

Don't make this the "norm"

UNISON cancelled its 2020 Conferences to adhere to Government regulations - but it was the right thing to do in any case. However, the National Council must state clearly that Conferences will start again after the pandemic.

They're an essential part of our structure. They provide the platforms for the Branches to debate and decide policies which direct the Union's future priorities and practices.

Two polls to affect your future

We eagerly wait for the results of two ballots that'll play big parts in all our lives in future.

What difference will a new General Secretary make for UNISON? Will the departure of Dave Prentis affect the way we operate? The ballot closes on 27th Nov. **Please make sure your vote is marked and posted off.**

The US Presidential election will have a major impact on all of us for years to come. The two candidates have markedly differing policies on Climate Change, Trade Deals and International relations. Whether we like it or not, we'll all be affected before too long.

What if Trump is beaten? There are major worries that he and his 'gun-totting Proud Boys' will take it badly. **There's really no saying what will happen**

It's frightening, isn't it?



**United Nations
75 Years
Working
for Peace**

UN Day on 24th Oct 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the founding in 1945 by 51 countries committed to

- maintaining international peace and security,
- developing friendly relations among nations and
- promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.

This milestone comes at a time when the entire World is seriously disrupted by national conflicts and the global health Covid-19 crisis.

There's never been a greater need for all countries to return to the founding principles of the UN - to come together to fulfil the promise of the UN Charter. Times of struggle can often bring about positive change and transformation

Where would we be without our 'wonderful' old folk?

We just had to be impressed during the pandemic! What a wonderful lot of old folk we've got. Thanks to wall-to-wall media coverage, we took to 'Captain' Sir Tom as he walked the length and breadth of his garden and raised over £32.79 million for the NHS Charities Together. He showed that you're never past it!

Tom made the headlines but many more pensioners performed heroically - doing their bit as volunteers in Food Banks - delivering shopping for 'older folk' in their street - or as essential baby-sitters and pet minders.

Just how could we have managed without them?

It just great to see so

many 'auld folk' who seemed 'so young'. We had amazing over 90s or over 100s still doing wonderfully well.

One thing is worth comment - **it wasn't pensioners that ignored the COVID19 rules and spawned the 2nd wave!**



We need better communication

The Pandemic has highlighted the ever-present issue of communication with Retired Members. The Committee's been able to operate, but many Branches across the country struggle to maintain contact with their Members - largely due to Branch Offices being closed. Branch resources, stretched in normal times, are under even more strain with the work added by the crisis.

We discuss the problem of 'Communication with Retired Members' at every meeting and we're developing a strategy to improve the position. Liam Chalmers of D&G Branch is helping by producing this newsletter and we are looking-out for ways to increase circulation.

If you have any comments or ideas, feed them to Liam (e-mail address below).



Tom Lithgow

Lockdown's been hard ... but it's not all been bad!

When we saw TV reports from Italy and Spain back in January, we knew it was going to be serious. The COVID lockdown has been hard for everyone but it's not all been negative. There's been a few positive moments or things that made us feel better or in some respects, proud ...

● **Clapping for the Carers** - We stood outside each night, rattling pots and pans to say 'thanks' to the NHS and other 'essential' services. We met our neighbours for the first time ...

● **Exercise** - The good weather was an incentive for all of us to get outside for a walk or a bike run. Poor wee dogs were walked off their feet as we followed Government advice

● **At home** - With extra time on their hands, many took the chance to 'declutter' and to do all the wee DIY jobs like decorating that we'd been putting off doing around the house for ages.

● **Gardening** - Garden lovers revelled in the summer weather, having the time to pot and potter for hours on end ...

● **Contact with friends** - It was great to have the time to get in contact distant friends that been out touch for some time ...

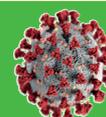
Perhaps above all, we were able to realise the value of all we've got! It was nice and comforting to be "off the treadmill of 'normality'".

THINK POSITIVE - we are going to get out of this - but it would be nice to know when.

Continue to PLAY YOUR PART ...

1. Keep a two-metre gap between yourself and others
2. Wear a Face Mask or Covering
3. Wash your hands regularly
4. Don't visit other houses or allow others to visit you at home
5. Avoid unnecessary travel

ACT RESPONSIBLY



We can BEAT THE VIRUS if we all work together

If you show signs of the Virus **IMMEDIATELY** self-isolate and arrange to have a test



Nicola Sturgeon

**Election for General Secretary
BE HEARD
USE YOUR VOTE**

Closing Date for return of ballot papers - 27th November

