

Educate & Motivate

Welcome to the Winter Edition of our Regional Education Newsletter – Educate and Motivate.

Why not join our e-mail network?

We have a regional e-mail network of ULRs, Branch Education Co-ordinators, Life-Long Learning Co-ordinators and members who want to be kept up to-date with learning. The network helps us to promote what is available; including courses, conferences and other events, also what our partners have to offer, such as discounts and free courses for UNISON members. If you would like to be added to this network, so that you can find out what is available and to promote with your work colleagues please e-mail us at: unionsweducation@unison.co.uk

Learning at Work Week 2020

This year Learning at Work Week was launched online. The first time we have ever run an online learning week here in the region. We organised a range of learning offers with each hour holding a different option from bitesize tasters to positive posture workshops. In total the region offered 20 learning options. After a nail-biting start of whether Zoom would work the events all went well and we had 50 learners join us! Thank you to all the providers, members and team who helped to make this happen! If you would like to run an event during learning at work week next year 17-23rd May 2021 in your workplace or with your branch let us know.



Union Learning Representative (ULR) role – the importance of learning and union learning

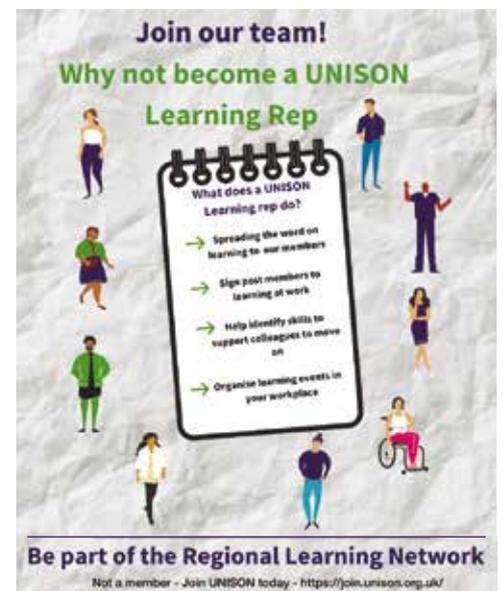
Would you be interested in volunteering in your workplace to help us spread the word about union learning?

If you have an interest in learning, enjoy helping colleagues and are the 'go to' person in your workplace then the Union Learning Representative (ULR) could be the ideal role for you.

You can give as much or as little time as you wish; ULRs have a statutory right to reasonable time off to undertake the role, which includes time off for your own training, (three-day ULR training, plus follow on courses and events), you can be part of a great network in the region, your workplace and your branch.

You can find out more about the ULR role here: <https://learning.unison.org.uk/branch-education-team/ulrs/> where you will also find an e-note to complete.

Due to Covid-19 we haven't been able to run classroom learning so we are looking to run an online option for new union learning reps in the new year. Sign up now to reserve your place.



Regional learning survey released

Our first regional learning survey launches in December!

Surveys have been sent out via email to those members who we have email addresses for. Within this newsletter you will also find a paper copy of the survey that you can return via post, to your local rep or using our FREEPOST envelope – Enter and be part of our prize draw.

Prizes include:

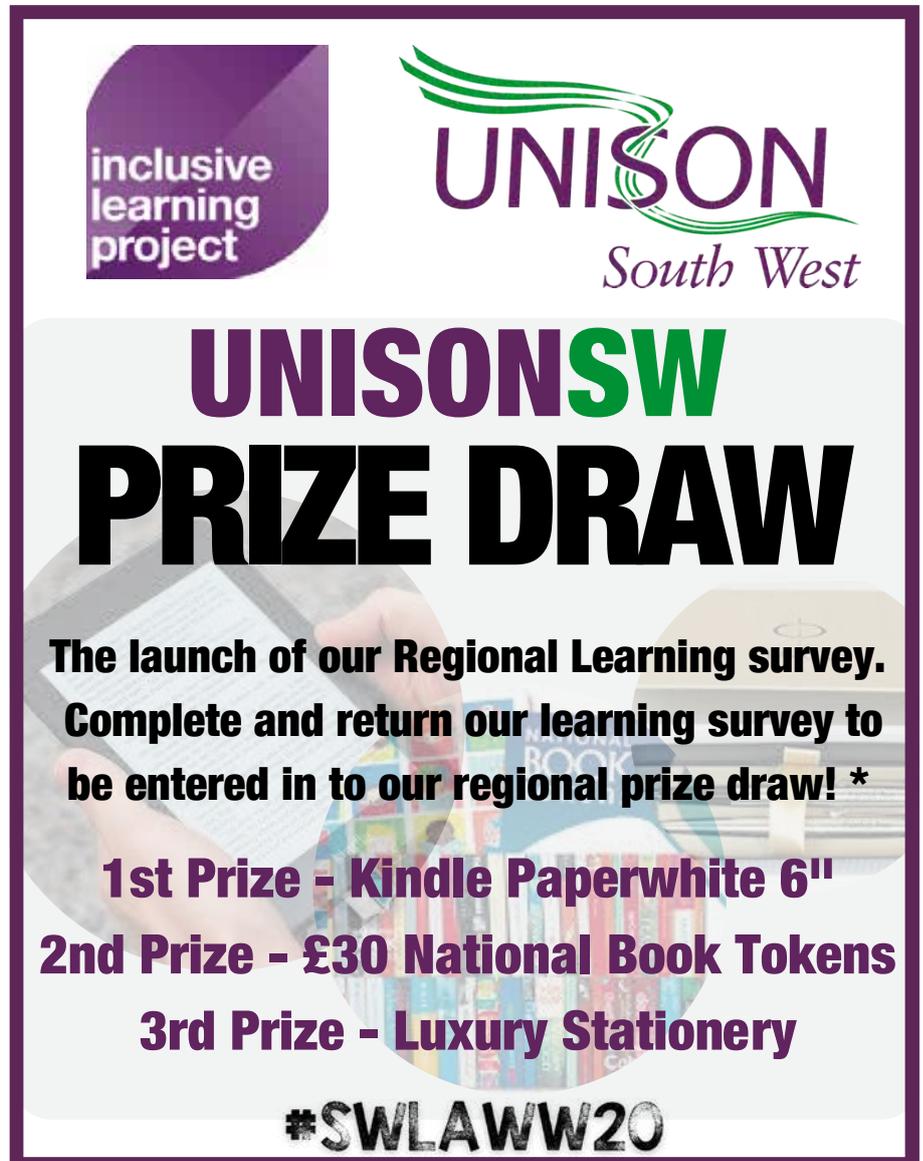
- 1st – Kindle Paperwhite 6”
- 2nd – £30 National Book Tokens
- 3rd – Luxury Stationery

We all know that this year has been very different. Here at the Education and Equalities Team we haven't been able to get out to workplaces, meet with our reps or speak to you, the member directly about what learning could support you. We really want to know what learning to add to our programme for 2021. Our Regional Learning survey will only take a few minutes of your time and all surveys returned will be entered into our prize draw.

Keep up-to-date

We have created a regional mailing list purely to update our members on current learning offers. Offers include Open University courses and discounts, The Skills Academy and many more. Contact us: unionsweducation@unison.co.uk

Keep your email / mobile details up-to-date via *Myunison*:
www.unison.org.uk/my-unison/



The graphic features the 'inclusive learning project' logo on the left and the 'UNISON South West' logo on the right. The central text reads 'UNISON SW PRIZE DRAW' in large, bold letters. Below this, it says 'The launch of our Regional Learning survey. Complete and return our learning survey to be entered in to our regional prize draw! *'. The prizes are listed as: '1st Prize - Kindle Paperwhite 6"', '2nd Prize - £30 National Book Tokens', and '3rd Prize - Luxury Stationery'. At the bottom, the hashtag '#SWLAWW20' is displayed. The background of the graphic shows a person's hands holding a survey form over a bookshelf.

* For all South West members. Closing date 18th Jan 2021. Prize Draw 20th Jan 2021.



SW_EduEqual



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Equality Webinars for UNISON Activists



Karen Williams Regional Organiser (Womens & Equalities) has hosted a number of webinars for Activists on a range on subjects including Unconscious bias, racism in the workplace and maternity rights. Would you be interested in becoming more active as an Equality rep or want more information of our self organised groups? Go to – southwest.unison.org.uk/equality/

Save Union Learning!

Help support us to stop the cuts to Union learning

UNISON has always had a proud tradition of providing learning opportunities for our members.

The Union Learning Fund allowed us to extend our reach to non-members as well, meaning that we could help thousands more public services workers improve their skills and knowledge.

In councils, schools, hospitals, call centres, universities, to name only a few of the plethora of workplaces the Union Learning Fund reaches, union members and non-members alike have benefited. Subjects as fundamental as English, maths, and IT open doors that may have remained locked since a worker left school.

These opportunities are life-changing for those workers. An event supported by the Union Learning Fund can start a journey that might lead to a worker returning to education, becoming eligible for promotion, or even being able to read a bedtime story to their



children for the first time. We all win when the people who deliver the public services that we all rely on have the skills they need to do their jobs, are happy and fulfilled at work, and have the opportunity to develop themselves and reach their full potential.

That's why we're joining the TUC's campaign and urging all our members to speak up in support of union learning.

- Help us to fight against unionlearn funding cuts by the government
- Join the campaign by signing and sharing the petition
- Share the stories with us on how Union learning has supported you, your colleagues or fellow members
- Write a letter to your MP – we can help with a template.

Sign the petition:
www.megaphone.org.uk/petitions/uk-gov-don-t-cut-union-learning

Learning Offers 2021

The first quarter of our new 2021 programme will be available online. More information and booking can be found in our new programme or via our website. Here's what ahead:

Working with our learning affiliates we cant wait to offer the following options:

Coping with change

Thursdays 28th January, 4th February, 11th February 18:30-20:30

Interview and presentation skills

Wednesdays 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th March 18:00-20:00

Mindfulness Tasters with Mindfulness UK

Tuesday 23rd February 16:00-18:00
 Tuesday 30th March 18:00-20:00

To keep up to date with our learning offers head to our webpage:

<https://southwest.unison.org.uk/member-learning/>

Or social media:

www.facebook.com/unionsweducationandequalities/

https://twitter.com/SW_EduEqual



Summary of the year so far

Member Learning in the South West – Learning through a pandemic

Moving to an all online programme was a challenge but also meant we could reach the whole region with many different offers, collectively learning as a whole region.

From Mental Health Awareness courses, Schools member learning on covid in classrooms to Your Skills, Your Future we have seen a variety of learning opportunities capture members attention from all sectors of the union's membership.

We have missed our classroom sessions but feel we have offered an exciting alternative learning programme for members in the South West.

The launch of our new social media platforms has helped to advertise our courses and increase reach via our education networking mailing list. So please keep sharing our links so we can reach further around the region.

One of our biggest successes has to be Learning at Work Week – 50 learners (20 sessions held 5-9th October, power hours and bitesize learning). Full article on front page.

The Union Learning Fund project really supports the team to boost not just learning offers for members but to embed an organised approach. Carol is an asset to the team and supports organising with learning. Carol's project has seen her engage with members to include:

- Offer of Skills Academy – during April - August – 113 registered with 224 courses completed (all CPD accredited) – with additional promotion to advertise the ULR role
- 2 new potential digital champions
- Attended regional events (women's conference 2019 for example) and spoken to attendees and members in branches with 60 new leads to talk to members about the ULR role
- Pre covid – New staff on induction days (eg. Weston Hospital) before lockdown
- Classroom learning drop ins – have spoken to members on courses about the ULR role and member learning
- Created leaflets to advertise learning offers to schools members
- Worked with two branches in Exeter who wanted a ULR course as between them 15 new potential ULRs.

Carol regularly updates our Education network of reps with biweekly mailshots.

These updates are sent out on learning offers with news on new opportunities for learning, where we have seen the network encouraging their members to take up online learning with our affiliated companies inc The Skills

Academy, the Open University and CRUSE bereavement care.

The year so far in numbers...

- 11** Different Learning offers all facilitated online via TEAMS / Zoom or GoTO Meeting.
- 156** Learners April – October
- 10** New ULRs recruited and awaiting training
- 180** An increased mailing network from 50 – 180 members

In a time where learning may have taken a back seat due to a time of pandemic, uncertainty and change we are proud that the offer has been well received and we look forward to 2021 where we can continue to offer learning and build our networks in the Super South West.

Natalie Chadwick
Regional Learning & Development Organiser

Carol Thyer
Local Organiser Union Learning Fund