Government (g)

## Yorkshire & Humberside Seats



Greta Holmes  
Y'shire & Humber (f)



Julie Forgan  
Y'shire & Humber (f)



Tony Wright  
Y'shire & Humber (g)



Jayne Bouskall  
Y'shire & Humber (r)

## Black Members Seats



Antonia Bright  
Black Members (f)



April Ashley  
Black Members (f)



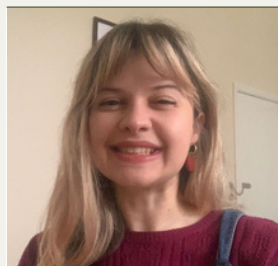
Amerat Raft  
Black Members (g)



Julia Mwaluke  
Black Members (r)

## Disabled Members Seats

## Young Members Seats



Natasha Bednall  
Young Members (f)



Kameron Spence  
Young Members (g)



Ellie Waple  
Disabled Members (f)



Tara Thomas  
Disabled Members (g)

(f): Female Seat  
(g): General Seat  
(r): Reserved Seat



**Sickness Meetings**

**Disciplinarys**

**Pay Rises**

**Job Cuts**

**Personal Injury Claims**

**Capabilities Procedure**

**Worker's Rights**

**Job Evaluation**

**UNISON**

*Wakefield District*

**Are Here To Support YOU With All This...  
And More!**

**The ONLY union in WMDC  
with THREE, Full-Time,  
Experienced Convenors and  
a network of Stewards  
Throughout The Council!**

**CONTACT THE BRANCH:**

**01924 305360**

**[contact@unison-wakefield.org.uk](mailto:contact@unison-wakefield.org.uk)**

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