

# BFAWU Learning Services

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## Meet the BFAWU Learning Services manager Lisa Greenfield



In 2010 project positions were advertised in the unions 'Foodworker' magazine and branch secretary, Dave Sorby, suggested to Lisa that she apply for a position. In Lisa's words she said, 'Always up for a new challenge I applied never thinking I would be successful but hoping nonetheless. Later that day I received a phone call from Ronnie Draper, BFAWU General Secretary, informing me I had been successful and offered me the position of covering South Yorkshire and other areas where needed. I accused him of joking but when he insisted I'd got the job I was excited.'

Lisa continued with her own learning doing a range of courses including Equality and Diversity, General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and many others. In March 2019 our previous manager John Vickers retired. Lisa applied for the job and again was successful.

This answers the question 'How far can I go in the ULR position?' Dedication and application can go a long way.

Lisa started work at Gunstones in 1995 working in various departments before becoming a section leader in the prep area. She was trained as a Union Learning Representative back in 2005 by Allan Cook, TUC tutor. Working alongside Trevor Oldfield, who was the then branch secretary, she continued on her own learning journey including doing a Team Leader course and becoming the ULR co-ordinator on site.

Trevor retired but the aim of opening a learning centre and giving the workforce the opportunities of learning carried on. Open days were organised by Lisa and other ULRs, helping to encourage and cajole people to enrol on English courses that were being organised with the provider Chesterfield College.

In 2006 the learning centre opened and was named G.O.A.L which stands for Gunstones Oldfield Adult Learning centre. This honoured Trevor for his hard work and persistence in enabling learning for the workforce.

Lisa transferred from shop floor to the training department and was responsible for inducting managers, doing SOPs (Standard Operations Procedures) and looking at, and reviewing, procedure both old and new. She helped to set up eight English courses a week, looking at learning schedules and liaising with departments to organise release for learners.



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## Hovis - Avonmouth

The learning centre in Hovis is ideally situated in a room accessible through the canteen. Originally set up in 2005, it has been in constant use by the workforce whether for learning or leisure during break times. The room has four computers with a fifth that is used primarily for union reps. Courses ranging from ECDL, Team Leading and English have all taken place in this room as well as Food Hygiene and Health and Safety. We also used the computers to conduct the Hovis Skills survey and still use them to take people through the skills assessments on the unionlearn website.



ULR Chris Hucker, who has been at Hovis since 2005, now sits on the national ULR committee reporting back to the others as well as taking back information to the region. He plays an active part in setting up courses and advising people on the options available to them. He does one to one training in the slicing department as well as some

health and safety training for example Manual Handling.



## Pauline McCarthy - Manor Carlton



Pauline has worked at Manor bakery in Barnsley for 31 years with 30 years of them being a union representative, during this time she has spent 20 years as branch secretary and 16 years on the executive council.

Over the years Pauline has been a great asset to the union and to her branch. With her vast knowledge and experience she successfully opened a learning centre on site called the Lyons den, where lots of people have improved their knowledge which in turn has helped their own personal and work life. In the time of the learning centre Pauline has completed various courses including the mental health awareness course and the IAG distance learning course.

Pauline has successfully completed all the shop stewards and the health and safety courses and has always shown full support to the learning services as she believes this is an excellent tool for recruiting members and an excellent way for people to have chances to improve themselves. Pauline also sits on the Labour party national executive and in the last year she has gone on to be a local Labour councillor in the Barnsley area.



## Developing Adult Learning (ULR Stage 2) 10th – 14th February



I was asked to attend this course or it may not go ahead. To be honest I wasn't looking forward to it, long drive and the weather was turning for the worst but saying that it was brilliant.

We started on Monday afternoon being introduced to our tutor Paul Gibson followed by introductions and ice breakers (very apt when it was snowing outside!). The group consisted of 3 people from Foxes Kirkham, 2 from Foxes Batley, 2 from Greencore, 1 from Manor Stoke and little old me from the Project and I couldn't have asked for a better group.



The course was fantastic, we learned so much but the way Paul teaches meant we had fun too and we all jelled well. Paul moved us around the tables every day so we were in different groups and got to know everyone.

We learned about Direct and Indirect Discrimination, Equality Law, Time Management, Interview Skills and Values and many an in-depth discussion ensued.

On Thursday Paul split us into groups for our Micro teaches. We had 4 groups: Group 1 was Viorica Secrier, Marcus McKie and Chinny Patel and they worked around words in English for ESOL learners; Group 2 was Craig Pinnell and David Johnson and they tackled maths wrapped up in a Darts scenario; Group 3 was Andrew Williams and Mark Dickens and their title was 'How do you kill a Unicorn' which grabbed the audience straight away because none of us wanted to kill a Unicorn and Group 4 was myself and Amanda Bailey and we took everyone back to their youth with the Chatter Box and we had everyone making one. Mine and Amanda's presentation was brilliant, of course, and I must say everyone did really well and kept us all enthused. I don't think I'm talking out of turn when I say this, because it was the general consensus of the whole group, the hands down winners were Andrew and Mark, they were fantastic, how they kept straight faces through it I have no idea! Well done lads!

Friday lunch time came around all too quickly and we said our good byes but I do feel that I walked away from this course with a lot more knowledge and hopefully 8 new friends.

If any one is thinking of attending the next course, please do, I so recommend it and if you are lucky enough to have Paul Gibson as your tutor you are on a winner, he is so nice and so knowledgeable, but don't just take my word for it, here are some of the comments from the other students:

"It was a really good week, I'm so glad we got on as well as we all did! 'Fab course, learned lots and the people on the course were like family.'"

Amanda Bailey, Manor Stoke

"I would highly recommend this course"

Marcus McKie, Foxes Kirkham

"It was simply the best course I have ever been on, got on with everyone, & the way Paul delivered it was brilliant, made me want to get out there and do more for all the potential learners."

David Johnson, Foxes Batley

"Brilliant group, it was good to see some familiar faces as well as some new ones. The group dynamics and participation with each other worked very well and it was refreshing to bounce new ideas of each other."

Andrew Williams, Greencore

"Relevant, informative and extremely well delivered. Loved the week and it has definitely given me the tools to progress"

Mark Dickens, Foxes Batley

"I have enjoyed the group and the course. Very useful and helpful and all the colleagues were very skilled and friendly and I learned a lot from their experience. The group was wonderful. I would like to thank and the tutor because he could make us work as a team and we learned a lot of new things."

Viorica Secrier, Greencore

**WHY NOT SIGN UP AND SEE FOR YOURSELF??**





**The BFAWU Learning Services will soon be able to offer the Mental Health First Aid course via Distance Learning fully funded!!!**

**To keep up to date please follow our Facebook page: BFAWU Learning Services or check out our website: [www.data2day.co.uk](http://www.data2day.co.uk)**

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## **Sunshine House Community Centre - Wigan**

Sunshine House is a community centre set up in the heart of Scholes, Wigan. It provides many events and appeals to all residents, young, old and disabled.



Liz (pictured) is the General Manager of Sunshine House working alongside Barbara Nettleton, the founder. The local community use the centre to its full capacity along with Wigan council who use it for running courses for their staff. The Police and the local councillors also have their surgeries here.

Sunshine House Computer Club was set up over 5 years ago and with the help of Wigan Trades Council (WTC), John Fox (BFAWU Project Worker) and Lynn Gibson (Open University Tutor and Sunshine House Trustee) got together and opened the computer club.

The idea was not to have formal courses in classrooms as this was done at the colleges and schools in the area, but to help people who had problems with certain aspects in different uses.

If anyone was a basic beginner who didn't know how to

switch on a PC we would set up a training programme from scratch. When they had mastered that we'd ask them would they like to do a basic course with Learn my Way. This gave them more control over the mouse/mousepad and keyboard.

Because of work commitments, Lynn had to step back so John recruited his wife to help him and they now run it between them.

Lorraine said, "We provide a safe environment where people come in for help with renewal of bills and accessing sites like "Go Compare" etc.

We provide them with the confidence to access these sites as quite a few people still find it difficult to trust a computer and John always jokes with them, 'You can't break them unless you throw them through a window from a great height'.

John goes on "We also provide distance learning courses here which many people have taken up and gained a level 2 qualification and others who require English and Maths. We signpost to Wigan Library where they do this every day in blocks of 12 weeks. We can also help with this as we get them onto the BBC bitesize webpage whilst they are on their English and Maths courses"

Amongst the things people can learn are social media sites like Twitter and Facebook. John and Lorraine train this out and set the functions for them on their tablets and laptops. A lady came and told us that her son had said to her, "I see that you're not twitching the curtains now Mother since you have learned how to use Facebook!!"

## The Life Centre in Fox's Biscuits Batley



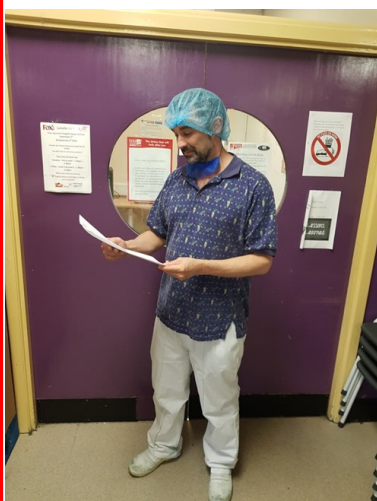
The Learning Centre has 5 computer systems installed by the BFAWU Learning Services with the internet and Wi-Fi provided by the Company, a library with a wide variety of books and lists of current courses available. There is also a celebration wall with pictures of learners with their previous achievements, most of them who have successfully completed the Functional Skills English courses at various levels.

The learning centre in Fox's Biscuits Batley is conveniently located just off the main canteen and is easily accessible for all staff who would wish to make use of the facilities in it.

Currently there is a Functional Skills English class every Tuesday and Friday. The classes run from 13:30 to 15:30, 1 hour is company paid and 1 hour is the learners own time. This 50/50 release has been agreed with the Company and the BFAWU. There have been many courses run in the learning centre, from Mental Health Awareness to the Functional Skills English classes. Assessments, exams and celebration days have also taken place in the learning centre.



Learners from the Functional Skills English Class taking Time out from their class. Pic above.



Mark Dickens (pic left) is the Union Branch Secretary for the BFAWU and looks after the running and cleaning of the Learning Centre along with his Stewards and Paul Carbutt who is the Learning and Development Manager at Fox's Biscuits.



Functional Skills English Class in session with Sally Lowndes, tutor from Chesterfield College.

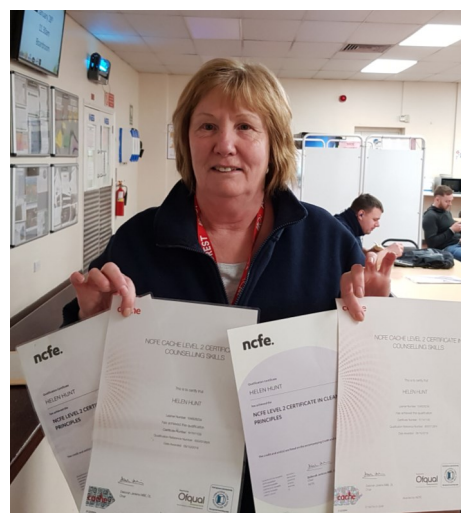
## Helen Hunt - Matthew Walker

Helen has worked at Matthew Walker for 7 years in the site services department and has seen some changes in the work environment. She got interested in distance learning during the winter months for something to do. She explained:

"I love walking whether it's with others or taking the dog out. During the summer when the nights are light I'll walk for miles but in the winter there is not the opportunity to spend as much time outdoors, winter is when I'll look at the different courses on offer and choose which one to do"

Helen has completed five courses so far including;  
Principles of Team Leading  
Cleaning Principles  
Mental Health Awareness  
Counselling Skills  
Nutrition and Health

She has now taken the list to choose her next course of interest. Well done Helen!



## BFAWU LEARNING SERVICES

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Facebook: BFAWU Learning Services  
Twitter: @BFAWULSI

[www.data2day.co.uk](http://www.data2day.co.uk)

*"Learning is a lifelong journey!"*

## Useful websites:

[www.learnmyway.com](http://www.learnmyway.com)

Learn how to use the internet  
Free courses on using a computer, browsing the web, sending an email and finding work online.  
Use the BFAWU Learning Services centre code to gain access : **3451643**

<https://bit.ly/2VWvABw>

Free online courses from the world's leading experts.  
Join 13 million learners today.

<https://www.tuceducation.org.uk/local/enotes/index.php>

TUC Education's eLearning modules are great resources to help reps keep up to date on key workplace issues. Here you will find short bite-sized modules (eNotes) and longer eLearning courses. Each eNote is a self-contained module that contains a mixture of text, video and quizzes. They last between 20 and 45 minutes and can be returned to as many times as you like.

[https://lccgonline.formstack.com/forms/level\\_2\\_course\\_enrolment?referral=JulieCoates](https://lccgonline.formstack.com/forms/level_2_course_enrolment?referral=JulieCoates)

## FULLY FUNDED LEVEL 2 COURSES

## Contact details:



Facebook group page: **BFAWU Learning Services**



Twitter: **@bfawuls1**



Website: **[www.data2day.co.uk](http://www.data2day.co.uk)**

### Project Workers

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