



# Why Community membership is so valuable to them



Peter Brown says he will never give his up, even though he is a manager and Annie Babb, Claire Main and Ray Bolton also tell us why the value their Community membership so much.



'The union has done so much for me over the 27 years I've been employed at Kaye Aluminium Extrusions in Doncaster. I've been a member all that time and have taken advantage of its training courses over the years, which were absolutely fantastic. For a start the courses helped me feel confident about speaking in front of other people, which I'd never done before, and later they gave me a lot of man-management skills. I learned so much. Eventually all this training helped me become a manager.

'I've kept on my union membership. I can't stress enough to members, especially young ones, how great it is to be a member of a union that offers so much training, upskilling and re-skilling. It enables you to get on in your job or even start a new career.

'I also love the way our union works in the community, supporting local organisations like my own rugby club, which received £500 for the under-17s team's new kit. In Community, we have the best of both worlds – a union working for us in the workplace and with us in the locality. I'd never give up my membership.'

**Peter Brown**, Thorne, near Doncaster



'I have been blind since birth and so it was hard bringing up my two daughters – and sad that I've never seen their faces. But I had to work and got a job in supported employment in north London. We make cosmetics and other things. There I became active in the National League of the Blind and Disabled, now part of Community.

'I'm still an active campaigner and organiser, and what Community does for members is wonderful. If someone has a disability the union can be put in the right direction to find employment and fight their case if they face discrimination, if you have an accident at work, or in the street, the union can take up your case for compensation. You can be helped to access any welfare help you need too. I'm very proud of our union. For all workers, disabled or not, the union will fight for them. It's so worthwhile being in the union because you never know when you'll need help.

'I have a guide dog so I can get about and play a big part in the union and meet people from other branches and industries around the country. Community is such a friendly union and I always tell people that if they're not a member they had better join as quickly as they can.'

**Annie Babb**, Barking, Essex



'I've worked at the Courtalds warehouse in Middlesbrough for 12 years now. I was a member of KFAT, now part of Community, but to be honest I didn't take much notice of the union until I became branch secretary about three years ago.

'Since then I've had a lot of help from the union to make me a better official but it's the help I've personally received that has impressed me. I went on a number of training courses and am now studying for a business management degree – something I'd never thought I'd do. I never stop telling young people that as well as better pay and conditions, there are a lot more opportunities if you join Community.

'I'm now a union learning rep, which means I help my fellow workers take up courses for enjoyment or to help them in their careers. When it comes to learning, there's so much choice; this is another excellent service from our union.'

**Claire Main**, Middlesbrough



'You never know when you're going to have an accident and, if you do have one, you're only going to get the help and compensation you need if you are in our union. It happened to me. I've had two accidents at work in United

Right Bar in Wolverhampton. The first was when I had a motor drop on my finger. The company said it was my fault and we had to fight really hard. The union gave me some brilliant lawyers and in the end the company settled out of court. I was delighted. If I wasn't in the union, I'd have never attempted the case.

'I also got run down by a forklift truck, which sent me flying through the air. Next week I have to go into hospital for a shoulder operation. Once again the union has come to my aid and its lawyers are acting for me. I am still getting flashbacks of the accident but I'm so glad I've got the union's help.

'I know our union has got compensation for thousands of its members – sometimes for hundreds of pounds to hundreds of thousands. I want to tell everyone that Community will fight for you and you never know when you are going to need its help and support.'

**Ray Bolton**, West Bromwich