



May 2011

National Learning at Work Day

Accord Union is proud to support National Learning at Work Day activities at Livingston.

Workplace reps are always on hand to provide information on learning opportunities offered by Accord and unionlearn.

For further information on unionlearn courses and free expert advice on your learning or career options contact unionlearn on: **08000 92 91 90** Lines open 7 days a week 8am to 10pm or visit: www.unionlearn.org.uk

Membership benefits – Study Bursary

“I don’t know what I’d have done without it, as I was unemployed and self-funding my studies. During the time I was studying, the fund gave me £650. It was brilliant.”– Linda, associate member

The Bill Wright Memorial Fund was set up as an enduring tribute to former Accord General Secretary Bill Wright, a dedicated trade unionist with a lifelong commitment to education and training.

Bill gave many people encouragement and support to improve their education, increase their skills and improve their lives. The aim of the Fund is to provide support to members who might otherwise be unable to pursue vocational, educational or private studies.

The Wright Help for Linda...



Former Accord rep Linda Gange was thrilled to get help with study costs from the Bill Wright Memorial Fund. Linda worked for the Halifax for seven years, starting in Skelmersdale branch in 1994, moving to North West Regional Office in Preston, HFS call centre Bury, and finally Liverpool business centre, leaving in 2001 because of ill health.

In September 2003 Linda began a six year part time degree in English Literature/ Business at Liverpool Hope University. As an associate member of Accord, Linda applied for financial help from the union’s Bill Wright Memorial Fund. “I wasn’t sure if I’d be eligible being an associate member,” says Linda, “so I was absolutely thrilled to get my first cheque from the Fund.

“I don’t know what I’d have done without it, as I was unemployed and self-funding my course. The money helped pay for books, which were really expensive. While I was studying, the Fund gave me £650. It was brilliant!”

Linda got a 2:1 BA(hons) degree and her graduation ceremony was held at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. "It's a magnificent building and it was a really emotional, fantastic day."

She became an Accord rep shortly after joining the Halifax and remained one until she left. Says Linda: "I loved being a rep because it is such an important role, and is so interesting. You get to see two sides to every story and become involved in the day to day running of the business."

"It's really good to be able to help people who might not know the real facts: for instance, when managers want to change your terms and conditions. As reps, we help people understand what's right or wrong. We can be trusted."

Linda is still a great fan of Accord, and has remained an associate member. "It's such a good, strong union. I know things are tough at the moment but without Accord fighting for its members, things would be a lot worse!"

Call Union HQ on 01189 341 808 to find out more about the Bill Wright Memorial Fund.

Or visit www.accord-myunion.org

As well as Accord working hard for you day in day out, there are also many other benefits to becoming a member. From free advice, discounts on products and services, and the subscription draw. Make sure you don't miss out - join Accord today!

Although Accord's primary aim is to protect your interests at work, we also provide a range of excellent benefits which make membership great value for money. (See right)

Legal Helpline All union members and immediate families are entitled to use the legal helpline. This gives you access to a qualified legal adviser on any matter. The advice is completely confidential, **FREE** and easily accessible at all hours of the day or night.

Call 0800 884 0118.

Personal Injury Claim line If you've been injured in an accident, our legal experts can help. Our personal injury claim line is provided by Russell Jones & Walker (RJW), one of the UK's leading law firms. It's a **FREE** service to members and their families. All you need to do is pick up the telephone.

Call 0800 884 0114.

Personal Accident Insurance Your Accord membership automatically provides you with **FREE** personal accident insurance.

For details call **0870 905 0668.**

Accord Travel Club Before you book **ANY** holiday / tour / flight / hotel / car **ANYWHERE**, ring **0800 953 1263** and checkout your Accord Travel Club Discount.

Commission Cashback Scheme The Union's Commission Cashback Scheme specialises in sourcing level and decreasing term assurance, critical illness and income protection policies for Accord members and their families. Members then receive cashback of up to 9 times their monthly premium. The average lump sum cashback paid out this year under the scheme is **£400**. Since its inception, the scheme has paid out over £2.5m. Ring our brokers on:

Lifelink: 01189 349800

Valley: 01706 218719

Tax & Pensions Advice Line For **FREE** confidential access to taxation and financial specialists you can call **0870 428 1909.**

These benefit schemes aim to make your membership value for money, but the most important reason for joining Accord remains the individual and collective rights you enjoy. We will never leave you alone to tackle a work related problem and will support you to the end to ensure that you are treated fairly and with dignity at work.