

Spotlight on Modern Apprentices



RMT Project Worker, Dan Henderson, was on hand to support CalMac Apprentices Sean Hunter and Chris Burton when they were invited to the Scottish Parliament to talk to MSPs during Trade Union Week. Sean and Chris were among 10 apprentices employed by CalMac last year in a joint initiative with the RMT learning project in the Highlands and Islands. Scottish Union Learning Manager, Sylvia O'Grady, said: "The RMT has worked closely with CalMac to successfully introduce Modern Apprenticeships and supports the delivery of learning into the maritime industry."

The Scottish Parliament event was organised by Scottish Union Learning during Trade Union Week to highlight the work that unions are doing to tackle equality issues within Modern Apprenticeships in Scotland. Several apprentices from a range of sectors spoke with prominent Scottish politicians about their experiences at work, including Scottish Labour Party Leader, Johann Lamont, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Mike Russell, and First Minister Alex Salmond. Johann Lamont said: "My father was at sea all his life and worked as a carpenter on the Mallaig to Skye ferry and the King George V cruise ship when I was growing up. Initiatives like the CalMac apprenticeship scheme provide the industry with an injection of youth, energy and talent, which helps to ensure that vital skills are preserved, allowing it to continue playing an important role in Scotland's future."

In brief...

H&I ULR Conference: 13th June 2014

The 7th Scottish Union Learning Highlands and Islands ULR Conference will be held on Friday, 13th June 2014. ULRs will shortly receive more details. The STUC Highlands & Islands Conference will follow on Saturday, 14th June. Please note: you must have the permission of your union to attend STUC events.

Green Light for H&I Learning Projects

The Development Fund bids from UNISON, RMT and NUJ have been approved, allowing the unions to continue their Highlands and Islands learning projects in 2014-2015.

Inverness Trades Council Events

Trade unionists will meet on Monday 28th April at Inverness Town House from 12.30 - 1.30 pm to mark **Workers Memorial Day** and hear speakers commemorate the many workers who have died in the workplace. Refreshments provided by Highland Council.

May Day is on 3rd May – trade unionists wishing to take part should meet at Inverness Castle at 10.45 am. Contact Ken Macmillan at ken.macmillan444internet.com or Fraser Parr at fraser.parr@googlemail.com for more information.

A Fond Farewell to Philippa after a Lifetime of Activism

After a 38-year career devoted to trade unionism and politics, UNISON's Philippa Clark recently decided to retire: "to make more time for all the things I want to do." Philippa was a UNISON Lifelong Learning Field Worker for six years and was committed to bringing learning opportunities to women and low paid, disadvantaged workers.

Philippa was joined on the UNISON learning project by Marta Chaba, and the pair shared many intrepid exploits in negotiating learning for care home workers and migrant workers. This area of work marked a new chapter in the learning project, which Marta will take forward in 2014-2015. Philippa departed, typically, with the minimum of fuss and said: "Thank you for all your support, friendship and comradeship. I will keep in touch with how things are going for you all and particularly, for the working people you all represent so diligently and effectively."



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Help to Manage Your Finances

The Government's Money Advice Service has produced some guidance to help families manage their finances in key areas:

The true cost of affording a home:

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/campaigns/the-true-cost-of-affording-a-home>

Top tips for helping your child learn about money:

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/news/top-tips-for-helping-your-child-learn-about-money>

Preparing your son or daughter for student life:

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/preparing-your-son-or-daughter-for-student-life>

Also, DOSH has published its report on access to banking for people with a learning disability. You can download the report and Easy Read summary at www.dosh.org/banking-report. You can also view a video that introduces the report and talks about the key findings.



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