

inclusivelearning

e-bulletin/July 2018

Hello.

We have football, tennis, heat and fun to enjoy this summer. And the fun does not necessarily stop there: if you think about it, any learning activity can be shaped with some fun.

In this edition, we illustrate how learning benefits all in a number of ways, as our new RLDO Louise Barter explains from the South East. Whether it's through creative writing, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) or dementia awareness, our learning representatives can really help build networks of support and opportunities for all.



JESS HURD/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK

Martin Russo, Inclusive Learning Project Manager

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WEST BERKSHIRE MEMBER WINS UNISON WRITING COMPETITION

West Berkshire Branch member James Gore has won UNISON's very first writing competition, with his short story Conservative Party Conference 2050.

The judges were Genevieve Clarke from The Reading Agency, UNISON ULR Andrew Jennison, UNISON staff member Kathleen Jowitt (an award-winning author herself) and unionlearn's Kirsi Kekki.

They said that reading all the entries was a real treat and choosing the final six was a difficult process with a dozen entries of very high quality – but James's entry was the one that made it onto all four of their final shortlists.

James's story roused the audience to laughter and applause when Learning And Workforce Development Officer Clair Hawkins read it out at the Learning and Organising Services fringe meeting at National Delegate Conference.

The remaining shortlisted entries were:

- Petrichor by Rachael Bate (Chester Branch), the only entry with a non-human narrator, imagining the whole of life as a learning experience
- A Different Class by Kenneth Cowell (Newcastle Branch), a chillingly dystopian vision of what learning might look like in the future
- A Teacher Prepares by Colin Gardiner (Islington Local Government Branch), a personal account, with real compassion and humanity
- Learning – a love story by John Ingleson (Leeds Teaching Hospitals Branch), a funny, tender and brilliant illustration of all sorts of different learning
- There, Inside Of Me by Joanna Ryan (Wiltshire and Avon Health Branch), the one poem on the shortlist, using energy, anger and generosity to explore returning to learning later in life.

For further information contact: 020 7121 5116



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Dementia action

UNISON Newcastle City Branch was once again this year actively involved in Dementia Action Week, the annual awareness-raising campaign in May that aims to encourage action to improve the lives of people living with dementia.

On day two of the week, which ran from 21 to 27 May, the branch piloted a new course on Dementia and Delirium in conjunction with the Trade Union Education Centre and followed this by providing distance learning accredited courses on the subject too.

In addition, the branch ran a UNISON Learning stall at the Grainger Market as part of a large event organised by Newcastle City Council, where it was one of 11 stalls.

"We have been very active about taking the issue of dementia forward," says Branch Education Coordinator Wendy Aitman.

"We received many enquires at the large event about our course from those attending and other stall holders too – and we even recruited a new steward."



Meet Louise

Louise Barter is taking on the role of Regional Learning and Development Organiser (RLDO) in the South East, to help develop a structured and systematic approach to learning and organising in the region.

Over the past four years, while she has been working as a local organiser with branches in the private sector and in local government, Louise has seen first-hand how learning effectively engages members, non-members and employers.

"Everyone gets something out of learning: members see the union in a positive light, non-members join because they didn't know we do this and employers like it because we're offering their staff training," Louise says.

Initially, Louise will be working with around eight branches in the west of the region, offering courses in English, maths, digital skills and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to help them stay on top of rapid changes in the world of work.

To get in touch with Louise about learning in your branch, please email l.barter@unison.co.uk



ESOL trial

A new one-year funding trial should make it easier to organise workplace classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for the first time the government removed ESOL funding for people in work in 2011.

The one-year trial, which starts next month, enables learning providers to draw down funding from the Adult Education Budget to provide more learning opportunities for low-income workers, including low-wage ESOL learners (earning less than £15,736.50 annual gross salary).

This funding trial presents a good opportunity for ULRs who are interested in supporting ESOL learning in the workplace to raise it with their branch, employer and potential learning providers, including the Workers' Educational Association (WEA), local colleges and adult education services.

To find out more about how UNISON can support workplace ESOL learning, take a look at <https://learning.unison.org.uk/branch-education-team/support/esol/>.

Or for more information and support, contact the Education team Learning and Organising Services on c.hawkins@unison.co.uk.

For further information contact: 020 7121 5116



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