

Lancashire UNISON Newsletter

Retired Members Section

EDITION NO. 100 - June 2008

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Diary Dates 2008

County Hall

Talks - 2pm

Friday 31st October

Mr Aled Jones on The Life and Times
of Florence Nightingale

Friday 28th November

Mrs Irene Cottam

"Twas Christmas Day in the Workhouse"

Northern Sub-Group

Annual Summer Lunch

Tuesday 1st July - Elms Hotel

Join us for the *Annual* lunch & afterwards,
listen to *Barbara Rudge's* adventure talk

Walks 2008

Wednesday the 18th June

Via the village of Waddington and
Coronation Gardens

Health Trips

(Contact Irene Cottam - 01772 492936)

Wednesday 18th June

Holmfirth

Last of the Summer Wine Country

Continental Holiday

Commencing 27th November

4 days at *Lake Wolfgang* in Austria

Your Welfare Rights

At our *Annual General Meeting* various new ideas in line with our new, changed, constitution were outlined. One was contact with the *County Welfare Rights Section*. We have been providing speakers and information on welfare and financial matters so it seemed sensible to involve the *County Council's* own experts. I am glad to say that they are more than happy to be involved with us and as well as speaking to us have offered to supply us with information when a topic has become "hot".

Welfare Rights first contribution which relates to pensions credits is printed below.

Newsletter Update

Fran Francis has provided an up to-date list of future speakers, information in last month's newsletter has been updated.

Stella Talbot still has some places on the holiday to *Lake Wolfgang*, 27th November for four days.
Cost £419. Stella's phone number – 01254853687.

Roger Rymer has included information about the *County Museums Service*. I can recommend all their museums, some are not only important to *Lancashire* they are important nationally.

Indeed internationally, and not only because the *Helmshore Mill* made its money selling uniforms to both sides in the *Napoleonic wars*!

Dave Sergeant

Chairman

UNISON BRANCH OFFICE - Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ.

Tel. 01772 533072 or email:- unison@unison.lancscc.gov.uk

Pension Credit

Pension credit is an income-related benefit for the *over-60's*. There is no set savings limit to stop you claiming. *Pension credit* is made up of two parts. The guarantee credit tops up your weekly income to a set level, and if you are *65 or over* the savings credit can mean extra money if you have savings or your weekly income is more than the basic state pension. You could get one or both parts. If you get an award of *guarantee credit*, however small, you automatically get **full housing benefit** (if you are a tenant) and **council tax benefit**, regardless of whether your savings are above the **£16,000** savings limit for those benefits.

You may be able to get more than the basic pension credit if you get attendance allowance or you are a carer, or if you have a mortgage or loan for essential repairs. Your award can be backdated for up to a year if you could have claimed earlier, but changes due in **October 2008** will limit backdating to three months, so it is best to apply now.

For more details get a copy of our booklet *Pension Credit – extra cash for the over 60's* by writing to: Lancashire Welfare Rights Service, FREEPOST, Preston PR1 8BR (you don't need a stamp) or you can ring us on (01772) 533504, or fax (01772) 531881, or email:

info@lancashire.gov.uk

Welfare Rights Section



Doesn't time fly, we are now in *June* and dare we ask 'has summer come?' The weather was good for the *Pensioners Parliament* which was held this

week in Blackpool. The sun shone on the well supported march from the *North Pier* to the *Winter Gardens*. I attended the Parliament and found it very interesting. It was well supported by **UNISON** with a number of representatives from our region as well as some from other areas of the country.

At our meeting this month your committee began looking at the service we provide for our members and how we can continue to provide information on issues which are both relevant and important to us as retired people as well as arranging interesting talks and other events. Your committee appreciate the many positive comments we get from yourselves about our *Newsletter*.

Maureen Vass"

Secretary

Lancashire Pensions

Some of you who are in receipt of a *state pension* may be wondering why the increase in your **total** County pension this year was not **3.9%** (the annual increase in the Retail Price Index (RPI) as at September last year). You will see from your pension payslip that your County pension consists of 3 elements:-

1. A **basic** pension which has been increased by the full 3.9%.
2. A **pre 88** Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) which has not been increased because the full increase of 3.9% is paid as part of your State pension.
3. A **post 88** Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) which has been increased by 3% with the balance of 0.9% being paid as part of your State pension.

Lancashire Museums

"Xplorer" Ticket

If you are interested in finding out more about Lancashire's history,

Lancashire Museums are currently offering *Xplorer Multipass Tickets* which give **12 months unlimited access** to all *Lancashire's Museums* (Rossendale Museum, Lancaster Cottage Museum, Lancaster City Museum, Queen Street Mill at Burnley, Fleetwood Museum, Helmshore Mills Textile Museum, Lancaster Maritime Museum, Museum of Lancashire in Preston, Gawthorpe Hall, Lancaster Castle, the Judges Lodgings in Lancaster and Turton Tower.

An *Adult Multipass* for one adult costs £10 and a *Friends and Family Multipass* costs £18 for two adults and two concessions. *Concessions* include pensioners aged **60 plus**, students, disabled and those on income support and job seekers allowance. Accompanied children under 16 have free admission at most *Lancashire* museum venues anyway, the exception being *Lancaster Castle* where the child admission fee is **£4**; in this case, a *Family and Friends Xplorer Ticket* may be used to admit two adults and two children.

Xplorer Tickets can be purchased at any of the above venues. Further information can be found on-line at www.lancsmuseums.gov.uk.

Roger Rymer"

Vice Chairman



Annual Summer Lunch.

Elms Hotel Morecambe

12.30pm Tuesday 1st July

This popular event has been arranged in a private room at the Elms Hotel and the menu includes a choice of 3 Starters, 4 Main courses and 4 Sweets. The price,

inclusive of coffee & chocolates, is £12.95 (as last year). Afterwards, Barbara Rudge will give one of her adventure talks. An application form is attached to be returned to Ron Clement at the address shown.

Ray Rudge”

Treasurer

**Activities at
County Hall**

I have booked some very interesting speakers to start in **October** after the summer break they are as follows: -

Friday 31st October we welcome **Mr Aled Jones** who has been recommended to me by one of our members. He will present a most interesting talk about **The Life and Times of Florence nightingale.**

Friday 28th November back by popular demand and with the Christmas festivities in mind **Mrs Irene Cottam** will relate her time organising an **Xmas Party. Twas Christmas Day in the Workhouse**

Friday 12th December just to remind everyone how near we are to Christmas we have a talented lady **Elaine Burridge** who will demonstrate how to gift wrap your presents with everyday trimmings entitled **Gift Wrapping with a Difference**

Everyone is welcome to join us at these events, bring your friends it is a pleasant way to spend an afternoon, finishing with free tea/coffee biscuits and a social chat. Once again I would like to thank our regular members for continuing to support us we could not carry on without you. Hopefully our new (*youngish!!*)

members who seem to be growing in numbers every month, would like come along with new ideas, it's a nice way to spend a wet and cold afternoon, you could always meet up with friends and colleagues in the **Vic & Station** for lunch before hand!!

The usual reminder for our new members and friends about the talks, they are held on the last Friday of the month they start at 2.00pm finishing approx 3.15pm and are held in one of the cabinet rooms at **County Hall**, (unless directed elsewhere by the security person on the day). The entrance is from **Pitt Street Main Door**. Please ensure you sign in and receive a visitor's badge. When you come to the talks you are welcome to use the staff cafeteria situated near the main door before the talk begins, for a snack or meal, again the security person will direct you.

Health Branch Trip

Wednesday 18th June

Everyone is welcome to join in the Health Branch Trip, Contact is **Irene Cottam**, telephone no. 01772 492936.

Last of the **Summer Wine Country**. Tourist bus from **Ivy's Café** takes a tour of the various places filmed in the series.

With choice of meal at **Compo's Café** - Fish & Chips / Chicken & Chips / Home Made Steak Pie & Chips, tea bread and butter
Choice of sweets **£20.00 inclusive.**

Derian House Stamp Appeal

Please keep sending your stamps to **Derian House**, many envelopes get thrown away, it only takes a minute to tear the stamp off the corner of an envelope (please leave 1 inch around the stamp.) Save the stamps in a container till you get a few to send on to the address below this is an on going stamp appeal for a worthwhile cause.

Derian House Children's Hospice,

**The Appeals Office,
Derian House, Chancery Road,
Astley Village, Chorley,
Lancs. PR7 1DH.
Fran Francis”**

Talk Organiser (01772 742459)

**Members
Walking Group**

Group Correspondent: Don Windle, contact number 01772 713820.

Dates for the 2008 programme are: 16th July, 23rd July (**Roy's Long Walk**) 13th August, 10th September, 15th October, 12th November (**programme meeting**) and in **2009** 14th January.

The **June** walk is on **Wednesday the 18th**. Walk starts at **11am**, walk leader is **Trevor Draycott**, you can contact him on Tel: **01772 705876.**

Meet in the car park immediately west of WADDINGTON adjacent to Twitter Lane.

Outdoor Leisure 41. Grid Reference 727 435.

A walk of approximately 7 miles with toilets en route.

The village of Waddington has won the **Best Kept Village Competition** on numerous occasions. **Coronation Gardens** that line the brook add charm to the village.

Flo & Don Windle”

Walk Coordinators

Walk - Spring Wood

Wednesday 14th May

25 people arrived at **Spring Wood Whalley** for our **May** walk. It was perfect weather for walking just the right mixture of sunshine and a breeze to cool us down now and again.

The **bluebells** were past their best, but a wonderful display of garlic

flowers had replaced them, even if their perfume was not to everyone's taste !!

We set off along the golf course and through a new broadleaf woodland plantation which also had a brilliant crop of mayflowers. On the moorland lane we stopped for lunch in the sunshine and glorious views.

Just before *Nick of Pendle* we saw a pair of *Kestrels* hovering above looking for their lunch. Over the stile we overlooked the ski slope on *Pendleton Moor*.

Just past *Wymondhouses Farm* a lamb had got separated from its mother and Roy, true to form, managed to get mum back to its young, which she promptly head butted for going astray!

Over the stream which had a landslide on the banks caused by the heavy rain, the route looked different, but it was soon sorted!!

At the next farm they must have had a tidying up session, as they had thrown out some paintings – hope they weren't valuable!

We then went onto a permissive path to *Wisewell*. A lovely little village which has won the *Best Kept Village Competition* a few times over the years. A couple of seats provided a welcome stop for a drink before going up to *Deer Park Wood* and back to *Spring Wood Car Park*. The usual ice-cream van was parked at the entrance and did a roaring trade with our party.

The *Information Centre* had a camera focused on a *Blue Tit's* nest in the wood, which had seven eggs in it.

Flo Windle
Walk Leader

Our membership is 1862
(including 32 associate members)

Membership Secretary's Report

Since our last report we have had **13 New Members**. We offer them a warm welcome.

Mrs K Bamber

Leyland;

M/s M Dawson (Children & Young People) Penwortham;

Mrs M Fitton

Maghull;

Mrs J Goodman

Lea;

Mrs L Hallett

(St Aidan's Technical College)

Poulton-le-Fylde;

Mrs G Harvey

AppleyBridge Wigan;

Mrs B Lynton-Escreet

Crag Bank, Nr Carnforth;

Mrs L McKay

(Worsthorne Primary School)

Worsthorne, Burnley;

Mrs A McMinn

Gr Harwood;

Mrs P Marsden

(Social Services) Burnley;

Ian Southern

(Strategy) Bury;

Mrs S S Thomas (Adult & Community Services) Thornton;

Michael Roy

Fulwood.



Sadly 2 of our members have died; we offer our condolences to their family and friends.

Mrs I Griffiths

(Ed & Cultural Services)

Haslingdon;

William (Bill) Austin

(Police) Kirkham.

Available to Rent

"Luxury 2 bed pent house apartment on exclusive *La Finca* championship golf course 10 km

inland mid way between *Alicante & Murcia, Spain* for rental. *Sleeps 4.*

Well equipped and beautifully furnished. Breakfast balcony and spacious roof-terrace with stunning views of the Course and of the surrounding countryside.

Within easy drives of beautiful beaches, countryside, walks, cultural sites.

Excellent for active or lazy holidays."

Around **£275 - £300 per week**. With an additional **20% discount to Unison Members** For more information telephone:- **01254 668 404 or 07768 793 312** Or email: sirbilltaylor@btinternet.com



Travelling to Florida this year, why not add an extra week to begin or finish your holiday.

One week available to rent **27th September - 4th October 2008** at **Orange Lake Resort & Country Club** Kissimmee Florida. £375.

Two Bedroom, two bathroom deluxe 'Villa' condo, sleeps 6/8. fully-equipped kitchen, king-sized bed, two queen-sized beds, pullout sofa sleeper, full-sized washer & dryer, and much more. For more info Tel 01772 727812 or see it on the Internet at:-

http://orangelake.com/tour_our_resort/360_views.html



and from fran

The Sunday school teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and SHE turned into a telegraph pole"

And ending on a thought

Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?

Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?

Why does "fat chance" & "slim chance" mean the same thing?

UNISON RETIRED MEMBERS NORTHERN SUB GROUP LUNCHEON AND TALK

THE ELMS HOTEL BARE MORECAMBE

Tuesday 1st July 2008 - 12.00 for 12.30

MENU

STARTERS

1. **LEEK and POTATO SOUP**

Freshly prepared and enriched with dairy cream

2. **DOVETAIL OF MELON**

A fan of ripe honeydew melon served with seasonal fruits and raspberry coulis

3. **PRAWN and WALDORF PLATTER**

Chilled Icelandic prawns in a crisp Waldorf salad of apples, celery & walnuts napped by Marie Rose sauce

MAIN COURSES

A. **ROAST LEG of LAMB**

served with sweet mint sauce and pan gravy

B. **GRILLED SALMON**

Fresh fillet of salmon, grilled and served with lemon and herb butter

C. **ROAST RIB OF BEEF**

Presented with Yorkshire pudding and horseradish sauce

D **BEEF SALAD**

All served with a selection of fresh market vegetables and potatoes or a crisp seasonal salad

SWEETS

W **LEMON SPONGE AND CUSTARD**

X **FRESH FRUIT SALAD**

Y **FRESH CREAM GATEAU**

Z **VARIOUS ICES**

Freshly brewed Kenco coffee with chocolate confection

Northern Sub Group

Luncheon & Talk - Tuesday 1st July 2008

*I/We wish to attend the above I enclose **my/our** meal selections & cheque for £.....(at **£12.95** per meal)*

Please make cheques payable to:- **'Lancashire Unison Retired Members Section'**.

Enter your Name & Address:

Name

Address

.....

Tel No.

Signature

<u>Starter number</u>	<u>Main Meal letter</u>	<u>Sweet letter</u>

Please return bottom part of this sheet with meal requirement's to:-
R Clement, 2 Leycester Drive, Lancaster. LA1 5HP. (Contact Number:- 01524 35860)