

Lancashire UNISON

Retired Members Section

David Sergeant - Chairman
email:- davesergeant@yahoo.com

Maureen Vass - Secretary
email:- maureen.vass@btinternet.com
telephone:- 01257 271480

Newsletter

EDITION NO. 113 - October 2009

Edited & Produced by:

Mrs Christine Shaw
Zone 2, Buzon 02067,
Camino Tossal 5,
03729, Liber,
Alicante, Spain.
email:- casashaw@gmail.com



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

Diary Dates 2009

County Hall

Remembrance Service

Wednesday 11th November
10.50am Chapel of Christ the King
County Hall.

Talks - 2pm start

Friday 30th October

A talk given by *Jim Dickinson* on
Your Welfare Rights

Friday 27th November

Mr Hugh Barton
Queen Victoria's Letters

Northern Sub-Group

Talks 2pm Headway Hotel Morecambe

Tuesday 10th November

Derek Timms - "Days with a Bookworm".

Tuesday 8th December

Talk cancelled

Christmas Lunch

Thursday 3rd December

12pm Headway Hotel Morecambe

Walks 2009

Wednesday 14th October

A walk through the woods to *Silverdale*

Unknown Unknowns

There was a certain *American politician* who, referring to *Iraq*, made the famous statement "*there are unknowns and also unknown unknowns*". The statement could just as easily relate to the welfare system; it's not that people don't know how to claim a service or benefit, they just don't even know they exist. More benefits and services are *universally available* and many people, wrongly, make the quick assumption that, even if they are aware of a benefit, it wouldn't relate to them. Of course most members will have relatives who could make use of a benefit or service – *if they knew about them!*

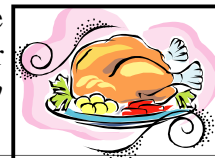


Always a subject of importance to retired people, the first *County Hall* talk of the winter on Friday 30th October is by the *County Welfare Rights Section*. Apart from explaining the latest situation they will also be available to answer questions.

Morecambe

Our *Northern Sub-Group* November talk is by *Derek Timms* called "Days with a Bookworm".

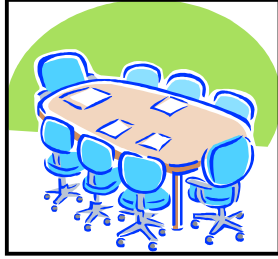
Ron Clement has arranged the Morecambe Christmas lunch for the 3rd December at the *Headway*



Hotel. Lots more information is available in the Newsletter.

Dave Sergeant
Chairman

News from the Executive Committee



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

Your committee discussed the success of the *bowling afternoons* which took place on the last Friday of the

month from June to September at *Penwortham Sports Club*. We decided that we will arrange the afternoons again next year starting on the last Friday of May and going through to September. If you are interested in joining in please make a note in you *2010* diary.

We have agreed that the *Annual Reunion and Dinner* will once again take place at the *Garstang Golf Club* on a Friday evening in March. *More about this later.*

Northern Sub Group Christmas Lunch

Please note: in view of the possible *postal strike* which may take place at the end of October, please forward your booking form early or telephone *Ron Clement*.

Apology

I wish to give a sincere apology on behalf of the committee to our member *Mary Wiltcher* and her family and friends, when through a clerical error, we recorded her death rather than that of her husband *Henry*, also a member, in last month's Newsletter. We are extremely sorry for any upset this caused.

Maureen Vass
Secretary

Neighbourhood Watch Advice

For those of you who are not members of active *Neighbourhood Watch* schemes here are a couple of current tips:

Be wary about workmen who" cold call" at your home offering to carry out work. If you require any work to be done on your property, ALWAYS get a recommendation from friends or relatives and NEVER deal with Doorstep Callers.

Consumers agreeing to deal with traders where the contract is agreed at the consumer's home should be aware that they will have

a *seven-day cooling off* period to 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.

You are advised to ensure you obtain *full name, address and landline details* from all workmen, and to *double-check identification and references* from other customers - *do not assume* credentials are genuine. Also ensure any price you are quoted is fair and genuine by *obtaining estimates* from other traders, and by ensuring the work agreed and the price to be charged is *written down* on a quotation before you agree to the work starting. Ensure that you always get an **INSURANCE BACKED GUARANTEE** for the work.

Please refer any complaints and further information to Lancashire Trading Standards Service, 56-58 Guildhall Street, Preston, Lancs. via Consumer Direct on **0845 4040506**.

Be very suspicious of anyone asking you to do anything over the phone. If something sounds too good to be true it almost certainly is!! There have been an increasing number of sophisticated scams - a recent example is the following (circulated by the Police on 24 September):-

This new telephone 'scam' has arrived in Medway:

"I received a call from a '*representative*' of *BT*, informing me that he was dis-connecting me



because of an *unpaid bill*. He demanded payment immediately of £31.00 or it would cost £ 118.00 to re-connect at a later date. The guy wasn't even fazed when I told him I was with *Virgin Media* – he said that *VM have to pay BT* a percentage for line rental! I asked the guy's name – he replied, in an African sounding voice, *John Peacock* and gave his phone number as *0800 0800 152*. Obviously the fellow realized I wasn't believing his story so *offered to demonstrate* that he was from BT. I asked how and he told me to hang up and try phoning someone. He would dis-connect my phone to prevent this. **AND HE DID!!** My phone was dead - no engaged tone, nothing - until he phoned me again. Obviously feeling very pleased with himself, he asked if that was enough proof that he was *with BT*. I asked how the payment was to be made and he said credit card, there and then. I said that I didn't know how he'd done it, but I had absolutely no intention of paying him. I didn't believe his name or that he worked for BT. *He hung up.*



*I dialled 1471 & phoned his fictitious 0800 number.
.....Not recognised!*

I phoned the police to let them know but I wasn't the first! It's only just started apparently but it is escalating."

Police advice is to let as many people know of this scam. The fact that the phone does go off would probably convince some people that it is genuine. So please make as many friends and family aware of this!

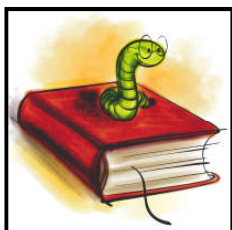
Roger Rymer"

Vice Chairman

Northern Sub Group

Tuesday 10th November
2pm Headway Hotel

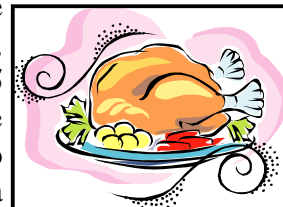
Derek Timms, Unison Retired Member, and a previous librarian, is to give a talk called "*Days with a Bookworm*". Please come along bring your friends and enjoy free coffee/tea and biscuits – and a good natter.



Christmas Lunch
Thursday 3rd December 2009
12.00pm Headway Hotel Morecambe

As the *Elms Hotel* in *Morecambe* is to be demolished shortly we have had to find a new venue for our *Christmas Lunch*.

Fortunately the *HEADWAY HOTEL*, where we have our monthly talks, is able to provide a choice of meal similar to that at the *Elms Hotel*. Furthermore, although the price of **£12.25** per meal is lower than the *Elms Hotel*, it includes also an afternoon dance, with a further drink and mince pie!!



Details are given in the **Application Form** attached, to be returned to **Ron Clement** at the address shown.

[PLEASE NOTE – IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT HAS BEEN DECIDED NOT TO HAVE A MONTHLY TALK AT THE HEADWAY HOTEL WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN HELD ON TUESDAY 8th DECEMBER – THE DANCE IS OUR MONTHLY EVENT!!]

Tuesday 8th December
cancelled as shown above

Tuesday 12th January
2pm Headway Hotel

Roy Smith's talk is entitled "*Traditional Customs and Dance*", a countrywide topic.

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

14th October, 4th November (Programme meeting), 13th January 2010

**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 **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.

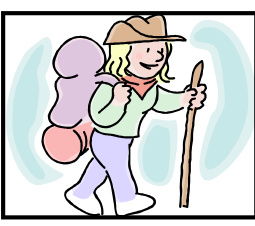
A walk through the woods to **Silverdale** to search for the elusive **Pepper Pot** 100 metres above sea level



The last walk of this seasons programme is on **Wednesday 13th January 2010**. Walk Leader is **Joan Booth** you can contact her on **01772 732177**

Meet in the **UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE SPORT'S CENTRE** off Tom Benson Way Preston. The grid reference quoted is a field between the **Preston to Blackpool Railway line** and the **Preston to Lancaster Canal**, immediately west of Tom Benson Way (B6241).

From the **Preston to Blackpool Road (A583)** at the traffic lights adjacent to Lea Police Station turn



north onto Lea Rd. continue over canal bridge to the roundabout. Turn right onto Cottam Way, proceed east for 1/2 mile. Turn right at roundabout on **Tom Benson Way** and the **Sports Centre** is on

the right in approx 500 yds at the next roundabout.

From M55 junction 1 proceed south towards Preston for 100 yds, turn left into Eastway and left at the roundabout proceeding westwards under A6. Continue along **B6241** past 3 roundabouts, at the 4th turn right into **Sports Centre** adjacent to railway line. There are several signs to **Preston Sports Arena**, ignore signs for **Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Club**.

Landranger Sheet 102. Grid Reference 505 313 Explorer 286

An almost level walk following the canal west to **Lea Town**, before turning south to join the **Millennium Link** from the **River Ribble** along the realigned **Savick Brook** until we rejoin the **Lancaster Canal** at the new locks immediately east of our starting point.

Flo & Don Windle"
Walk Organisers

.....a telephone call from one of our older retired members asks - **'Tony Ingram** talks about **Nick of Pendle**. Will he please let us have the postal address and post code of **Nick'**



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 one new Member, one transfer in and one new associate Member, we offer them a warm welcome They are:

Mrs Pamela Rakestraw
Blackburn.

Transfer in:
Mrs Judith Morgan
Leyland.

Associate Member:
Mrs Hewitson
Penwortham.



Deaths of Members

Sadly 3 of our members have died; we offer our condolences to their family and friends.

KA Foster
Lytham;

Geof Simmonds
Longridge;

Mrs Olive Atherton
Broughton.

**Our membership is 1914
(including 35 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

Health Branch
Contact Irene Cottam on
01772 492936

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

Proofreading is a dying art,
wouldn't you say?

Man Kills Self Before Shooting
Wife and Daughter.

This took two or three readings before the editor realized that what he was reading was impossible!!! They put in a correction the next day.

And now the rest!!!

Expert Says Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash,
No way, really? You think?

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
Now that's taking things a bit far!

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
What a guy!

Miners Refuse to Work after Death
Good-for-nothing' lazy so-and-so's!

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
See if that works any better than a fair trial!

War Dims Hope for Peace
I can see where it might have that effect!

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
You don't say?!

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures
Who would have thought!

Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
They may be on to something!

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?

Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge
He probably IS the battery charge!

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
Weren't they fat enough?!

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft
That's what he gets for eating those beans!

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
Do they taste like chicken?

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
Chainsaw Massacre all over again!

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors
Boy, are they tall!

And the winner is....

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead
Did I read that right?

Another Call Centre Conversation

This is a true story from the Word Perfect Helpline, which was transcribed from a recording monitoring the customer care department. Needless to say the Help Desk employee was fired.

Actual dialogue of a former WordPerfect Customer Support employee. (Now I know why they record these conversations!):

Operator: "Ridge Hall, computer assistance; may I help you?"

Caller: "Yes, well, I'm having trouble with WordPerfect."

Operator: "What sort of trouble??"

Caller: "Well, I was just typing along, and all of a sudden the words went away."

Operator: "Went away?"

Caller: "They disappeared."

Operator: "Hmm. So what does your screen look like now?"

Caller: "Nothing."

Operator: "Nothing??"

Caller: "It's blank; it won't accept anything when I type."

Operator: "Are you still in WordPerfect, or did you get out??"

Caller: "How do I tell?"

Operator: "Can you see the C: prompt on the screen??"

Caller: "What's a sea-prompt?"

Operator: "Never mind, can you move your cursor

around the screen?"

Caller: "There isn't any cursor: I told you, it won't accept anything I type."

Operator: "Does your monitor have a power indicator??"

Caller: "What's a monitor??"

Operator: "It's the thing with the screen on it that looks like a TV. Does it have a little light that tells you when it's on??"

Caller: "I don't know."

Operator: "Well, then look on the back of the monitor and find where the power cord goes into it. Can you see that??"

Caller: "Yes, I think so."

Operator: "Great. Follow the cord to the plug, and tell me if it's plugged into the wall."

Caller: "Yes, it is."

Operator: "When you were behind the monitor, did you notice that there were two cables plugged into the back of it, not just one??"

Caller: "No."

Operator: "Well, there are. I need you to look back there again and find the other cable."

Caller: "Okay, here it is."

Operator: "Follow it for me, and tell me if it's plugged securely into the back of your computer."

Caller: "I can't reach."

Operator: "Uh huh. Well, can you see if it is??"

Caller: "No."

Operator: "Even if you maybe put your knee on something and lean way over??"

Caller: "Oh, it's not because I don't have the right angle - it's because it's dark."

Operator: "Dark??"

Caller: "Yes - the office light is off, and the only light I have is coming in from the window."

Operator: "Well, turn on the office light then."

Caller: "I can't."

Operator: "No? Why not??"

Caller: "Because there's a power failure."

Operator: "A power..... A power failure?"

Aha, Okay, we've got it licked now. Do you still have the boxes and manuals and packing stuff your computer came in??"

Caller: "Well, yes, I keep them in the closet."

Operator: "Good. Go get them, and unplug your system and pack it up just like it was when you got it. Then take it back to the store you bought it from."

Caller: "Really? Is it that bad?"

Operator: "Yes, I'm afraid it is."

Caller: "Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them??"

Operator: "Tell them you're too daft to own a computer!!!!!"

UNISON RETIRED MEMBERS NORTHERN SUB GROUP CHRISTMAS LUNCH

THE HEADWAY HOTEL MARINE RD EAST PROMENADE MORECAMBE

Thursday 3rd December 2009 - 12.00 for 12.30

MENU

STARTERS

- a. **CHEFS THICK WINTER VEGETABLE SOUP**
Served with croutons and bread roll
- b. **FANNED MELON**
Fan of Honeydew Melon served with a rich fruit coulis
- c. **CHILLED FRUIT JUICE**
Choice of Orange, Grapefruit or Tomato

MAIN COURSES

- A. **TRADITIONAL ROAST TURKEY**
Tender Turkey served with traditional trimmings
- B. **POACHED FILLET of COD**
Lightly poached fillet of cod, topped with a white wine cream sauce
- C. **BAKED LEEK and MACARONI CHEESE**
Traditional baked macaroni cheese topped with sautéed leeks and grated cheese
Chef's selection of potatoes and vegetables

SWEETS

- 1. **OLD ENGLISH SHERRY TRIFLE**
A traditional favourite
- 2. **TRADITIONAL PLUM PUDDING**
Served with a rich brandy sauce
- 3. **CRANBERRY and ORANGE MERINGUE ROULADE**
Served with pouring cream

Choice of Tea or Coffee

To follow Lunch - Dancing till 4.00pm with tea or coffee and mince pie prior to departure

Northern Sub Group

Christmas Lunch - Thursday 7th December 2006

*I/We wish to attend the above I enclose my/our meal selections & cheque for £.....(at £12.25 per meal)
Please make cheques payable to:- 'Lancashire Unison Retired Members Section'.*

Enter your Name & Address:

Name

Address

.....

Tel No.

Signature

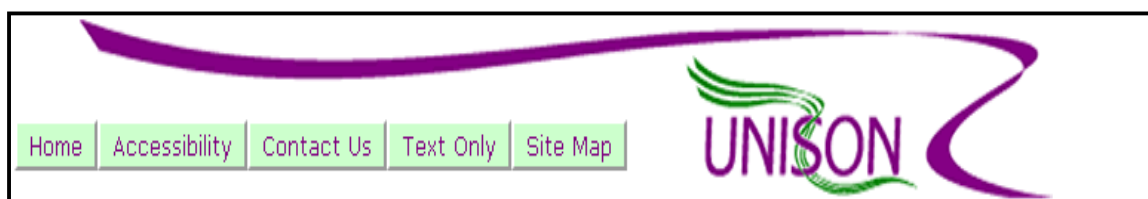
<u>Starter letter</u>	<u>Main Meal letter</u>	<u>Sweet number</u>

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



Don't forget you can view this & previous newsletters on the UNISON website

<http://www.unisonlancs.org.uk/retired.asp>



Welcome to the Lancashire Branch of Unison

Archive News

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Resources for Branch Learning Reps

Retired Members

Activities

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Archived Items

Retired Members

 [Unison Retired Members Conference Results - 2008 \(479kb\)](#)

Newsletters

Please see [Archived Items](#) for newsletters from previous years.

 [No. 112 - September 2009 \(size 459KB\)](#)

 [No. 111 - July 2009 \(size 483KB\)](#)

 [No. 110 - June 2009 \(size 260KB\)](#)

 [No. 109 - May 2009 \(size 731KB\)](#)

 [No. 108 - April 2009 \(size 434KB\)](#)

 [No. 107 - March 2009 \(size 420KB\)](#)

 [No. 106 - February 2009 \(size 327KB\)](#)

 [No. 105 - January 2009 \(size 200KB\)](#)

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