

Attend our AGM and be in with a chance to win Hotel Chocolat Ostrich Egg



Members are being reminded to attend the Cadent UNISON Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is being held later this month.

There will be three sessions on Tuesday 25 March to give members a chance to choose a convenient time. Two will be online only and one will be jointly online and in the Ansty office.

Members who attend in person at Ansty office will be entered into a draw with the chance to win one of four Hotel Chocolat Ostrich Eggs worth £90 each.

The sessions are as follows:

- [UNISON in Cadent AGM - 10am - 11am. Teams only teams only](#)
- [UNISON in Cadent AGM - 12 noon - 1.30pm. Teams and collaboration space, Ansty and Collaboration space, Ansty](#)
- [UNISON in Cadent AGM - 5pm - 6pm. Teams only.](#)

The agenda is as follows:

- Minutes of the last AGM
- Review of the last 12 months
- Accounts
- Budget for the year ahead

- Branch plans
- Issues we are facing
- Election of branch officials and reps
- Honoraria
- Any other business.

What is an AGM and why is it held?

The branch is required to organise its AGM in the first quarter of each year to discuss financial matters and elect or re-elect new branch officers and representatives.

It provides a review of the branch's work and activities, allows for collaborative discussion of all matters related to members and UNISON affairs while also covering plans for the year ahead.

The AGM is attended by members, including candidates for representatives and for the branch positions, as well as existing branch representatives and officers.

What is a branch?

Branches are the bedrock of the union: without them there would be no union to support members at work and negotiate

for a better deal.

Branches are locally organised groups of members. They are sometimes made up of members working for one employer, such as a council, NHS trust, police force, university or utility company.

However, most branches cover members working for a number of employers based in a particular geographical area and providing similar types of services. Branches must choose certain core officers who are then elected at the AGM.

UNISON in Cadent is this type of branch, representing only one employer. It is then a part of a bigger **Regional East Midlands Branch** and separately of the **Energy Sector Service Group**.

Make a date with UNISON

Remember every month we hold a stall event in the atrium at Ansty.

The next one will be on Tuesday 29 April.

Thank you to everyone who showed an interest and joined us at our last atrium stall. It encourages us to continue our work.

Please come to see us on 29 April and say hello; we are a friendly bunch of people. All are welcome!



Get to know your UNISON reps

In each edition of this newsletter, we put one member of the UNISON branch team under the spotlight with a Q & A designed to help members get to know their union representatives.

This month's volunteer is Elisabeth Ferrari, the branch welfare officer.



When did you join Cadent?

I joined in 2022.

What is your current role, and where are you based?

I am an emergency call handler in the Customer Centre in Ansty.

What does your job entail?

I take calls for all kinds of gas emergencies from the public and raise the required jobs, safeguarding life and property. I love working in a fast-paced environment and making a difference.

What is your career history with Cadent?

My first role was a risk assessor within the busy dispatch department, looking after the welfare of the engineers and making sure they didn't breach their hours based on HSE Regulations. In November 2024, I moved to the Customer Centre and completed my training to become an emergency call handler.

When did you join UNISON?

I joined the union in January 2024.

And why?

I joined because I wanted to feel like I had support with any issues I had within the workplace and could call upon the union when needed.

Have you ever called on UNISON for support during your work career?

I have never used them but am thankful that they fight for our pay deals each year and for all the doors it opens being a member.

What made you take on your current UNISON role?

Having had a career in law pre-children, and with a wealth of life experience, I decided I wanted to take a more active role within UNISON. I applied for the branch position of welfare officer and was elected unopposed to my delight. I am an extremely open-minded individual who never judges, and I feel like I have great knowledge and experience of many welfare issues to bring to the role.

What would you like to bring to the role?

I would really like to offer more to UNISON members, so they feel like they are getting lots for their monthly membership fee. I have great support from the branch secretary and am looking forward to excelling in this exciting, challenging new role. I have lots of ideas but, most importantly, I want to hear from the members to see what they want. I will be sending out comms shortly to see what you would like from the union from a welfare perspective.

How do you like to spend your leisure time and is there a thing or activity that helps you relax after your work?

Out of work, I love to spend time with my children, I love travelling and experiencing new cultures and I also love the simple things in life like a peaceful cup of tea, a sunny day, a good night's sleep and pottering about the house and garden.

And lastly, what would you say to a colleague who is not a member of UNISON in terms of encouraging them to join?

I would encourage everyone to join UNISON. There are so many benefits most members aren't even aware of, here's the top seven:

- Legal help for you at work and your family at home
- Financial assistance and debt advice in times of need
- Compensation for you and your family
- Discounts including money off cars and holidays
- Training to develop your career
- Support when you need it most
- Helpline – our helpline is open until midnight weekdays and 4pm on Saturdays, closed on Sundays.

Do you want to learn new skills?

Do you know UNISON offers members access to many courses and training?

These can help you progress your career and enhance your CV with new skills backed up by certificates or a diploma.

They can also allow you to develop your interests and hobbies or access fun activities.

They can support you with your personal fulfilment and growth and increase your interpersonal or communication skills.

Whatever your goal, light-hearted enjoyment or a formal academic certification, there is a wide choice and options for everyone regardless of your financial position.

You can apply for a free, personalised careers advice service open to all UNISON members.

To request your consultation visit:

If you would like to see more details for upcoming training, events and webinars see:

You will need to submit a short and easy application form.



Members' benefits

Shopping discounts and cashback
UNISON members can get **discounts and earn unlimited cashback** on their online purchases from hundreds of online retailers in just THREE easy steps:

- **Browse.** Join UNISON Rewards for FREE and browse hundreds of retailers and offers.
- **Shop online.** Click through UNISON Rewards to retailers and buy online as normal.
- **Earn cashback.** Cashback will be added to your UNISON Rewards account and paid to you free of charge.

And, as an added bonus, you get a **FREE £10 welcome bonus** when you join.

Follow code:



Need more information?

If you have any queries or feedback about the content of this newsletter, please email Katarzyna.Jamroz@cadentgas.com