

# Welcome to our 1st



## Branch newsletter!

Each issue we'll be focusing on a service that UNISON provides to its members – You'll then see what you can get for your money! This issue we look at the legal services that Thompsons, Unison's solicitors, offer to you.

### Did you know.....

As a UNISON Member you receive:

- Free Legal Advice and representation on:
  - Personal injury at work (including assaults)
  - Personal injury away from work
  - Road traffic accident injury
  - Holiday injury
  - slips and trips
  - Industrial disease or illness
  - Employment law accessed through your UNISON branch

### Free Legal advice for:

Any non-work issues such as landlord disputes, neighbourhood disputes, matrimonial and consumer issues

Free Wills

Criminal Law representation (for work-related matters)

### Your family can receive cover for:

- Accidents outside of work
- Free legal advice and representation for any personal injury away from work, including while on holiday, and including road traffic accidents
- Wills and conveyancing
- Reduced rates for wills and conveyancing
- Clinical Negligence
- Special terms for clinical negligence

**UNISON** wins over £26 million each year for members who suffer personal injuries. Our expert solicitors, Thompsons, have achieved high satisfaction ratings from members who have used the service

### Recent settlements from Oldham Local Government Branch . . . . .

**Received £5000** Member assaulted by a service user

**Received £6000** Member developed carpal tunnel syndrome and vibration white finger whilst employed as a road worker

**Received £2000** Member tripped over a box left in the works kitchen

**Received £2350** Member slipped at work

**Received £4000** Member injured in a road traffic accident when his vehicle was hit from behind

**Received £2300** Member struck by work equipment

**Welcome** to our first issue of Unison Oldham Local Government Branch's Newsletter which will give us the opportunity to let you know what is happening within your local branch of UNISON. We cover UNISON members working for OMBC, Unity Partnership, FCHO, OCL and many other organisations. Our branch office staff consist of Ann Mitchell (Branch Secretary), Wendy Bradbury (Branch Chair), Tracy Delaney (Young Members Officer/Chair), Andrea Mellor (Branch Manager) and Joanne Humphreys (Branch Office Assistant). Our aim is to have a steward in every workplace so please contact the Branch office if you are interested in getting involved as a Steward or even a workplace contact. You will be provided with the necessary training and support. We welcome all nominations!

We do our best to support our members in terms of advice and representation. If you need help contact the Branch Office on **0161 770 4008** and ask for a contact number for your Steward within your workplace.



## STRIKE FOR FAIR PAY

16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> July 2008

A big thank you to all members who supported the 2 day strike in July. The employers have agreed to re-open negotiations and look at a range of issues including pay. Talks were due to begin on 13<sup>th</sup> August.

Featured in our photo are Yvonne Cleary, Karen O'Brien and Cath Kirk picketing at Royton Town Hall. Our thanks also to Michelle Buckley who joined the picket during the day.

## MP's Challenge!

UNISON challenged North West MP's to join staff on the front line to get a better picture of the difficult and often dirty jobs that our members do every day- often for less than £6.50 an hour. Michael Meacher took up the challenge and spent time at Oldham Sports Centre as a leisure attendant, cleaning and assembling equipment. He accepted the task to show how strongly he feels about low pay.

## SSDP

We are currently embarking on consultations re: Phase 2 about which we have great concerns. We will be endeavouring to ensure that any contractual obligations have safeguards built in to safeguard our members.

Obviously the Union's negotiating position is the greater, the greater the level of our membership. So if you have colleagues who are not members of UNISON please try and recruit them!

## Young Members

Hi everyone

My name is Tracy Delaney and I'm the Young Members Officer for the Oldham Local Government Branch currently on a full time secondment to the branch office, my actual job is a Pool Lifeguard so this role is quite a change but one I'm enjoying and learning a lot from. Since being in the branch I have attended a Young Members weekend in Glasgow in May and enjoyed several Young Members nights out/events with the North West Regional Young Members, all these events are open to all young members of UNISON which is a good way to socialise and meet new people from the region. Any one wanting to get more involved and take part or for some more info e-mail me on

[tdelaneyunison@aol.com](mailto:tdelaneyunison@aol.com)

Anyway as you are all aware I'm currently organising a night out for all young members in the Oldham Branch to go 10 pin bowling so I would like to thank those who replied and will get more info out to you shortly, anyone who didn't reply but now wishes to you can e-mail your details on the above e-mail address.

Just a thought - to be a Young Member you have to be under the age of 27!!!!



## Give us a name!

To celebrate the launch of our first issue of our Branch newsletter we are giving you the opportunity to WIN £30.00 of Town Centre Shopping vouchers! Simply think of a name for the Newsletter and submit to the Unison Branch Office, 16 Manchester Chambers, Manchester Street, Oldham, OL1 1LF. Alternatively email us on [UnisonOldhamLG@aol.com](mailto:UnisonOldhamLG@aol.com).



As a member of UNISON you are entitled to several discounts. We have recently negotiated with local businesses and intend to negotiate with many more businesses in the future.

Quote your UNISON membership number at any of the businesses listed to receive your 10% discount.

**WIN**

Abbey Interiors  
Kitchens & Bedrooms  
76-82 Miles Street,  
Derker, Oldham,  
OL1 3PJ  
Tel: 0161 652 5228

M.H Tiling  
All your tiling  
needs  
Tel: 07752559135

## Job Evaluation

A joint communication has been released by Oldham MBC, UNISON, GMB and UNITE Trade unions. This explains where the process for JE is up to and why there has been a delay in the release of any information to employees. OMBC and Trade unions are working closely together to check that scores are accurate with the information that was provided.

We want to avoid the situation that has occurred in Bury and which has received intense publicity through the Media.

If you do not have access to the Council intranet and would like a copy of the joint communication please contact the branch office.

Unison aims to involve its members in identifying issues, finding solutions and dealing with problems and there is a direct link between bargaining strength and the proportion of employees who are UNISON members. We are always looking for new stewards – we need more representatives to reflect different sections and departments. Why not nominate someone in your workplace – or indeed yourself? You could be a Health & Safety Rep, Steward – or why not a Learner Rep who are the champions of learning in the workplace. Not sure? Contact the Branch Office for more details on 0161 770 4008 or return the tear off slip below.

Name:.....

Workplace:.....

Tel:.....

Steward

Health & Safety Rep

Learner Rep

Please complete the slip, tick the appropriate box if you are interested in getting involved and return the slip to the address below and we will contact you as soon as possible.

**Unison Branch Office, 16 Manchester Chambers, Manchester Street, Oldham, OL1 1LF**