



# The Union Exhibit

Newsletter for NML Prospect members

No. 1, Jan 2026

## Prospect Plus Benefits

Being a Prospect member gives you access to a whole host of other benefits outside of work.

- A free will writing service
- Holiday packages
- Family days out
- Cheaper cinema tickets
- Airport Extras
- Discounts on gym membership
- Discounts on Apple products
- TOTUM card (previously known as the NUS discount card)

Login to your Prospect Members area to find out more.

*Subject to T's and C's*

## Happy New Year!

On behalf of the branch committee, we wish you all a happy and healthy 2026. Thank you for the time, effort, and support you've given over the past year, whether that's showing up to meetings, talking with colleagues, or simply staying engaged. None of the progress we make happens without members playing a part.

As we look ahead, we want 2026 to be a year where we turn that collective strength into clear, measurable improvements in how we communicate with you, how we support you at work, and how we campaign together at National Museums Liverpool.

**To kick things off, join Prospect during January or February and enjoy 3 months of free membership!**

Just use code NML3MF on [prospect.org.uk/join](http://prospect.org.uk/join)

## Introducing - Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of our new NML Prospect Member Newsletter. This will be published quarterly and will be available on noticeboards across the estate and via email.

It will provide updates on the work that our committee are doing and what has been achieved. There will also be future editions with new and interesting segments so watch this space! We would also like to invite members to get in touch if they have anything they'd like to write about here. Whether it's a personal fundraising project or something you're working on at NML that you'd like to share, please let us know as we'd love to promote this.

We hope that you find this useful and insightful. If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see included, please get in touch with us at [northpost@prospect.org.uk](mailto:northpost@prospect.org.uk)

## Get paid to promote Prospect!

Did you know that as a member you can get a £10 voucher for each person that you sign up to join Prospect?

The more members we have, the stronger the branch will be. Having more members gives Prospect greater influence with NML to drive forward positive change at work.

### For every colleague you recruit, you can choose one of the following incentives:

Option 1:  
£10 Lifestyle voucher.

Option 2: £10 donation to Trussell Trust, War Child or Help for Heroes

Option 3: £10 donation to our benevolent fund, which helps members in financial difficulty.

Visit the Prospect website to find out more: [Member recruit member | Prospect](#)

## NML Trading - Campaign for union recognition.

### Our New Years Resolution

Prospects' 2026 resolution is to no longer accept the two-tiered system within NML. Currently, half of the organisation is covered by union recognition, and the other half are not. That's largely down to how different areas of the business have grown over time, not because one group of staff

Our view is simple: everyone should have the same opportunity to be represented collectively at work.

Where recognition already exists, it gives staff a clear and agreed way to raise issues, share ideas, and have conversations with our employer. It helps set expectations and makes day-to-day working a bit clearer for everyone involved.

Extending that across the company would mean, a consistent approach to staff representation, clearer communication, and a stronger sense that everyone is treated equally. It also builds on the generally positive working relationship that's already there. Recognition isn't something that just appears on paper. It works best when it's backed by the people it's meant to represent. YOU!

If you work in an area without recognition, simply talking with colleagues about what it could mean is an important first step. Sharing questions, views, or even uncertainty helps shape what comes next. If you're already in a recognised area, your experience matters too. Letting others know what recognition looks like in practice, the good and the not-so-good, helps keep the conversation real. This isn't about creating sides. It's about making sure we're not a workforce with different rules depending on where we sit.

The union will continue to work towards recognition across the company and will keep members updated as things move forward. As always, the strength of the union comes from members staying connected, informed, and involved in shaping what representation looks like at work.

If you want to talk more about recognition, or just ask a few questions, your local rep is always happy to have that conversation.



Over the coming months, we'll be holding in-person and online talks to meet with trading staff to talk about the benefits of union recognition. If you're interested in getting involved – see more info on page 4

## Reps at NML

### Border Force National:

Vacant

### Juniper street stores:

Ben Jones

### International Slavery Museum:

Vacant

### Lady Lever Art Gallery:

Vacant

### Merseyside Maritime Museum:

Vacant

### Midland Railway Building:

Claire Sedgwick

### Museum of Liverpool:

Vacant

### Pilotage:

Vacant

### Sudley House:

Vacant

### Walker Art Gallery:

Vacant

### World Museum:

Wendy Simkiss, Chrissy Partheni

We aim to have a rep or advocate at each of our venues to help us with putting up newsletters, speaking to members, feeding back any concerns and recruitment.

As on page 3, if you want to get in touch please email

[Northpost@prospect.org.uk](mailto:Northpost@prospect.org.uk)

## No break cover? – Your rights to rest at work

Under UK legislation, your right to rest is protected by law.

If you work 6 hours or more, you are entitled to a minimum of a 20-minute unpaid, uninterrupted rest break.

### What counts as uninterrupted?

*For the duration of rest:*

- You are not expected to complete any duties.
- You are not expected to be contactable.
- You are not expected to be on standby

*This includes responsibilities in an evacuation procedure i.e. Control Manager, Chief Fire Marshal. If you find your legal right to rest is being dismissed, please speak to a Prospect Representative.*

## Become a Rep – Make a Difference!

We are calling on colleagues from both Charity and Trading to step forward as union representatives. This is a great opportunity to help create real change at NML, as well as build on your own skills and experience.

There is no minimum time commitment and depending on your employment T&C's, union work can be carried out as part of your working hours.

**If you have any questions or would like a chat, please contact any rep at NML or email us directly at [northpost@prospect.org.uk](mailto:northpost@prospect.org.uk)**

***“Reps are the backbone of our movement; they help shape a fairer workplace for everyone”***

## Pay & Transparency

2026 is the final year of the 5-year arrangement. NML promised that at the end of the 5 years we would all be at market rate. For many of us, this has not happened. Whilst Prospect can sympathise that no one could have predicted COVID-19, international crisis, and a Prime Minister crashing markets. We are not going to back down from the point that we have always made, that we deserve a good salary for the hard work that we carry out day in and day out.

The survey that you filled out told us that members are unhappy with pay progression and that you do not want us to accept another 5-year deal. This is what we are in conversations with NML about and we will push back against if proposed. We are not going to sugar coat the challenges facing the sector. However, we are also not going to let this be a distraction from our goal of fair pay.

We have made great strides within getting further transparency from NML and we will continue to push to ensure that we have trade union representation at each of the stages of pay and transparency and that we regularly meet with NML to discuss how we progress pay, grading, and transparency across NML.

## Let's have a chat!

If you have a question, a concern, or just want to talk something through about your job, we're here to help.

Sometimes it's useful to have a quiet conversation or get another perspective, no issue is too small to raise.

All our reps have been trained to handle personal cases and are trained to help support you in work. You can ask us almost anything (*work related*) for example, if you

Have a question about work or a change happening in your team?

Want to talk something through or get a second opinion?

Need support with a workplace issue, big or small?

You can contact any of us by email or on Teams, and we'll happily arrange a time and place that works for you to meet and chat things through.

# Branch Committee 2026



### Committee Rep

- Ben Jones
- Office: Juniper Street Stores
- Email: Ben.Jones@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk



### Health and Safety Rep, Heritage Sector Committee Rep

- Claire Sedgwick
- Office: Midland Railway Building
- Email: Claire.Sedgwick@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk



### Health and Safety Rep & Secretary

- Wendy Simkiss
- Office: World Museum Liverpool
- Email: Wendy.Simkiss@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk



### Policy Rep

- Chrissy Partheni
- Office: World Museum Liverpool
- Email: Chrissy.Partheni@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk



### General Rep

- Name: Abigail Hudson
- Office: Multi-venue
- Email: Abigail.Hudson@liverpoolmuseums.org



### Trading Rep (Vacant)

- Name:
- Office:
- Email:



### Young Workers Rep (Vacant)

- Name:
- Office:
- Email:



### Branch Secretary (Vacant)

- Name:
- Office:
- Email:



### Branch Organiser (Vacant)

- Name:
- Office:
- Email:



### Committee Rep (Vacant)

- Name:
- Office:
- Email: