

# MEET THE ACTIVISTS

This edition:  
Tracey Lieth



Position in UNISON  
*Vice Chair, Workplace and Health & Safety Representative for Education (Schools)*

Job Title  
*Clerical Assistant, Special Department, Bell's Brae Primary School*

Reason for Becoming Active  
*Been a union member since i started work. A workplace issue which had to be resolved encouraged me to become active.*

Post Involves:  
*Whatever the branch / members require of me.*

Hopes for Future:  
*A harmonious agreement to single status would do for the moment!*

Hobbies and Interests:  
*As well as UNISON I am also a volunteer in other local groups. I love listening to music and spending time with family and friends.*

## Who's Who and where- Local Officers and Stewards

Chair	Brian Smith	01595 744354
Vice Chair	Tracey Leith	01595 692973
Branch Secretary	Gwenan Hughes	01595 744834
Communications Officer	Karen Fraser	01595 743868
Education and Training Officer	Kathy Downing	01595 694467
Equalities Officer	Amanda Pearson	01595 696698
Health and Safety Officer	John Leach	01595 744858
International Officer	Lorraine Gray	01595 744713
Lifelong Learning Advisor	Mary Anderson	01595 744992
Meetings Secretary	Val Turner	01595 694688
Membership Records Officer	Michelle Goudie	01595 744675
Membership Services Secretary	Iain McDiarmid	01595 744813
Retired Members Officer	Donald Silk	01595 692451
Social Events Co-ordinator	Melanie Chapman	01595 744852
Stewards Co-ordinator	Ewen Balfour	01595 744336
Stewards Co-ordinator	Elaina Leach	01595 744816
Stewards Co-ordinator	Graham Stiles	01806 522722
Treasurer	Stefanie Pottinger	01595 744994
Welfare Officer	Karen Irwin	01595 744095

### DEPARTMENTAL STEWARDS

Assessors Office	Kaila Tarrant	01595 692019
Drugs & Alcohol Services	Amanda Pearson	01595 696698
Economic Development	Marvin Smith	01595 744921
Education Services	Tracey Leith	01595 692973
Environmental Services	Jim Grant	01595 744871
Housing Services	Ewen Balfour	01595 744336
Legal Services	Karen Irwin	01595 744095
Library	Karen Fraser	01595 743868
Organisational Development	Peter Peterson	01595 744575
Ports and Harbours	Barry Edwards	01595 744202
Social Work (Quendale House)	Marilyn Hibbs	01595 744332
Social Work (St Olaf Street)	Fiona Morton	01595 744442
Social Work (Community)	Alice Summers	01595 744484
Social Work (Viewforth)	Heather Butler	01595 692760
Shetland Amenity Trust	Mick Clifton	01595 694688
Wastview Care Centre	Margaret Forrest	01595 809483

***This newsletter is published by UNISON Shetland Local Government Branch 2 St Sunniva Street, Lerwick ZE1 0HL e-mail: unison-shetland@unisonfree.net The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the UNISON branch or the editor***

The Newsletter of  
**Unison Shetland**  
Local  
Government  
Branch  
November 2005

UNISON

Yarns



# Children's Christmas Party



**SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2005**  
**CLICKIMIN CENTRE, LERWICK 2.15 PM TO 4.30 PM**

**ALL UNISON MEMBERS' CHILDREN WELCOME UP TO AND INCLUDING PRIMARY 7**

Please forward your **name**, a contact **number** for yourself, your UNISON **membership number** and your child's **name, age**, and whether **male or female** to:

Elaina Leach, telephone : 01595 744816  
elaina.leach@sic.shetland.gov.uk  
or Lorraine Gray, telephone : 01595 744890  
lorraine.gray@sic.shetland.gov.uk



**by Friday 18 November 2005**  
**(after this date no names can be accepted)**



The majority of this year's gifts will be in support of Fair Trade.



If your child does not turn up for the party please do not ask for or expect to collect their present. It will be donated to a local good cause. Only those attending the party can receive a present.

Sorry-due to large numbers involved, only members own children/step-children can attend-no grandchildren, nieces and nephews, cousins, etc.



# Not made by children in a sweatshop

**Presents at UNISON'S Christmas party will be ethically sourced. Lorraine Gray, International Officer, explains why...**

Buying toys is a complicated business. Thankfully on our budget we don't have to satisfy the advertising-fuelled demands of the children. But we have gone out of the way to ease our consciences with the assurance that they haven't been produced by children in a sweatshop in the developing world.

The vast majority (80%, according to Ethical Consumer magazine) of toys sold in the UK are imported - and most of these are manufactured in the Far East. While these toy factories are an important part of the economic boom that has lifted many out of poverty, they have a dark side too: excessive work hours, dangerous equipment and chemicals, cramped employee dormitories, abusive managers, crooked hiring practices, and pay below the minimum wage. And its not just the cheap plastic toys affected by abuse of workers rights - some major toy companies have chosen to subcontract manufacture to these countries to exploit their low wages and lack of protection afforded workers.

Whether you can convince your kids to put ethics before Barbie or the new Furby, however, is a whole new battle.

**If you really want to be certain about what you're buying, there are numerous shops and mail order companies (detailed below) specialising in eco-friendly and ethically produced products, or contact me on 01595 744 890 for more details.**



- [www.lankakade.co.uk](http://www.lankakade.co.uk) - good for the younger ones
- [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk) - a wide range of everything, including food
- [www.alotoforganics.co.uk](http://www.alotoforganics.co.uk) - a really good search engine for organic and fair trade
- [www.fairdealtrading.com](http://www.fairdealtrading.com) - just for footballs

[www.one-world-is-enough.net](http://www.one-world-is-enough.net) - mostly for adults, but got a good range of ethnic musical instruments!

and some toys marked 'FT' at: [www.smilechild.co.uk](http://www.smilechild.co.uk)



## UNISON puffin meets the stars!

When the celebrated Scottish author Iain Banks visited Shetland for the Wordplay book festival in September, he declared that he was going shopping for quality crafts and wouldn't be taking home any trashy souvenirs. However, he found it impossible to resist when he was the honoured recipient of this UNISON stress puffin, usually reserved only for members of this branch. Not got your FREE stress puffin and pedometer yet? Just ask your workplace rep!

**796** Our branch membership figure is about to reach another important milestone—could YOU recruit the 800th member? More and more people are realising that only a strong union can stand up for their rights at this important time. We need more **workplace reps** and **workplace contacts**. We also need a **Young Members Officer** and a **Branch Development Officer**. Urgently needed is a **Branch Office Coordinator** to oversee the smooth running of the office.

**If you are interested in doing any of these important jobs for your local branch of UNISON, please get in touch with Elaina Leach (see contact details on back page)**

**Be active in your union.**



**The joint union Single Status negotiating team. Left to right: John Leach, UNISON; Graham Nicholson, GMB; Steve Russell, GMB; Alastair Christie-Henry, TGWU; Alan Goudie, TGWU; Iain McDiarmid, UNISON. The negotiations go on, and there will be a full report in the next newsletter.**