

Lancashire UNISON

Retired Members Section

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Newsletter

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Diary Dates 2009

County Hall

Bowling

Friday 25th September 2-5pm

Join us at *Penwortham Sports Club*

Talks - 2pm start

Friday 30th October

A talk given by the

County Welfare Rights Service

Friday 27th November

Mr Hugh Barton

Queen Victoria's Letters

Friday 29th January

Mrs Alice Turberfield

Childhood Memories

Northern Sub-Group Talks

Elms Hotel Morecambe

Tuesday 13th October

Derek Sanderson talks on

"The World of Antiques"

Tuesday 10th November

Derek Timms, with a talk called

"Days with a Bookworm".

Walks 2009

Wednesday 16th September

Uphill towards the *Nick of Pendle*

An Antiques Roadshow

Our first talk of the winter is in *Morecambe* on Tuesday 13th October 2.00pm at the *Headway Hotel*. The Hotel is on the north prom, about a half mile past the old town hall. *Derek Sanderson* is giving the talk on antiques. If you have any antique porcelain or pottery bring it along and Derek can value it and provide information about the item.



We have had some large attendances at *Morecambe* talks in the past, hardly surprising really, you can make a day of it; have a look round *Morecambe* in the morning, lunch in one of the vast number of restaurants, then along to the very nice hotel to meet other members and listen to the talks. And while you are drinking your coffee you look through the hotel's enormous picture windows at a vista of *Morecambe* bay. *That's a day out.*

Bowling

The last of our bowling dates is 25th September at the *Penwortham Sports Club* starting 2.00pm. The sports club is on *Leyland Road* (I know, I said *Liverpool Road* in the July Newsletter – Freudian slip!) just after the *Mary Magdalene* church. This time of year is holiday time and we always have the *British* weather but, hopefully, we shall see all members interested so we can make a decision about next year. If you are interested but



can't come please let us know.

Welfare Rights

The first *County Hall* talk this winter on October 30th is by the *County Welfare Rights Section*. As welfare gets more complicated the need for more information increases, not just for ourselves, but for relatives, young and old.

Sir Bill



NALGO Croyde 195x/6x

Members may like to know that our membership includes a knight of the realm. *Sir Bill Taylor* was knighted in 2003 for services to local government in *Lancashire*. After graduating from *Lancaster University* he became a *Youth and Community Worker* in 1973 being transferred to the *County Council* from *Blackburn County Borough* in the 1974 reorganisation.

Bill was elected to *Blackburn* council in 1980 and after chairing various committees became the *Mayor* in 1989. He was the leader of *Blackburn Borough Council* from 2001 to 2004.

After leaving the council he set up a consultancy with one of his first projects being providing advice for a substantial reorganisation of *Rochdale Borough Education Department*. He has also worked with the *Princes Trust* and his local government experiences have not just been local but included work with *Melbourne City Australia*.

Bill's local activities and positions are really too many to list completely but include *Lancaster University Students Union*, *Blackburn Cathedral*, *Blackburn College* and, yes, *Blackburn Rovers*. He is also a regular contributor to *Radio Lancashire* and the *Blackburn Telegraph*. It sometimes can be seen that working for local government as limiting in scope if not just downright boring, well *Sir Bill* shows us that, literally, the world can be your oyster.

Dave Sergeant"

Chairman

News from the Executive Committee

This was our first meeting following our *Summer* break .

The contents of this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Retired Members Executive Committee.

The bowling afternoons on the last Friday in each month during the summer have proved to be successful, even when the weather on **28th August** was rather wet. The sun came out in the afternoon and bowling took place. The last one for this summer will be on **26th September** and takes place at *Penwortham Sports Club* which is on *Leyland Road*.

I enjoyed my annual holiday at *Croyde Bay Holiday Village* where a number of alterations have taken place. More are in the pipeline for next year. However it is still a well run, friendly place in beautiful surroundings for a holiday.

A date for your diary – the *Remembrance Service* will take place at 10.50 on **Wednesday 11th November** in the *Chapel of Christ the King* at *County Hall*.

Maureen Vass"

Secretary

The Section's Finances

In the **November 2008** and **January 2009 Newsletters** I indicated that, because of the higher costs of printing, the Section's finances were in a critical condition; and; in consequence, we needed an increase in *Members' voluntary contributions*.

Although the initial response was disappointing ultimately the appeal resulted in an increase in annual contributions of approximately **£2200 (+35%)**.

Furthermore, the *Branch* agreed to increase their annual funding. Previously they contributed **£4000** per annum plus the half-cost of posting the monthly Newsletters where they included their publications *Loud and Clear* or the *Regional Newsletter* (such half-costs varied in total between **£1000 - £1500** per annum). As from this year the Branch have increased their annual funding to **£6000**, inclusive of their share of the half postage costs.

Overall, therefore, the Section's finances are now on a much better footing. We still need to monitor our costs regularly especially those for the *Newsletter*, but the looming crisis has been averted.

Ray Rudge"

Treasurer

Government Proposals for a National Care Service

In mid July the *Government* finally published proposals for a *National Care Service* and in particular alternative options for how it should be funded. The *Government's* vision is for a system that



is fair, simple and affordable for everyone, underpinned by **national** rights and entitlements but personalised to **individual** needs. It is important to realise that these proposals only deal with care and support costs. Accommodation costs will have to be paid by everyone with or without help from the benefits system.

They have identified 5 possible ways of funding the *Service* but have then rejected 2 of them saying that a tax-funded system would be too great a burden for those paying tax and that a self-funded system would leave too many people without the care and support they would need. This then leaves 3 possible methods of funding:

1. Partnership – In this system, everyone who qualified for care and support from the state would be entitled to have a set proportion – for example, a quarter or a third – of their basic care and support costs paid for by the state. People who were less well-off would have more care and support paid for – for example, two-thirds – while the least well-off people would continue to get all their care and support for free. A *65-year-old* in *England* will need care and support that costs on average **£30,000** during their retirement, so someone who got the basic offer of a third or a quarter paid for might need to pay around **£20,000** or **£22,500**. Many people would pay much less. And some people who needed high levels of care and support would pay far more than this, and would need to spend their savings and the value of their homes.

2. Insurance – In this system, everyone would be entitled to have a share of their care and support costs met, just as in the *Partnership* model. But this system would go further to help people cover the additional costs of their care and support through insurance. The state could play different roles to enable this. It could work more closely with the *private insurance market*; so that people could receive a certain level of

income should they need care and support. Or the state could create its own insurance scheme. If people decided to pay into the scheme, they would get all their *basic care and support free* if they *needed* it.

People could pay in several different ways, in installments or as a lump sum, before or after retirement, or after their death if they preferred. Once people had paid their contribution they would get their care and support free when they *needed* it.

As an indication of the costs, people might need to pay around **£20,000** to **£25,000** to be protected under a scheme of this sort, compared with the average cost of care for a *65-year-old* which is **£30,000**. This system would work for people over retirement age.

However people paid, the insurance payment would help people to protect their wealth and the value of their homes. Whether they decided to pay during their working life, during their retirement or after they died, people would know that once they had made their contribution and paid for their accommodation, the costs of their care and support would not prevent the rest of their wealth being passed on to their children.

3. Comprehensive – In this system, *everyone over retirement age who had the resources to do so would be required to pay into a state insurance scheme*. Everyone who was able to pay would pay their contribution, and then everyone whose needs meant that they qualified for care and support from the state would get all of their basic care and support for free when they *needed* it.

It would be possible to vary how much people had to pay according to what they could afford. The size of people's contribution could be set according to what savings or assets they had, so that the system was more affordable for people who were less well-off.



Alternatively, if people wanted to be able to know exactly how much they would have to pay, most people other than those with lower levels of savings or assets could be required to pay a single, set figure, so that people knew how much they would have to save for. As an indication of the

costs, people might need to pay around £17,000 to £20,000 to be *protected* under a scheme of this sort compared with the average cost of care for a *65-year-old* which is £30,000. The cost would be less for people who were over 65 when the scheme was introduced.

However people paid, the insurance payment would help people to protect their wealth and the value of their homes. Whether they decided to pay during their working life, during their retirement or after they died, people would know that once they had made their contribution and paid for their accommodation, the costs of their care and support would not prevent the rest of their wealth being passed on to their children.

The Government is also considering the re-direction of some *disability benefits* e.g. *Attendance Allowance* to create a new offer for people with care or support needs. They say that they would want to ensure that people receiving any of the relevant benefits at the time of reform would continue to receive an equivalent level of support and protection under a new and better care and support system.

Consultation on the above proposals and the rest of the "*Green Paper*" entitled "*Shaping the Future of Care Together*" will continue until 13 November. Between now and then, members of the public will get the opportunity to join the debate on the future of care and support in *England* through a series of events held in town centres and at other public events around the country. A "*White Paper*" with firm proposals is promised in **2010** but legislation can only follow the *General Election*.

Roger Rymer
Vice Chairman

Northern Sub Group

2009/10 Monthly Talks at Morecambe

A programme is being arranged for the monthly talks at the *Headway Hotel*, on the second Tuesday of each month (as in previous years). The first two are:-

- a) October 13th *Derek Sanderson* 's talk is called "*The World of Antiques*", concentrating on porcelain and pottery. Although he will be able to value any items in this category which you choose to bring



along, his presentation will include also a general talk on antiques together with *Slides*

- b) November 10th – *Derek Timms*, his talk called "*Days with a Bookworm*".

Both these speakers are *Retired Members of Unison*, so let's get our new season off to a good start by coming along and bringing your friends if appropriate. Free coffee/tea and biscuits will be available.

Ray Rudge
Treasurer

Retired Members Walking Group

Group Correspondent: Don Windle, 25 The Howgills, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire PR2 9LX. Telephone: (01772) 713820

Walk Dates for 2009

- 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 *September* walk will be on *Wednesday the 16th*, start at 11am. Walk Leader is *Tony Ingham*,



you can contact him on 01772 782480.

Meet in the car park in the middle of SABDEN. You may wish to park there for a small charge or find an on street space nearby.

Sabden lies to the east of *Whalley* and to the north of *Padiham* and so can be reached by either turning off the A671 near to the *Spring Wood* Picnic Site at Whalley or off the A6068 Padiham By Pass.

Landranger Sheet 103. Grid Reference 779 374. OS West Pennine Moors 19.

A walk of approximately 7½ miles. There are toilets at the car park. The walk leaves the village uphill towards the

Nick of Pendle and then circles Sabden in an anti-clockwise direction. There is an overall total of 800 ft. (244m) of climbing, but no lengthy steep sections.



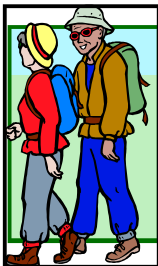
The **October** walk will be on **Wednesday the 14th**, start at 11am. Walk Leader is **Flo Windle** you can contact her on 01772 713820.

Meet at the west end of **ARNSIDE Promenade** the end of the **B5282**.

Landranger Sheet 97 . Grid Reference 454 786.

A walk of approximately 8 miles, with toilets in the **Arnside** centre by pier. Call before you park or allow 25 minutes to visit later.

A walk through the woods to **Silverdale** to search for the elusive **Pepper Pot** 100 metres above sea level



Flo & Don Windle”
Walk Organisers

Roy's Long Walk

This year's long walk was mainly along the **Witton Weavers** way and started from **Tockholes**. Five walkers set off in rather overcast weather, but in no time at all the sun appeared and stayed with us for the rest of the day. (commiserations to the rain man)

The path soon took us on to a moorland path and glorious views were seen of **Belmont Reservoir**, which was busy due to the first day of the school holiday. It was then on to the **Hamlet of Dimple** and soon we were on the outskirts of **Egerton** and then on to **Turton Moor**, with **Entwistle** coming into view just as we disturbed a young deer – not to



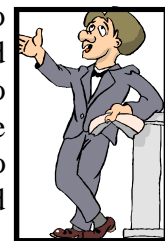
mention a young courting couple! Lunch was taken at the half way point at a nice picnic spot on the shore of **Entwistle Reservoir**. Having been to this spot on numerous occasions it was alarming to see the water level so low, even after **Trevor's** downpour. The walk then continued back up on to **Darwen Moor** and soon the **Tower** was in sight. By now it was so warm that frequent stops had to be taken for refreshments, even though the conditions underfoot were often very boggy and the paths were overgrown with

vegetation. At the **Tower** glorious views were taken in before the final stretch back to the starting point. As always with my walks the estimated distance turned out to be longer than that estimated and the **14 miles** turned into **16**, but this was no real problem to the group. Thanks to all.

Roy Rich
Walk Leader

Activities at County Hall

Our winter programme **2009/10** of talks will start in **October**, we are looking forward to some excellent speakers and presentations in this new season do come along, not only to enjoy the afternoon's performances but also to make new friends and renew old acquaintances.



I hope to see our usual loyal members and friends who come along rain or shine every month to support the speakers this year, and hopefully the new members who are joining us every month, will come along also. It is a pleasant way to spend a winter's afternoon.

The usual reminder for our members and friends old and new, about the talks, they are held on the **last Friday** of the month during the winter months, they start at **2:00pm finishing approx. 3:15pm**, with a most welcome cup of **free tea / coffee / biscuits** and a social chat. They 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, state you are a retired member and where is the talk being held. 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.



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 very worthy 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

**Membership
Secretary's Report**

Since our last report we have had **6** new *Members*, we offer them a warm welcome They are:

- Mrs Edwina Acklam**
Leyland;
- Miss Shirley Boyer**
Ashton;
- Mrs Gillian Dawson**
Burnley;
- Mr Michael Fanning**
Eccles;
- Mr Norman Scott**
Higham;
- Mrs Jaqueline Stuart**
Penwortham.

 **Deaths of Members**

Sadly **6** of our members have died; we offer our condolences to their family and friends.

- J Bannerman**
Stockport;
- Mrs D Harrison**
Blackburn;
- Mr F Hewitson**
Penwortham;
- Mrs AE Shaw**
Oswaldtwistle;
- Mrs M Wiltcher**
Oswaldtwistle;
- Betty Woodruff**
Leyland.

**Our membership is 1914
(including 34 associate members)**

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Well equipped and beautifully furnished. Breakfast

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Within easy drives of beautiful beaches, countryside, walks, cultural sites. Excellent for active or lazy holidays."

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For more information please visit:
<http://www.lafincagolfowners.org>

Or ring Bill Taylor on:-
07768 793 312 or 01254 668 404

Health Branch
Contact Irene Cottam on
01772 492936

Tuesday 22nd September
Oswaldtwistle Mill
Lunch & Entertainment

Thursday 10th December
Christmas Lunch
at Bourne Poachers
contact Irene if you require further information

Call Centre Conversations

Customer: "I've been ringing 0700 2300 for two days and can't get through to enquiries, can you help?"

Operator: "Where did you get that number from, sir?"

Customer: "It was on the door to the Travel Centre".

Operator: "Sir, they are our opening hours".

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Samsung Electronics

Caller: "Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?"

Operator: "I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about".

Caller: "On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?"

Operator: "I think it means the telephone point! on the wall".

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Caller (enquiring about legal requirements while travelling in France):

"If I register my car in France , do I have to change the steering wheel to the other side of the car?"

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Then there was the caller who asked for a knitwear company in Woven.

Operator: "Woven? Are you sure?"

Caller: "Yes. That's what it says on the label; Woven in Scotland".

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