

Lancashire UNISON Retired Members Section

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Newsletter

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Diary Dates - 2005/06

Trips

Wednesday 26th October
'We'll Meet Again'

Wednesday Afternoon Matinee Show

A nostalgic show of wartime entertainment.

A few more seats have been saved on your behalf if you are interested please book ASAP (see enclosed booking form)

Walks

There is a walk programme meeting on
2nd November - at 2p.m.

The next walk will be in **2006 on**
Wednesday 11th January.

Remembrance Day Service

Friday 11th November
10.45am in County Hall Chapel.

County Hall Talk

Friday 25th November

The first talk of the winter months will start at 2:p.m in County Hall. - Mrs Anderson will demonstrate how to hand paint beautiful silks.

Christmas Carol Service

Tuesday 13th December

12.30pm - in the County Hall Chapel.

Social Evening and Dinner

Monday 16th January 2006
at Barton Grange Hotel.



'Further details in this & future newsletters'

Northern Sub Group - Talks

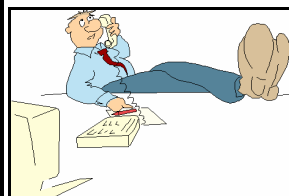
Tuesday 8th November
Susan Wilson will revisit us and talk about North Western Entertainers.

Tuesday 13th December
Mrs Hurst talks about the House of Windsor

Christmas Lunch
Thursday 8th December
At the Elms Hotel

Valentines Day 2006
(Headway Hotel)
Afternoon Tea dance

Remarks from the Chairman DAVID SERGEANT



Annual Social Reunion

Our ***Annual
Social***

Reunion will be held at Barton Grange on **Monday 16th January**. The arrangements will follow the

UNISON BRANCH OFFICE - Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ.
Telephone No. 01772 - 533072. email:- unison@unison.lancscc.gov.uk

changes we have introduced from the old annual dinner. There will be a lot of time to talk to old friends and the entertainment will be handled by **Ray Rudge**, our Treasurer, with his keyboard. Last year had the best attendance for a long time so experience of Ray's performances look to making the 16th January even better. More details with the menu will be available in our next Newsletter.

However, there is always a problem. For the last few years **Ron Clement** has hired a mini bus and brought some members of the Northern Sub-Group down to Barton Grange. But Ron is not allowed now to hire a vehicle because he is 70. Funny isn't it, couple of months ago he was perfectly capable of driving a hire vehicle. (It's a worry that the same people making these rules also run pension schemes and are telling us we all should work 5 years longer!) We are looking for someone, under 70, to volunteer to drive a minibus from Morecambe/Lancaster to Barton Grange on the 16th Jan. We will make all arrangements necessary. Contact Ron on 01524 35860

Emailing the Newsletter

There hasn't been a big response of people happy to receive the Newsletter by email. One



problem seems to be the need to have Acrobat Adobe Reader software on your

system. This is quite useful software since many organisations use it for sending better quality information. However it can be downloaded free. A good way of acquiring it would be through the County UNISON Branch website; www.unisonlancs.org.uk. Click on "Branch Information" in the purple blocks and then "Newsletter". Having



downloaded you can read the Branch Newsletter.

County Pensions Service

Information regarding the **County Pensions Service** has been coming out in dribs and drabs so it seems useful to provide a summary of information. The service is very substantial, it provides a pensions service for 120 employers ranging from obvious employers such as **Burnley Borough Council** and **Lancaster University** to **Blackpool Zoo** and the **Lancashire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs**.

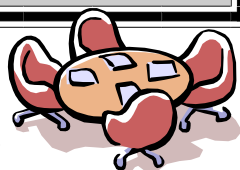
It currently has more than 50,000 contributing members and holds "frozen" contributions pending retirement of 50,000 ex-members. It is paying 30,000 pensions, about half ex - County employees and has an annual income of over £200 million. If that isn't big enough it also carries out administration for police, fire-fighters and teachers pension schemes.

It is worth pointing out that although local government pension schemes operate under statute, they still operate on the same financial basis as the larger private pension schemes unlike the **Civil Service**.

Dave Sergeant"



At our meeting this month, we had another look at the information we send to new members. We have now agreed an update and have made it more



informative regarding our activities and how they are financed.

We had our first discussion about our **Annual Dinner** which will take place on **16 January 2006** at Barton Grange Hotel. More information about this will be given in our November and December Newsletters. When you receive this Newsletter **Stella Talbot**, who has replaced Kath as our second delegate, and myself will have represented you at the **National Retired Members Conference** in Cardiff. Most of the motions are straightforward but I sought the Committee's views on two of them. One on Identity cards we decided to support, although most of us are used to wearing ID cards, we supported the comments expressed in the motion about the proposed cost to



pensioners. Your delegates have to listen to the debate and then vote. The other motion requested the removal of the **£15 Life Retired Membership** fee. We agreed that we should oppose the motion as this is paid to Branches and they have a responsibility under the rules to organise **Retired Members Sections**.

Maureen Vass"

Secretary



Talk 2pm Headway Hotel Tuesday 8th November

For our second meeting we welcome a return visit by **Susan Wilson** who last talked to us about the **Pendle Witches**.

This time she will tell us all about **North Western Entertainers** – do

come along, bring your friends and be entertained!.

Christmas Lunch Thursday 8th December - Elms Hotel

Following the success of the last two summer Lunch-Talks at the Elms Hotel, this years **Christmas Lunch** will be held in a private room at the same venue. A three course choice meal, including coffee & mints, will cost £13.75, a little dearer than in recent years, but in addition **Ray Rudge** will bring along his keyboard and play Christmas & other music for after-lunch entertainment.

Application forms are available from **Ron Clement**, contact him on 01524 35860

Tuesday 13th December

Mrs Hurst will talk about the **House of Windsor** and will bring along lots of memorabilia.



Valentines Day 2006 (Headway Hotel)

Advance notice of a new venture – an afternoon ‘tea dance’ with **Ray Rudge** providing live music. Please put this date in your diaries!

Ray Rudge"

Treasurer

Activities & Social Events

Included **AGAIN** in this months Newsletter is the **WE'LL MEET AGAIN** BOOKING FORM: I have received tickets for the seats already paid for and **The Pavilion**



Theatre have allowed us to keep a further 10 seats for this fantastic show. However the seats must be booked by the 12th of October after that date they will be cancelled. So if you are still interested to see this super show **BOOK NOW**. Contact

me on 01772 742459.

This is a very special event to commemorate a very special occasion; the show is a mixture of comedy, music and song to celebrate the 60th anniversary of **V-E Day**, and **V-J Day**. It's a celebration of wartime entertainment a recollection of the days when the spirit of Britain was at it's highest. An era to be proud of! A tribute to **Vera Lynn**, **Bing Crosby**, **Max Miller**, **Gracie Fields**, **Tommy Trinder** and many many more. If you are interested in this super show don't hesitate **BOOK NOW**. A Complimentary cup of tea and biscuits will be served at the interval in the **Horseshoe Bar**.

I have been gathering names for our programme of winter talks and we are looking forward to some excellent speakers this season. The first talk will be held on Friday November 25th **Mrs Valerie Anderson**, will relate the history of silk



by going back nearly 5000 years, and how silk has evolved through the ages. She will demonstrate how she hand paints all types of silks: making some rather nice and unusual Xmas presents, which you will be able to purchase after the demonstration. Finishing the afternoon with a complementary cup of tea or coffee and a social chat.

The usual information for our new members, the talks will be held on the last Friday of the month; (as follows)

25th Nov 2005, 27th Jan 2006, 24th Feb 2006, 31st Mar 2006, 28th April 2006.

(Dates to jot down in your diary). They will commence at 2:00p.m in **County Hall Preston** and they usually last for 1 to 1½ hours.

Please use the **County Hall Entrance in Pitt St** and sign in at the reception area, obtain a visitors badge and tell the security

person you are a retired member: they will direct you to the relevant cabinet room were the talks are to be held. You are welcome to use the **New Staff Cafeteria** for a meal or snack before the performance. The cafeteria is now situated near the main entrance in Pitt Street; again the security person on the door will direct you. Hopefully we will again see many of our members who support these talks and hopefully they will bring along their friends who will be most welcome. Do come along, not only to enjoy the afternoon's performances but also to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. It's a pleasant way to spend a winter's afternoon.

Fran Francis"

Social Secretary

On-going Stamp Appeal.

Please keep sending your stamps to:-
Derian House Stamp Appeal, The Appeals Office, Derian House, Chancery Road, Astley Village, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 1DH.

Walks

Programme Meeting



2pm - 2nd November

Meet at 25 The Howgills, Fulwood, Preston.

The next walk is in **2006 on Wednesday**

11th January.

Flo & Don Windle"

Walk Coordinators

August Walk – Norber Erratics

On a beautiful August morning we arrived in the village of Clapham looking forward to a good walk with superb weather. Just after 11 am, well protected by sun-cream, a party of 16 set off for the **Norber Erratics**. The beginning of the walk was a bit of a pull up through the two tunnels to Thwaite Lane and our hearts

were beating a little quicker than usual but they soon returned to normal as the path levelled out. The surrounding views were magnificent as we made our way

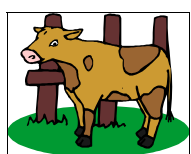


over several stiles and eventually scrambled up to the **Norber Erratics**.

These are a collection of sandstone and slate boulders, brought down in the Ice age, perched on natural white limestone clints.

We had lunch at the foot of the Erratics and duly refreshed we continued, over more stiles, to the hamlet of **Wharfe** – about a dozen houses in beautiful surroundings – some of us picked blackberries as we wended our way down the lane. I was a little disappointed that all the bilberries

had gone! The next village we came to was **Austwick** where we spotted a heron in the stream



and several calves in the fields. We had a visit from an inquisitive cow when we stopped for a drink. It seemed to have got itself separated from the rest of the herd. As we got up to move on Jean gave a very good demonstration of a forward roll, much to the amusement of us all! The weather had been kind to us all day and we arrived back in **Clapham** about 4 pm, where several of us enjoyed a welcome "cuppa" at the local café before making our way home. Thank you for your company and may we have many more happy walks together.

Joan Booth

Walk Leader



Membership Secretary's Report
Since our last meeting we have

had 6 new members and 1 Associate Member.

We offer them a warm welcome; they are:

- Mr R Barker (Education)
Clayton-le-Moors;
- Mrs L Buckland (St Aidan's School) Bamber Bridge;
- Mrs M Cunliffe (Youth & Community) Accrington;
- Mrs D Fowler (Libraries)
Leyland;
- Ms E Pacey (Police Civilians)
Blackpool;
- Mr C Smith (Photo Workshop)
Lytham St Annes;
- Mrs E Hanney (Associate Member) Bolton.

Deaths of Members

Sadly 8 of our members have died, we offer condolences to their family and friends.

- M Sydney Pyatt (Fire Service)
Broughton;
- Miss E Astley (Education);
- Mr Peter Grime (Social Services)
Morecambe;
- Mr WA Haworth (Environment)
Blackpool;
- Mrs Kathleen M Houghton (SS)
Knotty Ash;
- Mrs DE Pitts (Resources)
Sidmouth, Devon;
- Mrs Jean Z Wilson (Resources)
Penwortham;
- Mrs Dorothy Jones
Fulwood;
- Mr Ken Hanney
Bolton.

**Our membership is 1816,
(including 41 associate members)**

*..and to finish
real things said in court.*

These are things that people actually said in court, word for word:-

Q: What is your date of birth?

A: July fifteenth.

Q: What year?

A: Every year.

.....

Q: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

A: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

.....

Q: How old is your son-the one living with you.

A: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

Q: How long has he lived with you?

A: Forty-five years.

.....

Q: What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke that morning?

A: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

Q: And why did that upset you?

A: My name is Susan.

.....

Q: Trooper, when you stopped the defendant, were your red and blue lights flashing?

A: Yes.

Q: Did the defendant say anything when she got out of her car?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: What did she say?

A: What disco am I at?

.....

Q: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

.....

Q: How was your first marriage terminated?

A: By death.

Q: And by whose death was it terminated?

.....

Q: Can you describe the individual?

A: He was about medium height and had a long beard.

Q: Was this a male, or a female?

.....

Q: All your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

A: Oral.

.....