



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to
our UNISON
Lothian
Health
Branch
Newsletter

October
2025



Solidarity Beyond Borders - Scotland to Kharkiv - UNISON branches in Lothian Health, South Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire, are building direct links with trade union organisations in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Earlier this year, retired member and Ukraine Solidarity Campaign activist Colin Turbett visited Kharkiv, sparking a partnership that is now growing stronger. Since then, the Lothian Health Branch has already delivered vital medical supplies to Ukraine.

On 27th September, activists Carolyn Casey, Tracy Anne Miller, Stephen Smellie, and Willie Shearer travelled to Kharkiv. Their mission? To hear directly from Ukrainian trade unionists, share experiences, and bring those stories back to Scotland.

To support their hosts and strengthen workers' organisations in Kharkiv, almost £17,000 was raised through UNISON branches, members, and supporters. Thanks to everyone who contributed. A full report on how funds are used will be shared but all money raised will go to good causes in the community and in turn will save lives. Solidarity knows no borders.





Durham Miners Gala 2025.
The Branch proudly marched behind the City of Edinburgh Pipes and Drums at the gala today. This is our 4th year attending what is the biggest gathering of trade unions in the world. Fantastic day



Pride Edinburgh & Strling - Our Stewards were in Edinburgh on 20th June and 20th September celebrating Pride with our comrades from Unison City of Edinburgh and UNISON Forth Valley branches, it was a fantastic day.

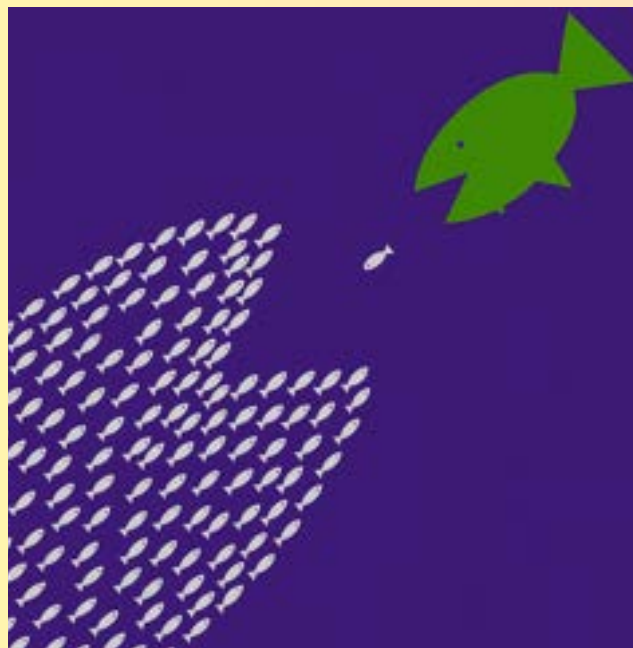


UNISON WINS

Total payout for legal claims from our Branch members supported by Thompsons since our last news letter in April was an impressive £67,790



Lolanda and friends from Ward 1 East Lothian Community Hospital completed a sponsor walk in aid of Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity and raised an amazing £850 Well done!



As a Unison Young Member, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the Fresher Fair stalls this year. I was genuinely excited and enthusiastic to be part of such an important event, where we welcomed new university students and introduced them to the work of Unison.

One of the highlights for me was meeting so many new students, engaging in great conversations, and seeing so many of them joining Unison. It was inspiring to witness their curiosity and willingness to get involved. I truly feel that we were able to send a clear message about how important it is to be part of a union, to stand together and support each other, and have a collective voice.

Events like this remind me why being part of UNISON matters. It's not just about membership, it's about building a strong community that looks out for each other and shapes a better future together. - Deb Lettieri

Step up, **speak out**
for safe staffing



Why does Unison Health branch support Auchengeich Memorial Day - The Auchengeich disaster was Scotland's worst mining tragedy of the 20th century, occurring on September 18, 1959, at Auchengeich Colliery in Lanarkshire. An underground fire, caused by a faulty fan belt in a return airway, led to 47 miners losing their lives. The disaster devastated the local community, resulting in 41 women being widowed and 76 children losing their fathers.

Many of our members come from mining communities and had family members who worked down the mines. East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian all had large mining communities.

Stewards from the branch went along to the memorial service held every year in Moodiesburn to show solidarity. We must never forget the past and any worker who lost their life just doing their job.

Tracy-Anne Miller

Scan the QR code to link to the Scottish Mining Auchengeich Memorial page.



STAFF LOTTERY -

25 winners EVERY SINGLE MONTH. Will you be one of them? It's simple to play, so if you haven't already, sign up today. The quickest and easiest way to sign up is by visiting: nhslothiancharity.org/staff-lottery.





Family Fun Day - Trade Unions in Communities annual fun day and big give away at Craigmillar in Edinburgh. TUIC was set up to integrate the trade union movement back into the communities it was born in. Stewards were there from RMT, CWU, UNITE, UNISON City of Edinburgh branch and of course Unison Lothian Health Branch, all volunteering their time to ensure the people of Craigmillar had a great day. Thanks also go to Edinburgh Edinburgh trades union council, STUC and of course Derek Durkin, who along with retired Steward Ida Russell had a dream. Yesterday proves dreams come true. Well done to all. SOLIDARITY!!



The most unforgettable experience of my whole life! I was originally very ignorant towards what actually happened in the concentration camps during World War II. I chose not to believe that these atrocities even happened as I knew it would affect me personally and emotionally.

Walking through the gates of Auschwitz-Birkenau that reads "Work Brings Freedom".

It was a very emotional moment for me, my heart was shattered into 1000 pieces walking through the gates, the living/sleeping accommodation, punishment cells, wall of death and gas chambers where these poor people met their death.

I was shocked is an understatement to understand the pain, hurt and murder. one human being can inflict on another. Auschwitz/Birkenau is an important part of history that we all need to learn from.... the horrors! the torture! the murders of these innocent civilians caught up in a conflict.... because of what I personally believe to be is GREED!

I believe that everyone should visit the killing camps of World War II at least once in their life it is important to know how much hurt, murder WAR'S can bring.

Walking the railway tracks leading up to Birkenau is something that I will never forget. I stood on the spot the very spot where the poor people stood who met their death was heartbreaking and very chilling. It's an experience that I will never forget but so so glad I did.

Envisioning family being separated from each other, mums and their children walking into the "gas chambers"

The visit to Oscar's Schindler's factory was outstanding better than I expected.

I thank the branch for giving me this opportunity, I found new friends, ate great polish food and most importantly made memories that I will NEVER forget.

The most humbling harrowing but yet so educational experience ever!

Jacqueline Keddie August 2025



£ Your NHS Your Credit Union £ Your Money

THE BENEFITS OF JOINING THE NHS CREDIT UNION

We believe when it comes to your money, you should be reaping the rewards you deserve.

WE WORK FOR YOU, NOT FOR PROFIT

The NHS Credit Union is a not-for-profit co-operative, owned by its members. Members are the only people that profit from the NHSCU.

Did you know that
25,000 of your
colleagues are already
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LOWER INTEREST RATES

Our interest rates are often much lower than other lenders, and our interest is only charged on the reducing balance – as your loan balance comes down, so does your interest charge.

FLEXIBLE TERMS

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NO HIDDEN FEES

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Sign up and save straight from your pay into your credit union, watch your savings grow and become eligible to borrow.





NHS Credit Union
People Not Profit

FREE SAVINGS AND LOAN PROTECTION

As a member of the NHSCU, you have unique protection provided free in the event of bereavement.



NHSCU HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON YOUR COMMUNITY

The profit we make is invested straight back into your credit union.

We also invest in your NHS communities through our charitable foundation.

Our members, that's you, may also be rewarded with an annual dividend – the icing on the cake.

WE DON'T BELIEVE MEMBERS ARE DEFINED BY THEIR CREDIT SCORE

We understand credit scores don't tell the full story. Every lending decision we make is based on your personal circumstances and what is best for you, not just your credit history.

SAFE HARBOUR, A CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE

NHSCU provides a confidential service to help members take back control of their money, so only you can access it, find out more on our website.

SCAN TO EXPLORE OUR SERVICES

- 1 Open your phone's camera app.
- 2 Point it at the QR code shown here
- 3 Tap the notification to view our website





In January 2024 we launched our new Branch website unisonlothianhealth.org to compliment our X, Facebook and Youtube social media channels

TOGETHER WE RISE IN UNISON

UNISON is Scotland's biggest and liveliest public service trade union, representing workers delivering public services across Scotland.

We represent members, negotiate and bargain on their behalf, campaign for better working conditions and pay, and for public services.

UNISON
Scotland

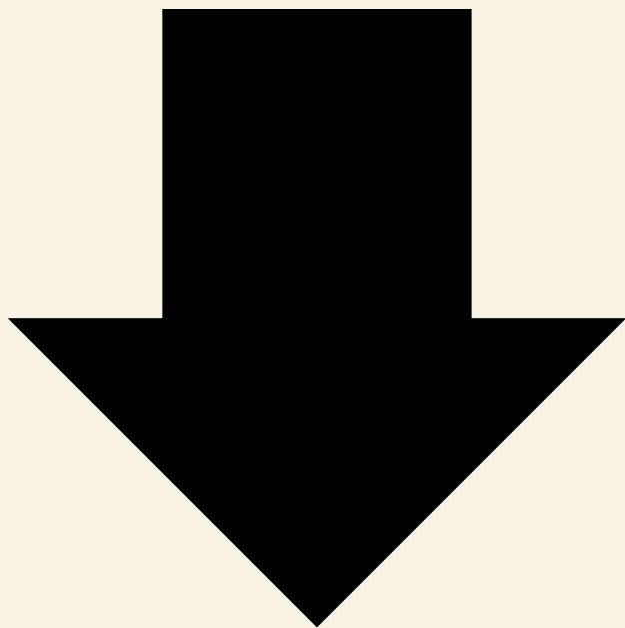
Three simple ways to join UNISON today and get essential cover wherever you work

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for an application form

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