

Lancashire UNISON

Retired Members Section

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Newsletter

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On the web at :- <http://www.unisonlancs.org.uk/retired.asp>

Diary Dates 2009

County Hall

Friday 24th April

Retired Members AGM

Followed by a talk in the afternoon on the
"History of the Lancaster Canal"

Talks - 2pm

Friday 30th January

Mr Aled Jones on

"The Life & Times of Florence Nightingale"

Friday 27th February

Joyce May on "Lancashire Dialects"

Friday 27th March

Mr Stirrup on "Women in the Mines"

Northern Sub-Group

Talks at 2pm Headway Hotel

Tuesday 13th January

a talk by **Stella Lawson** and **Lyn Wilman**

"Oberland in Switzerland"

Tuesday 10th February

Malcolm Pilling is giving a talk entitled

"My Granddad"

Walks 2009

Wednesday 18th March

A walk along the River Ribble to
Brungerley Bridge & onward

Florence Nightingale

The January talk on Friday 30th at *County Hall* is the *Life and Times of Florence Nightingale*. The talk is by Aled Jones who, being a pathologist is well placed to talk about the medical background. Of course *Florence Nightingale* didn't just go to the *Crimea* to nurse wounded soldiers, despite her own battle with bad health she had a massive influence on medicine at the time and, therefore, the way we live now. It is quite a story of one of the first examples in history of a woman changing our society just by sheer determination and personality.

Voluntary Contributions

In the Newsletter you will see a note from **Ray Rudge**, our Treasurer, about an update to our voluntary contributions. The main issue is the funding of our *Newsletter* which has had a recent sudden rise in costs as I have mentioned from time to time. Obviously we are not just relying on increased voluntary contributions but exploring various cost saving and income approaches. *Watch this space!*

Bus Passes

Members have approached us about the workings of the new bus pass arrangements and, since we are indeed, staff retired from working for the *County Council* we felt obliged to do something. We have, therefore, written to all *Lancashire MPs* requesting their comments on our concerns. Our main worry is that *free travel* does not apply at certain times, notably early in the morning when our members might be trying to get to a hospital or doctor's appointment. I would not pretend that this is

anything but complicated so we will keep you informed as we go along.

Dave Sergeant

Chairman

Executive Committee News

Whilst we issued a *November/December Newsletter* we did have a committee meeting in December. At our first meeting since *Christmas* we confirmed arrangements are in hand for our *Annual Reunion and Dinner* which, this year, will be held at *Garstang Golf Club*. We also had a discussion on our end of year finances.

Your committee have sent a letter on your behalf to all *Lancashire Members of Parliament* regarding the *Concessionary Bus Pass*.

We are now getting into the *Annual General Meeting* season, the first being the *Regional Retired Members AGM* on 16th January at 10.30 in County Hall, Preston. It may be a little late in notifying this (November was too early) but we determine items for the newsletter after our committee meeting which only took place on the 9th because of the *New Year closure of County Hall*. The next *AGM* will be the *Branch AGM* which will take place at 4pm on Thursday 5 March in County Hall. Our *AGM* will take place on *Friday 24th April*, also in County Hall. Lunch will be provided after the *AGM* and there will be a talk at 2pm that afternoon. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend

Maureen Vass

Secretary

Funding the Care of the Elderly

A report has been produced

(following a year long review) by a body called the *Resolution Foundation*. It proposes that local variations in state supported care for older people should be replaced by a *national* framework setting out minimum entitlements. It recommends that the national minimum entitlement for all those over *65 should include* regular care and *well-being assessments*; easy access to information on what services are available and how to obtain them; and a minimum package of care and support for those who need it.

There is an *urgent* need to deal with this issue as the number of people receiving these services is getting smaller as cash-strapped local authorities tighten their eligibility criteria. The Government's consultation on this issue finished at the end of November. The responses are now presumably being evaluated and we will eventually see the promised "*Green Paper*". The likelihood is growing that it will contain something about social insurance which will not be generally popular. *2009* is not going to be the year for a radical resolution of this issue. In any case a *Green Paper* will need to be followed by a *White Paper* which will then require legislation. A resolution of the issue prior to the next general election looks increasingly unlikely.

Neighbourhood Watch Tip

Are you aware that if you agree to a contract or sale in your home, there is a *seven day* cooling off period when you can *cancel* any work agreed to or any purchases made over *£35* (although in certain circumstances, the customer may have to pay for any goods installed or work carried out so far.) *Also be aware* that the contract will not be enforceable against the customer unless information about your right to

cancel is given in writing.

Always ensure you obtain the full name, address and landline details from all workmen. Double check the workman's identification and any references from other customers - *do not assume credentials are genuine*.

Ensure any price you are quoted is fair and genuine by *obtaining estimates* from other traders. The agreed price must be *written* down on a quotation before the work is started.

If the service agreed to has a guarantee, make sure it is insurance backed

Roger Rymer

Vice Chairman

The Section's Finances

I reported in the *November/December* newsletter that the *Section's Finances* were in a critical condition and that to continue with our present level of service (*in particular monthly Newsletters*) we needed an increase in *Member's* voluntary contributions.

So far only about *120* have so responded – a disappointing response bearing in mind that many *Members* are contributing only *10p* per month.

I am grateful to those of you who have replied, some of you very generously. For those of you who have not yet done so, I enclose the *Form* which was included with the last Newsletter.

I recognize that in the current economic climate, any request to contribute extra may not be very welcome; but if you can help, the *Executive Committee* would be most appreciative.

As I said last time even if you cannot manage *£1.50* per month a smaller amount would be very welcome – please amend the form accordingly.

Ray Rudge

Treasurer

Northern Sub Group

Numbers attending the *monthly talks* have fallen significantly. In previous years, we have had an average attendance of about 20, and, occasionally several more.

For the *November Audio/Visual Presentation* by *Gordon Currie* only 8 *Members/Friends* were there; and for *Barbara Rudge's* talk about her special visit to *Thailand* there were only 12 in attendance.

The *Sub-Group* was set up 7/8 years ago and has been very successful – but to continue, and in “*Fairness*” to (external) speakers, we need better support.

Accordingly those *Members/Friends* living in the *Morecambe/Lancaster* area are urged to come along each month during Winter, on the second Tuesday, at the *Headway Hotel*, at 2.00pm. Free tea/coffee and biscuits are provided and the social ambience is always very welcoming.

Talk 2pm Headway Hotel Tuesday 10th February

Malcolm Pilling is giving a talk entitled “*My Grandad*”. It sounds fascinating, whether serious or funny!

Please come along bring your friends and enjoy a free cup of tea/coffee and biscuits.

The May Trip

Ron and Gill Clement have in recent years organised some excellent and well supported trips in May, where we use our own transport and where we combine a lunch with the *Visitor Attraction*. The problem now is to find somewhere different, yet within about an hour or so travel from Preston.

If you have any suggestions ring *Gill/Ron* 01524 35860.

Ray Rudge”
Treasurer

Activities at County Hall

The new program of talks in the *NEW YEAR* will commence in January

Mr Aled Jones will be our first speaker on *Friday 30th January*, he has had to cancel our talks for various reasons but hopefully this time he will entertain us with his very popular talk about “*The Life and Times of Florence Nightingale*” He comes highly recommended by one of our members

The speaker on *Friday 27th March* is *Mr Stirrup* on “*Women in the Mines*”

Again to our loyal members who come along every month to listen to the speakers I thank you, the talks couldn't continue without your support.

The usual reminder for our new members and friends about the talks, they are held on the last Friday of the month during the winter months and are usually well supported so if you haven't as yet attended one do come along it's a very pleasant afternoon and enables you to make new friends and maybe renew old acquaintances. They start at *2pm* & *finish approx. 3:15pm*, and are held in one of the *Cabinet Rooms situated in County Hall*, (unless directed elsewhere by the security person on the day). The entrance is from the *Pitt Street Main Door*. Please ensure you sign in and receive a visitor's badge. You are welcome to use the staff cafeteria situated near the main door before the talk begins, again the security person will direct you.

I know I am repeating myself but how else can I inform our NEW MEMBERS about the talks and where they are held.

Please keep saving your stamps for *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 I will put in the next Newsletter

Fran Francis”

Talk Organiser (01772 742459)

Members Walking Group

Group Correspondent: Don Windle, 25 The Howgills, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire PR2 9LX.

Tel. (01772) 713820 Ref: walk 17

Programme Briefing Walks 2009

Dear Member,

We have once again managed to produce a varied programme for our 2009 walks. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to lead the walks, which will be something for us all to look forward to.

The next few paragraphs are mainly for the information of prospective members. All the walks are scheduled for Wednesdays to fit in with our other commitments. As the morning starts seemed to give a more relaxing day, the walks will commence at **11.00 am** with a stop to eat a picnic lunch and other breaks to look at points of interest. The pace is leisurely, routes are circular returning to the start point by mid to late afternoon, diversions may be necessary due to missing footbridges, broken stiles or similar problems and no definite finishing times can be given.

The walks are planned to suit mature walkers. When a total ascent of less than 60 metres is required the walk will be referred

to as almost level. Undulating walks will involve a series of moderate inclines. Should the route include ascents or descents steeper than 1 in 5 for more than 100 metres reference will be made to steep banks. Walking sticks are very useful on slippery banks and for testing the depth of mud in heavily used gateways.

To ensure everyone has an enjoyable day out please note the following recommendations:

Leave your dog at home.

Arrive in good time and lock up your car carefully.

Listen to the weather forecast and bring suitable clothing, plus dry socks.

Wear stout footwear, footpaths and bridleways can be muddy and eroded at any time of the year.

Height barriers at 2 metres elevation and Parking Charges are a regular feature of rural car parks, please assume they may be present at the meeting points as they have not been specially noted.

If there are any queries for a particular walk, please contact the person leading the group for that day. Please note that Unison does NOT provide insurance for any members taking part in these walks. Each participant is responsible for their own safety and if you consider insurance to be necessary, please make your own arrangements.

Looking forward to the pleasure of your company.

Yours sincerely

Flo & Don Windle

Walk Dates for 2009

18th March, 22nd April, 20th May, 17th June, 15th July (Roys long walk), 22nd July, 19th August, 16th September, 14th October, 4th November (Programme

meeting)

The 13th January 2010 walk to be arranged.

Grid References give Location of Meeting Points

If you are not familiar with grid references, the meeting points can be located from most regular 4 miles to 1 inch motoring maps.

The next walk will be Wednesday 18th March start at 11am. Walk Leader is Flo Windle you can contact her on 01772 713820.

Meet in the pay and display car park at EDISFORD BRIDGE situated on the south side of the B6243 Clitheroe to Hurst Green Road approximately one mile west of Clitheroe Castle.

Outdoor Leisure 41 Forest of Bowland. Grid Reference 726 413. A walk of approximately 7 miles there are toilets in Waddington

Along the River Ribble to Brungerley Bridge, through Waddington to Page Fold, Cow Hey and Bashall Hall then back to Edisford Bridge.

Flo & Don Windle"

Walk Organisers

Membership Secretary's Report

Since our last report we have had 6 new members, and 1 associate member. They are:-

Andrea Ball

Leyland;

Jean Emmett

Accrington;

Robert Holding

Gt Knowley, Chorley;

Shirley Kenyon

Burnley;

Peter J Vigger

Bury;

Elizabeth O'Hagen

Burnley.

Associate Member

Mrs Mildred Unsworth

Tatham, Lancaster.

Deaths of Members

Sadly 9 of our members have died; we offer our condolences to their family and friends.

Ms O Halstead

Garstang;

Mr A Page

Lytham St Annes;

Mrs K Wignall

Preston (June 2008);

Mrs V Hough

Blackpool;

Mr WB Richardson

Skipton;

Mrs J Osbourne

Preston (June 2008);

Miss M Rushforth

Preston;

Mr JC Greenlees

Longton;

Mr TC Thompson

Blackpool.

Our membership is 1901 (including 34 associate members)

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."

£250 - £300 per week + 20% off for all Unison Members..

For more information please visit:

<http://www.lafincagolfowners.org>

Or ring Bill Taylor on:-

07768 793 312 or 01254 668 404

Lancashire Unison Retired Members' Section
Voluntary Contributions
Please complete (A) or (B)

(A) I authorise the **Director of Resources** to deduct from my pension the sum of £1.50 per month being my voluntary contribution to the Retired Members' Section of Lancashire Unison.

Full Name (in block capitals) : **Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss**

Home Address :

Former Dept:

Pensioner Ref. No: *(This is shown on your Pension Payment Slip)*

Signature: Date:

(B) I agree to make a voluntary contribution to the Retired Members' Section of Lancashire Unison of £18 per annum, commencing in 2009.
 Cheques to be made payable to Lancashire Unison Retired Members' Section .

Full Name (in block capitals) : **Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss**

Home Address :

Signature: Date:

Please return the completed form to
Ray Rudge, 9 Blythe Ave. Cleveleys, FY5 2LL

Lancashire County UNISON Retired Members' Section Annual Reunion / Social Evening / Dinner

Garstang Golf Club, Kirkland Suit and Lounge, Bowgreave, Garstang, Preston. PR3 1YE.

Friday 20th March 2009 - 6.00 for 6.30pm

The price per person will be £19.50 for the following menu (excluding wines)

MENU

STARTERS

- a **VEGETABLE SOUP** - Freshly prepared served with a bread roll and butter
- b **TERRINE** - Chicken, leek and potato served with salad leaves and wholegrain mustard mayonnaise
- c **FISHCAKES** - A melody of fish bread crumbed, served with our own tartar sauce
- d **VEGETARIAN** - Chargrilled bruschetta topped with oven roasted vegetables



- 1 **ROAST BEEF** - Traditionally served with pan gravy
- 2 **DUCK** - Pancetta and Savoy cabbage and cherry kirsch glaze
- 3 **HAKE** - Red pepper and garlic crust served on a cherry tomato salsa
- 4 **MUSHROOM PASTA BAKE** - Selection of wild mushrooms lightly sautéed with garlic and shallots, jumbled with pasta and cream sauce

All served with fresh seasonal vegetables and potatoes

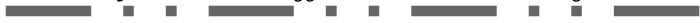


followed by a

SELECTION of DESSERTS of the DAY

and after

Freshly brewed coffee with mint confection



Members and Guests are all welcome to attend this event. Tables will consist of 10 or 12 persons, depending on numbers.

Please book with your friends if you wish to sit together.

This event is a time when you can enjoy a good meal and have some fun with our Music Maestro Ray providing dancing, quizzes and games. Meet old friends and even make some new ones.

Lancashire County Annual Reunion Dinner

Friday 20th March 2009

I/We wish to attend the above I enclose *my/our* meal selections & cheque for £.....(at £19.50 per meal)

Enter your Name & Address:

Name

Address

Tel No.

Signature

Starter letter

Main Meal number

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

Please return bottom part of this sheet with meal (or any special dietary) requirement's to:-
 Fran Francis, 38 Shaftesbury Avenue, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs. PR1 0EL. Telephone 01772 742459
 Make cheques payable to - Lancashire UNISON Retired Members Section

