



THE ARGYLL & BUTE GADABOUT



REDUNDANCY
HEALTH & SAFETY

PENSIONS
TUPE
COMMUNICATIONS
EDUCATION



VOTE YES X TO PROTECT YOUR PENSION

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Your pension is under threat

Your pension is under attack. Not because your pension scheme is unaffordable, or even because people are living longer – it's to pay for the deficit caused by an irresponsible banking system.

That's why we're asking you to vote for strike action to protect your pension.

UK Ministers have already **cut** the value of your pension when you retire **by around 15%** by changing the way inflation is measured from RPI to CPI.

Following a strong campaign by UNISON members, the Scottish Ministers have said they will not impose the UK Minister's plan to increase contributions by an average of 50% - and we welcome that.

However, they have not given us clear assurances that other changes, initiated by UK Ministers, will not happen in the Local Government Pension Scheme in Scotland. These include:

- Working longer so that by 2020 you'll need to be 66 to collect your pension – and this is going to rise to 68 later.
- Changing the way pension benefits are calculated so you will get a smaller pension on retirement.

This affects council workers, SEPA and other NDPBs, Scottish Water, police staffs, school workers, members in the community and voluntary sector, people working in higher and further education – and many more.

These are the very same public service workers suffering a pay freeze, redundancies, cuts in pay and conditions and cuts in the services they deliver. This attack on your pension is the final straw. We need to take a stand across the UK to say enough is enough.

Vote YES to protect your pension.

We need a big YES vote and a big turnout – for your future.

A big YES vote will give UNISON the power to call for a campaign of industrial action, leading off with a planned one-day strike on 30 November.

A big YES vote will mean that together we can campaign to put pressure on Ministers to think again.

So make sure you vote – and vote YES. And urge your colleagues in UNISON to do the same. And if they're not in UNISON, get them to join – together we are stronger, together we can win.

Find out more.....

UNISON IS COMING TO A WORKPLACE NEAR YOU!

MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER—ISLE OF MULL—10AM - 4PM

TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER—ISLE OF ISLAY - 10AM - 4PM

TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER—ISLE OF BUTE— 10AM - 4PM

WEDNESDAY 19TH OCTOBER—ISLE OF BUTE 10AM—2PM

THURSDAY 20TH OCTOBER—OBAN—10AM TILL 4PM

FRIDAY 21ST OCTOBER—HELENSBURGH - 11am - 4pm

TUESDAY 25TH OCTOBER—ISLE OF TIREE - 10am—4pm

WEDNESDAY 26TH OCTOBER—ISLE OF TIREE - 10am - 4pm

PUB QUIZ 26TH OCTOBER - THE TIREE LODGE HOTEL—
7pm to 9pm

MONDAY 31ST OCTOBER—DUNOON - 10am - 4pm

PUB QUIZ 31ST OCTOBER - THE LORNE BAR IN
DUNOON - 7PM -9PM

TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER—CAMPBELTOWN 10am - 4pm

PUB QUIZ 1ST NOVEMBER - THE WHITE HART HOTEL IN
CAMPBELTOWN - 7pm-9pm

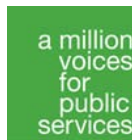
WEDNESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER—LOCHGILPHEAD - 11am-4pm

UNISON Branch Officers and Stewards will visit as many workplaces as possible during the road shows. If you miss us but want to get in touch please find contact details for the branch on the next page.

Also we are having a few pub quizzes in a few places so please come along and join in for your chance to win a prize!!



Who's Who In the Argyll & Bute Branch



UNISON campaigning for a fairer society
unison.org.uk/million

Name	Position	Email	Phone No
Kevin McIntosh	Branch Chair	tucker.mcintosh@btinternet.com	07770 308 064
Marion Power	Branch Secretary	marionfpower@btinternet.com	07717 686 441
Moira Smith	Branch Treasurer	ms009e2361@blueyonder.co.uk	07717 686 442
Catriona Graham	Service & Conditions Officer	catriona53@btinternet.com	07990 538 597
Jim Lamb	Education Officer	jimlambam@yahoo.co.uk	07770 308 065
Mary Watt	Health & Safety Officer	john.watt@blueyonder.co.uk	07585 903 684
Patricia Slater	Communications Officer	patricialambam@yahoo.co.uk	07584 390 871
David Sinclair	Branch Officer	david.sinclair42@btinternet.com	
Angela Bremner Allison	Welfare Officer	bremnerallison@btinternet.com	01700 504 834
Sue Penny	International Officer	apenny@waitrose.com	
Deborah Wicks	Minutes Secretary	deborahwicks@btinternet.com	07990 883 688

Every UNISON member has the right:

- to seek help on matters relating to their employment
- to be treated with respect and integrity
- to be helped by a UNISON representative who has been trained as an Accredited Representative under the Employment Relations Act 1999
- to understand that no action or representation will be made on the member's behalf without that member's agreement
- to expect confidentiality unless otherwise agreed.

In the workplace, every UNISON member has the right:

- to seek advice about workplace problems, and representation as appropriate
- to receive help from UNISON to ensure their employer gives them a fair hearing.

UNISON members wishing advice or representation should:

Contact one of the UNISON Branch Officers on the above list or alternatively e-mail marionfpower@btinternet.com

- * Members will be provided with a contact number for the Steward or Branch Officer who will be allocated their case.
- * Members will be provided with a branch CASE form that they should complete with their contact details and a brief outline of their issue/case.
- * If the member is calling looking for representation at a meeting/hearing in short order they will be asked to cancel that date and rearrange a mutually suitable date and time with their Steward/Branch Officer.
- * The member should arrange to send their completed CASE form to the Steward/Branch Officer

Meet Your Branch Chair— Kevin MacIntosh



Hi I am Kevin and I am the UNISON Argyll & Bute Acting Branch Chair. For the last 17 years I have been employed in the post of Roads Inspector / Clerk of Works. I have been active in the trade union for 11 years. I first became involved in the trade union to play a part in helping to safeguard members rights. Also to assist and represent members at hearings, appeals etc. Juggling work, home life and trade union duties can be at times very challenging but also very satisfying.

I look forward to meeting past, future and present members and stewards on our workplace road shows in October.

Our strength is our membership!



A MILLION VOICES FOR PUBLIC SERVICES



GET ON COURSE WITH UNISON ARGYLL AND BUTE BRANCH

R2L

Return to Learn

If you can spare the time and have some basic writing and reading skills, then you should give it a go.

The main things you'll need to put into R2L are time, energy, and commitment to doing some work on your own and in your own time. This will involve a few hours independent study each week over a period of six to eight months, arranging this yourself around your other commitments.

You will work with your tutor and other learners and have a go at a range of educational activities including:

- how to study
- note taking
- researching
- Problem solving with numbers
- analysing information.

UNISON members in Argyll and Bute will soon be able to take part in an exciting new learning programme.

UNISON is working in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council's Community Learning and Development Service to allow members to take part in a wide range of courses from Computing, all levels, Art and Craft Techniques such as Jewellery Making, Baking, Mediterranean Cooking, Confidence Building Psychology, Reading and Writing Skills, to mention just a few.

A successful pilot scheme ran in Oban in 2009, and will now be rolled out to other areas including Oban, Mid Argyll, Helensburgh, Dunoon, and Campbeltown.

Courses will be free to Unison members through the branch's education programme, and members will take part with people from the wider community.

For more information on courses running in your area, contact:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Phone No</u>
Elsbeth Pollock	Helensburgh	01436 658 740
Patricia Slater	Oban	01631 562 466
Kirsty Simpson	Mid Argyll	01546 604 750
Tracy Chambers	Campbeltown	01586 552 732
Rhona Grant	Dunoon	01369 704 669
Jim Lamb	UNISON	07770 308 065



Responsible Social Networking

The creation of online social network sites like Facebook, Twitter Bebo and now Google+ has brought many benefits to people. Besides establishing important social relationships, social networking members can share their interests with other like minded members by joining groups and forums. All very positive!

However the next time you're about to up load pictures of your birthday party, night on the town, a football match bash pr your having a good time after six pints of lager, onto your Facebook profile, think about what might happen.

You may have had a bad day at work, the boss has had a word, you missed that promotion and you feel like the world should know how you feel Think carefully before you do it.

Although we all use Facebook, Twitter, Google+ or other social networking sites to keep in contact with friends, work mates and family, remember these are not the only people who can see them!

You would be surprised who can view your profile!

Think before you click!!



UNISON Welfare is our own unique registered charity.

We are aware of the pressures UNISON members face on a daily basis and can provide support at times of unforeseen financial difficulty such as redundancy, bereavement, illness or relationship breakdown.

Unison Welfare can offer

- Support
- Confidential Advice
- Financial Assistance

UNISON Welfare



UNISON Welfare is exclusively for UNISON members and their dependants at times of special need.

If you need more information please contact your branch welfare officer Angela Bremner Allison on 01700 504 834 or email: bremnerallison@btinternet.com



YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £50!!



unison.org.uk/million

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP RECORD UP TO DATE?

It is very important that we hold up to date records for our members.

Strike action planned by UNITE failed as the employer—British Airways—were able to legally challenge the validity of their strike ballot. British Airways claimed that UNITE had issued ballot papers to the wrong address and also to members who were no longer British Airways employees.

With imminent challenges against public sector reform ahead, UNISON want to ensure that no ballot of ours is contestable. Here at the Argyll & Bute Branch, we are particularly keen to make sure that it is not our database which brings down the action of the entire union!

PLEASE HELP BY COMPLETING THE FORM BELOW AND RETURNING FORM TO:

UNISON Argyll & Bute Branch, 3 First Avenue, Dumbarton G82 2PU or scan to - ms009e2361@blueyonder.co.uk.

2 X £50 to be won!



All you have to do is complete the form below and return it to UNISON Argyll & Bute Branch, 3 First Avenue, Dumbarton G82 2PU or scan to ms009e2361@blueyonder.co.uk.

Alternatively if you see us touring your workplace on the dates stated on the front page just give it to one of us and we will put it into the draw.

All entries must reach the office BEFORE Monday 31st October 2011.

Don't worry if you don't include your membership number we will find you but **we will need all other information completed!**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE FORM

Membership No: D.O.B

Name:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Email: Mobile:

Job Title:..... Department:

Workplace: Address:

.....

Please complete and return to UNISON Argyll & Bute Branch, 3 First Avenue, Dumbarton G82 2PU. To be entered into the prize draw your completed form must reach the UNISON Office before Friday 28th October 2011.

