

Barnsley *matters*

Ladywood Primary School Victory



You may be aware that UNISON members at Ladywood Primary school in Grimethorpe have been taking strike action since 12 September over the school's proposal to make all 9 SMSAs (dinner ladies) redundant.

After 11 weeks of industrial action involving SMSAs, Teaching Assistants and Higher Level Teaching Assistants an agreement has been reached which avoids any redundancies due to expected natural staff turnover and saves all 9 dinner ladies' jobs. The strike has therefore been ended and UNISON members returned to work on 29th November.

The members have received fantastic support from individuals, branches and all levels of the union as well as other trade unions and organisations. Sadly there was one notable exception – the GMB actively worked against us and sought to represent the interests of members that they recruited during our industrial action. Despite the GMB confirming their support for the school's proposal our members have been victorious.

We commend the Ladywood members for their courageous stance in defence of their jobs and those of their colleagues.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the strike – the messages

of support and solidarity have really made a difference in keeping the members' spirits up. Particular thanks are owed to our UNISON regional staff, Robin and Jordan for their determination throughout the dispute to get the best outcome for our members.

We are often asked what is the point of joining a union, hopefully this will demonstrate to those who are in any doubt, the value of trade union membership and solidarity amongst workers and what we can achieve by supporting one another.

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UnisonBarnsley

Busy Year for Barnsley Branch

November was designated by UNISON as Grovember – a month dedicated to growing the union. In Barnsley Branch, we've been busy recruiting all year as well as November. So far this year we've recruited over 400 new members – a 50% increase on 2017 – as well as ten new stewards (reps), a health and safety rep, learning rep and two new young members' officers. A big thank you to everyone who has been involved in recruitment this year!



Stars in Our Schools

The branch celebrated Stars in Our School in style this November, making visits to schools across the borough to hand out gift packs and talk to members, the photo shows UNISON members at the Dearne ALC.

At Penistone Grammar School on 25th November there was a fantastic celebration and a superb presentation on the many and diverse ways in which associate staff at PGS ensure students have access to an excellent education.

The local MP presented special recognition awards to staff who had been nominated by colleagues. Thanks to all schools and members who took part and particular thanks to our UNISON Local Organisers, Parveen and Richard for their meticulous planning and hard work in November and throughout the year.

We are pleased to announce the prize draw winners are:

- **Rosalyn Cale:**
Silkstone Primary School – £50
- **Ann Lacey:**
Gooseacre Primary Academy – £25
- **Maxine Bailey:**
Mapplewell Primary School – £15

FOCUS ON YOUNG MEMBERS

Introducing Our Branch Young Members' Officers



“ Hi, I'm Amber. I'm 23 and studying to be a teacher in the lifelong learning sector while working at Northern College. I was a Young Carer up until the age of 21 and this has given me an insight on the inequalities that plague the public sector along with a wish to campaign towards fairness. I have two dogs who I love to be outdoors with and I like classic literature. ”



“ Alex here! I work for Barnsley Council as a Contracts Officer. I play saxophone and badminton lots. I did a degree in Spanish, Portuguese and Catalan and lived in Barcelona and Rio de Janeiro. Went to Kings College London to infiltrate the bourgeoisie from within ;) I used to be a Spanish teacher – hated it, then I worked in Spanish property for a year. ”

Young Members Event – 5th December



The branch held a social event at Barnsley Town Hall for young members. Alex and Amber, the Young Members Officers held a discussion around issues currently experienced by younger workers such as opportunities for training and pressures arising from insecure work. There was

also a quiz and a buffet. We're looking at running another event in the spring and are very keen to hear from young members about what sort of things you'd like us to organise. You can contact Alex and Amber on alexheeley@unisonbarnsleylg.org and amber@unisonbarnsleylg.org

UNISON National Leadership School

Congratulations to UNISON Convenor and Branch Chairperson, **April Pepper** who has recently completed the UNISON National Leadership School, which aims to develop future leaders of our union. As well as developing a project to engage and increase membership of new young workers, April was really inspired listening to one of the guest speakers, **Angela Rayner MP**, Shadow Education Secretary and also a UNISON member who spoke passionately about leadership and how she had left school with no qualifications having been told she would never amount to anything. After becoming a UNISON rep for her fellow care workers, she had gained the confidence to go back to college. Her story is an excellent example of what our members can achieve through education.



Angela Rayner MP with April Pepper