



# MID CHESHIRE HOSPITALS BRANCH

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

AUTUMN 2010

Leighton Hospital, Crewe & Victoria Infirmary, Northwich

UNISON is the UK's largest healthcare trade union - over 400,000 people who work in the NHS and for private contractors providing NHS services are UNISON members. Our health members are nurses, student nurses, midwives, health visitors, healthcare assistants, paramedics, cleaners, porters, catering staff, medical secretaries, clerical and admin staff and scientific and technical staff and every one of them is entitled to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

## YOUR NEWSLETTER!

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email then please email [carol.morgan@mcht.nhs.uk](mailto:carol.morgan@mcht.nhs.uk) From time to time we do receive discounts / offers via email so if anyone is interested in receiving this information by email then please contact Carol Morgan on the above email.



If you are reading this and not a member, then why not join.? You will get the support of a trade union behind you and also get the additional benefits that being a member of Unison entitles you to.

If you have any ideas or suggestions as to what you would like to be included in your newsletter or if you would like to share some news with us please contact Carol or your local Unison Steward.

## NHS PENSION CHOICE

All NHS employees who started paying contributions before April 2008 are now being given the choice to swap to the new pension scheme. Anyone who was aged 50 or above by April 2009 by now will have been asked to collect their personal pension pack from payroll. This contains a personal pension projection plus other information in order to make an informed choice. Your pension is personal to you and therefore only you can decide what is best for you in your circumstances. Your union is unable to advise you which option to choose as we do not know your personal circumstances and what your plans are for your future retirement. Vijaya Krishman is the Trust Pensions Officer and is based in the Payroll Department if you have any queries regarding your pension.



*Autumn has landed!*

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## MID CHESHIRE HOSPITALS BRANCH

### BY TRACY BULLOCK, NEW CEO MCHFT

I am certain that readers will not be aware of how excited I was when writing this article. This is the first article I have produced as the newly appointed Chief Executive of Mid Cheshire Hospitals. In fact, it was also the first thing I wrote on my first day in post. After several gruelling assessments and interviews I was appointed to lead the Trust through what will be inevitable turbulent times. For me this role is more than about being a Chief Executive it is about leaving a legacy. I want to be able to look back on Mid Cheshire to see an organisation that is

sustainable for the next 20 years, that has improved buildings and a reputation for excellence in delivering care.

My experience as a nurse and knowledge of the organisation will ensure decision making is based on providing the very best service and experience for our patients and ensuring staff are engaged throughout. I have worked in the Trust for 4 years now and will build on what I have learned, to provide stability through what are considered to be changes on an unprecedented scale. I

will also continue to build on the excellent relationships that we have with union representatives. There will be difficult decisions ahead and I would like to express my unwavering commitment to Unison readers that there will be transparency, consultation and engagement in all that we do. My overarching legacy will be to listen, learn and lead.



## CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

*Looking for a holiday?  
Why not try the Unison holiday club—discounts available on most major holidays*

The fourth annual Celebration of Achievement Evening is due to take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Nantwich Civic Hall.

Every year this free event has grown in popularity with staff from across the Trust making up the 250 attendees.

Staff from all levels and backgrounds have previously been recognised for their hard work and achievements with the top 3 nominations decided by a mixed panel from staff side and non staff side, clinical and non clinical members.

Nominations for the 2011 event begin early in Novem-

ber with 3 ways to nominate someone:

1 – Fill in a form and place in the boxes located around the Trust

2 – Leave a phone message on x 8118

3 – Send an email to - [celebrate@mcht.nhs.uk](mailto:celebrate@mcht.nhs.uk)

Remember - In these difficult times for the NHS it is more important than ever to recognise the hard work and achievements of our colleagues.

For further information please contact Rachael Hooker on x 3711



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## 10 GOOD REASONS—WHY UNISON IS RIGHT FOR YOU

With more than 1.3 million members working across the public services, being part of Unison means you have the full weight of the UK's leading trade union behind you.



- 1) **You can earn more** year on year, Unison wins pay rises for its members. Average earnings are around 8% higher in unionized workplaces.
- 2) **You're more likely to get equal pay** Unison is campaigning to bring women's pay into line with men's. Workplaces with unison recognition are 20% more likely to have an equal opportunities policy
- 3) **You get more holiday** Unison has won increased leave for many of its members wherever they work
- 4) **You get more and better training** Unison provides courses to help you learn new skills, improve existing ones and develop your career. Since 1994 Unison has won agreements with employers to pay for courses and provide time off for employees to attend them.
- 5) **You get more maternity or parental leave** If you belong to Unison, your employer is more likely to have parental leave policies which are more generous than the statutory minimum.

- 6) **You're less likely to be injured at work** Unison health and safety stewards are trained to minimize the risk of workplace injuries and ensure that employers meet their legal obligations.
- 7) **If you do get injured at work, you'll get better compensation** Unison wins millions in legal compensation for people who are injured or become ill at work. We won over £37 million in 2004 for members and their families.
- 8) **You're less likely to be discriminated against** Unison campaigns for tougher laws to make it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age, disability or sexual orientation. Black and Asian trade unionists earn 32% more than non-unionized colleagues.
- 9) **You can help keep our public services public** Unison campaigns against all forms of privatization, including PFI and foundation hospitals. Where our members have been transferred to the private sector we have won them pay and employment protections.
- 10) **You're less likely to be sacked** Trade union members are only half as likely to be sacked as non members.

*If we work together, our collective strength as Unison members means we can try to improve things in your workplace—Unison gives you a voice and can also provide training & support. You'll be surprised what a difference YOU can make.*

## JOB MATCHING TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Job Matching involves accurately banding a new or changed job covered by Agenda for Change Terms and Conditions.

It is mandatory for the Trust to do this to ensure equal pay for work of equal value. The process involves small panels assessing each job against 16 job factors that have been nationally agreed.

At Mid Cheshire we are currently looking to expand the number of trained staff side job matchers by approximately 4 across the Trust. (a "staff side" person must be a member of a Trade Union)

If you are interested and would like further information, please contact James Baker, Human Resources Manager on 01270 273919 or via e-mail at

[james.baker@mcht.nhs.uk](mailto:james.baker@mcht.nhs.uk)



# Unlimited Three Nights Hotel Break for £9.99



UNISON have teamed up with Silver Fox Promotions to bring you the amazing offer of 'Unlimited Three Nights Accommodation' for two people at one of over 180 Hotels, countrywide for just £9.99!!

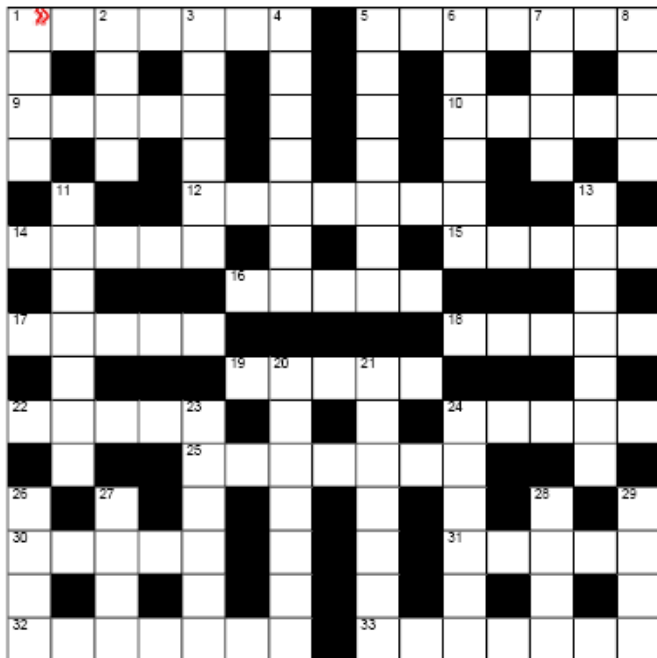
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there is a hotel and destination for everyone...

For further information or to buy your brochure by credit or debit card simply phone the UNISON Hotel Helpline on: **0161 829 3116**

Lines will be open from 8.30am – 5.30pm Mon – Fri. Or if you'd prefer to send a cheque or postal order for £9.99, per brochure, made payable to: Silver Fox Promotions. Please send your full first name, surname, address and postcode to: UNISON Weekend Break Offer, Silver Fox Promotions, PO Box 98, Whitefield, Manchester, M45 7GS



## Across

1. Planned for at academy journalist took measure of (7)
5. In favour of muscovite to make plastic (7)
9. Imagine there's energy in a glass (5)
10. Understand that lame is possibly not what it seems (5)
12. Song to compose with a past (7)
14. Crucial but dignified (5)
15. Relieved about the last of the ideas I forgot (5)
16. Period in the manner of being daily (5)
17. Maintains a poem is not finished (5)
18. Having volunteers in the river is lethal (5)
19. Not great for a collier onr hears (5)
22. Thoughts inside ascetic's head (5)
24. Soprano reaches a note that causes the Parisian to grin (5)
25. Intuition that can be seen apparently (7)
30. Type to be found in the right Arabian country (5)
31. The dark thing is brought about (5)
32. Discovered the doctor in the game first (7)
33. Set one's heart upon having the last of the money brought in (7)

## Down

1. In due course the lawyer has a drink (4)
2. Hurried for cover one hears (4)
3. Indistinct doctor riding a contrary animal (6)
4. Fish the theologian ate to show encouragement (7)
5. Deception of everything in the Football Association of Cyprus (7)
6. Gathering in America. (6)
7. A Russian is the first person at the front (4)
8. Any way up in old money (4)
11. Boast about support over state act (7)
13. Moans, without energy, about everything that happens (7)
20. Otherwise stained (7)
21. Dreary Yank starts to follow tool to produce American dress material (7)
23. Aligns around the beacon (6)
24. Laurel raises the state of poetry (6)
26. Brother of British queen (4)
27. Compiler claims to be associate member of mosque (4)
28. Nega, when aroused, asks for a poetic repeat. (4)
29. Boss the horses it seems (4)

## UNION STEWARDS

Caroline Birch, Unison Secretary	Ext 2023, Finance Department
Mandy Chell, Chair	Assistant practitioner
Nigel Irlam, Welfare Officer	Domestic
Maureen Sproston	Domestic
Alan Sproston, H&S Officer	Porter, via Porter's desk 2356
Carol Morgan	Ext 2015, Postgrad Centre
Adrian Critchely	Catering Department



*Do you know how to get  
in touch with your Union  
Steward?*