

# Lancashire UNISON

## Retired Members Section

# Newsletter

EDITION NO. 79 - September 2006

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## *Diary Dates - 2006*

### Northern Sub-Group

Tea Dance - Headway Hotel  
Tuesday 26th September 2 - 4pm  
Come and join us  
Live music - light refreshments

### Talks - Headway Hotel - 2pm

Tuesday 10th October at  
a presentation by *Edward Lawson*,  
called the "Oboe & I".

Tuesday 14th November

*Helen Thomas*, a trustee of the  
Lancaster Canal Organisation

Tuesday 12th December

*Pat Ashcroft* presents a charity adventure.

### Christmas Lunch 12:30pm

Elms Hotel Morecambe

Thursday 7th December

### Walks

Wednesday 13th September

along Witton Weaver's Way

### Vienna Christmas Market

3rd - 6th December

### County Hall Talk

Friday 24th November

*Mr Ken Dagger* Talks and acts Gilbert and  
Sullivan and their operas

### TRIPS OUT

Arranged by *Preston Health Branch*  
Ring Irene Cottam 01772 492936

Thursday 21st September

Frodsham Market & Tour of Cheshire Castles  
Lunch at Carriages Hotel, Frodsham

## **Headway Hotel**

The summer is over and we are getting back to normal. Since we did not have an August Newsletter we are not sure if you realised that we are having another *Headway Hotel* dance in *Morecambe* on *Tuesday 26th September*. On the back page is a tear off slip to send to *Ray Rudge*, telephone *01253 855784*. As usual *Ray* will be running things so you are assured of as good an afternoon as our last *Headway Hotel* do.

## **....Time Bomb**

You will have heard of the demographic time bomb. *Well you and I are in it*. Even before the baby boomers retire, because we are living longer, older

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people have moved high on everyone's agenda. And it's not just about money; there is a lot more to think about than money. You will have noticed a few items in the Newsletter from Roger Rymer about the Lancashire Older Peoples' Strategy Review. A draft report is out for consideration and our views are particularly sort after. We are provisionally thinking of a meeting at County Hall on 27th October so you can find out what is going on – and make any points you wish.

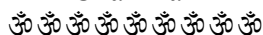
We can't send out to you all the report but when you receive the September Lancashire County "Vision" news sheet through the door, turn to page 6 where there is a short summary of what has been under consideration.

**Winter Talks**

Fran Francis has arranged our first winter talk on Friday 24th November. Ken Dagger is to talk about Gilbert and Sullivan with illustrations and music. As usual there will be tea/coffee and biscuits, by all means bring any friends who are interested. Personally I am keen on Gilbert and Sullivan; there are serious stories behind some of their works. At least they produce operas with plots I can understand!

**Dave Sergeant**

Chairman



**News from the Executive Committee**

At the start of our first meeting after the holidays we were given an update by David Halpin on progress of The Lancashire



**Strategy For An Ageing Population** – more about that elsewhere in the Newsletter. We then started our deliberations on a number of issues – a review of our Rules and Constitution, the venue and format of our Reunion Dinner in 2008 the 2007 one is already booked for 12th February at Barton Grange Hotel.

We also discussed the programme of talks which are being arranged here in Preston and at The Elms Hotel in Morecambe. These will be advertised in later editions of the Newsletter.

I enjoyed my holiday at Unison's own Holiday Village at Croyde in North Devon. The weather remained glorious for the first week with a breeze during the second week.

I hope that you all had a good holiday.

**Maureen Vass**

Secretary

**Pension Scheme Progress**

Negotiations have concluded on the ability to retire under the "85 year rule". The Government have extended the proposed date allowing people to retire before the age of 65 from 2013 to 2016 with a tapered complete phase out by 2020. This decision is due to become law on 1st October and there will be the opportunity for Parliament to debate it after the summer recess. Unison have secured a judicial review of the Government's decision to move the retirement date and the first hearing of this will be on 19th September.

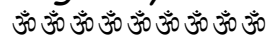
Formal consultation is now taking place on a new Local Government Pension Scheme to be in place by April 2008. The consultation paper proposes 3 new models – a final salary scheme with improved accrual

rates in terms of years of service, a career averaging scheme and a hybrid scheme in which members can make extra contributions to switch from a career average to a final salary scheme. All the models propose that employee contribution rates are increased by between 1% and 1.5% with the ability to change the employee contribution rate on a three yearly basis if it is judged necessary. The aim would be to maintain a 2:1 ratio of employer to employee contribution rate. The consultation period ends on September 29th.

**Future of Local Government**

In her new ministerial role Ruth Kelly has promised that the White Paper in the autumn will propose "radical and real" changes involving significant deregulation and devolution of power and responsibilities to the appropriate level. The same kinds of noises have been coming from the Conservative Party via David Cameron. They both seem to favour a move to neighbourhood or community government but the challenge is to make this work without just creating more talking shops. They both appear to see an increased role for the voluntary sector but undoubtedly it would have to be accompanied by increased responsibilities.

**Roger Rymer**



**Northern Sub-Group**

**Tea Dance 26 September 2006**  
**Headway Hotel 2 pm - 4 pm**

Following the success of the first Tea Dance held on Valentines Day this year, the Sub Group's Autumn/Winter programme commences with another at the

same venue on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Ray Rudge** will provide live music on his keyboard with general modern-old time ball room dancing (not specifically sequence dancing). The charge will be £5 per person including an excellent selection of scones, cakes, tea & coffee.

An application form is included at the end of this newsletter to be returned to **Ray** at the address shown (tel 01253 855784).

Only a few replies were received in **July** and **August** so we need a lot more interest to make it viable. (NOTE Ray is on holiday until 20th September, but please send in your replies and he will respond to any queries on his return.

**Members & friends** from all the County are welcome; there is ample car parking on the **East Promenade, Morecambe**, adjacent to the hotel.

**Talk 10th October 2006**  
**Headway Hotel - 2pm**

The second event of the 2006/07 programme is a presentation by **Edward Lawson**, called "The Oboe & I". He is a local professional musician who presents a programme of popular classical and other well known music and has some stories to tell. Please come along together with your friends to enjoy this first monthly talk organised by **Ileane Parr** (to whom we express our many thanks).

**Talk 14th November 2006**  
**Headway Hotel - 2pm**

**Helen Thomas**, as a trustee of the **Lancaster Canal Organisation**, is to tell us about its past, its present and plans for its future.

**Christmas Lunch - 12:30pm**  
**Elms Hotel Morecambe**  
**Thursday 7th December**

As last year, and following on from the very successful summer

lunch (**40 attended**), a **Christmas meal** has been arranged for **December 7th** in a private room at the **Elms Hotel**. There is a very good choice of **4 starters, 4 main courses**, and **4 sweets** followed by tea/coffee and mints.

**Ray Rudge** will bring his keyboard and play **Christmas** and other popular music after the lunch.

The inclusive cost is £13.75 and a form will be included with the **October** newsletter, but if anyone wants one before then please contact **Ron Clements** on 01524 35860.

**Talk 10th October 2006**  
**Headway Hotel - 2pm**

There will be a most welcome return of **Pat Ashcroft** who will give a presentation on one of her charity adventures.

Ray Rudge"

Treasurer  
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**Diary Dates are:-**  
**13th September, 11th October & in 2007 the 10th January.**  
**Programme meeting will be 2.00pm on the 1st November.**  
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The next walk is **Wednesday 13th September**. Start at 11am, Walk Leader is **Eric Waterhouse**. Contact him on 01772 863743.



Meet in the car park at **Roddlesworth Information Centre, TOCKHOLES**. The car park is reached by driving in through the Royal Arms Hotel car park. The **Information Centre** is located 1½ miles along the Tockholes Rd on the east side of the A675. Turn off the A675, 2 miles north of Belmont Village

(right hand turn) or 4 miles south of junction 3 on the M65, (left hand turn) almost 3 miles south of Abbey Village. **Confused!** do not worry this is an isolated junction, where the A675 crosses moorland some 900 feet above sea level. **Ignore Slipper Lowe Car Park on left.**

**Ordnance Survey: Grid Reference 665 214. Landranger Sheet 103 & Explorer 19 (West Pennine Moors)** A walk of approximately 8 miles There are Toilets in the car park.

The route will follow the northern section of the **Witton Weaver's Way**.

The following months walk is **Wednesday 11th October**. Start at 11am, Walk Leader is **Roy Rich**. Contact him on 01772 454601

Meet at **GLASSON** in the Waterways car park between the B 5290 and the canal basin.

**Landranger Sheet 102 Grid Reference 446 560**. A walk of approximately 9 miles. There are toilets at the car park.

A walk taking in Cockersands Abbey, and Cockerham village.

**Flo & Don Windle"**  
Walk Coordinators

**Roy's Long Walk**

On the **26th July** this year the long walk was from **Abbeystead**, it was a classic moorland trek to the summit of **Bowland**. The **Duke of Westminster's Estate Office** administers nearly **20,000** acres of jealously guarded grouse moor, but on the day of the walk with only three weeks to the '**glorious twelfth**' there were very few grouse to be seen! Because of this there will be no shoot this year. In **1915** when thousands were dying in the trenches over **3,000** birds were claimed.

Due to holidays the group only comprised three hardy souls and a prompt start was made from the village on an overcast morning –

ideal for walking. After a steady climb of nearly three miles, **Jubilee Tower** was reached, which on a good day gives a superb view over to **Morecambe Bay**. The **Tower** was built by a local landowner in **1887** to commemorate **Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee**. We then had to take '**legal advice**' as on the entrance to the moor a notice declared that due to the extreme risk of fire because of the hot weather, the **Clougha Access** area was closed. No Lawyer being present, I took the view that it was not the public right of way that was closed and as everyone concurred off we set. After a steady pull over a very dry moor we then reached **Ward's Stone Access** area, with a small wind farm in the distance, where the path levelled off for a time and we reached the first of the two roads that have been constructed by the **Duke's Estate Office** to facilitate grouse shooting parties. Over the road there was then another long pull up to **Wards Stone** itself at a height of **1,841** feet. Lunch was taken at this half way point and the sun decided to come out for the rest of the day and we were glad of our supply of water. Just visible were the

**Three Peaks** and a second **OS Column**, which told us that this was a further three feet higher than **Wards Stone**!

From that point it was a very leisurely walk over a moorland peat landscape, with a good stone wall forming the boundary eventually reaching the second Estate road. At this point we took the route down the long decent to **Tarnbrook**, but if we had carried on over the **Fells** we would have reached the **Roman Road** at Croasdale and then **Slaidburn/Dunsop Bridge**. The peaceful day was disturbed by hundreds of gulls, which frequent this part of the moor and at breeding time can be very aggressive. Despite the long period of dry weather it was only a few minutes before a stream - **Tarnbrook Wyre** - became evident. Where does all this water come from with weeks of no rain? On reaching the small hamlet of **Tarnbrook**, which was an old **Quaker** settlement, the route went over numerous pastures to eventually arrive back at the grounds of **Abbeystead**. This enormous house was built in **1886** for the **Earl of Sefton** and often plays host to members of the **Royal Family**.

The **13** mile walk was completed

in a record time of just under six hours thanks to the fast pace set by **Keith and Jean** and over **1,200** calories were lost!

**Roy Rich**"

**Walk Leader**

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**Our membership is 1827  
(including 29 associate members)  
NB. these are corrected figures.**

**Membership Secretary's Report**

Since our last meeting we have had **5** new members. We offer them a warm welcome. They are:

- Alan Gregory (Chief Executives) Redmayne, Carnforth;
- Paul Boardman (Resources - Property) Penwortham;
- Mrs M Stones (Penwortham);
- Ms Gillian Robinson (Social Services) Lancaster;
- Mrs Barbara Monkhouse (Resources - Property) Fulwood.

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Sadly we have been only just been notified that one of our members had died several years ago, we offer condolences to her family and friends.

Mrs AD Turner  
Morecambe.

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**Northern Sub Group**  
**Tuesday 26th September - Tea Dance 2pm - 4pm**  
**Headway Hotel, Morecambe.**

I/We will attend the above tea dance for which I enclose a cheque for £.....'s  
 (Number of persons ..... at **£5 per person**)

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

**Signature** .....

Please send to:-  
**Ray Rudge, 9 Blythe Ave,**  
**Clevellys. FY5 2LL**

Contact Number:- 01253 855784

**Enter your Name & Address:**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Tel No. ....

