

Lancashire UNISON

Retired Members Section

Newsletter

EDITION NO. 81 - November 2006

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Diary Dates - 2006/07

County Hall

Talk - Friday 24th November

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

Christmas Carol Service

Tuesday 19th December 12 noon

Northern Sub-Group

Talks - Headway Hotel - 2pm

Tuesday 14th November

Helen Thomas, a trustee of the Lancaster Canal Organisation

Tuesday 12th December

Pat Ashcroft presents a charity adventure.

Tuesday 9th January 2007

Liz O'Neil - she's "Making a Splash"

Christmas Lunch 12:30pm

Elms Hotel Morecambe

Thursday 7th December

Walks

Wednesday 10th January 2007

A flat easy walk of approximately 4 miles

Vienna Christmas Market

3rd - 6th December

Plus a tour of Vienna & Strauss concert.

Annual Social Reunion 12th February 2007

As we have previously informed you our annual social evening at **Barton Grange** will take place on **12 February** starting **5:45p.m.** **Ray Rudge**, our **Treasurer**, will again be organising the social activities which went down so well last year. See enclosed menu and details. Despite inflation (see the next item) the price is the same as last year!

BUT, don't forget the Morecambe group's **Christmas Lunch** on **7th December**, details in the Newsletter. Or the winter talk on **24th November Gilbert & Sullivan** operas by **Ken Dagger** – a big subject.

2007 Pensions Increase

The year on year increase in the retail price index for September has now been published and is **3.6%**. This is the increase you can expect in your **Local Government Pension** from **April 2007** provided you retired before **25 April 2006**, are in receipt of a pension and are aged **55** or over. Those retiring since then will receive a smaller increase proportionate to the number of months they are retired between **25/4/06** and **25/3/07**.

Local Government White Paper

Ruth Kelly has now published her White Paper which is pretty silent about delegating functions from Central Government to Local Government. Instead it concentrates on recommending more parish councils,

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wider powers for parish councils, greater public consultation and more opportunities for the public to challenge decisions by elected representatives. There is provision for more directly elected mayors but no real encouragement to establish them. Likewise there are some vague powers about setting up city regions. Nothing to get too excited about at this stage – in fact more reminiscent of the 19th Century!

Roger Rymer”

Lancashire Older Peoples’ Strategy

Following the talk by *David Halpin* on 27th October at County Hall, **David** would like to hear from any of our members who have views on what issues older people would like to see addressed in a strategy for the future in Lancashire. If you have any views please telephone **01772 532433** on the 20th to 24th November. As mentioned David is particularly keen for the views of our members.

Dave Sergeant”

Chairman

News from the Executive Committee



The committee spent a considerable length of time discussing *The Constitution and Rules of Procedure* of our section. Several amendments had been submitted for consideration. The results of our discussion have now to be submitted to *The Branch* for agreement. It was also agreed that when this has been

achieved, a number of points will be publicised in a later edition of our Newsletter. Our two delegates to our *National Conference* reported back to your committee and a report from one of our visitors is included in this Newsletter. Talks have now been arranged at both *Preston* and *Morecambe* for the winter and these will be publicised in the diary dates

Maureen Vass”

Secretary

Northern Sub-Group

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 its plans for the future.

Please come along together with your friends and enjoy a social afternoon with free refreshments.

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 is enclosed at the end of this newsletter, you can also contact *Ron Clements* on 01524 35860.

Talk 12th December 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. Please come along together with your friends and enjoy a social afternoon with free refreshments.

Talk 9th January 2007

Headway Hotel - 2pm

“*Making a Splash*” will be a Talk with a lot of local interest to be given by *Liz O’Neil*, one of the “*Lovelies*” in the *Morecambe Aqua Show*.

Ray Rudge”

Treasurer

County Hall Talk

24th November 2006 - 2pm

Mr Ken Dagger, who is the Chairman of *Marston Operatic Society*. Talks and acts *Gilbert and Sullivan* and their operas. A talk “with **Musical illustrations**” an excellent performance.

Derian House Stamp Appeal

Please keep sending your stamps to *Derian House*, this is an on going stamp appeal, and an extremely worthy cause.

Derian House Stamp Appeal, The Appeals Office, Derian House, Chancery Road, Astley Village, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 1DH.

Fran Francis”

Social Secretary

Retired Members Conference

9th and 10th October 2006

Hilton Hotel Blackpool

The first day was covered by the workshops which, I, as a visitor, could not attend as all the workshops were full. The second day dawned and the conference began in earnest. The mood of delegates seemed to be quite

confident but subdued because all the advice seemed to be **Support**. The speakers were very interesting eg **Council Tax Benefits, Council Tax, Council Housing, Winter Deaths, Communications**. Everything was going smoothly until 'Driving Tests for those over 75 years of age' was discussed. This required a card vote and was passed by a small majority (**565 votes**). Because we never previously got through the agenda, speeches were kept to the minimum and the right of reply was waved. The last motion 'Proportional Representation at Retired Members Conference' from our region was remitted to the National retired Members Committee. This has been raised before by **Eric Tattersall** but no satisfactory response has been achieved. This time the National Committee have promised to give it serious consideration.

Stella Talbot

Visitor to Conference

Retired Members Walking Group



The last walk of the 2006 programme is on Wednesday 10th January 2007. Start at 11am, Walk Leader is Peter Kilgour. Contact him on 01257

279650. Meet at Worthington Lakes Car Park (United Utilities Car Park) Chorley Rd (**A5106**) Standish Wigan.

Take the A5106 off the A6 south of Chorley (Chorley Wigan Rd). The car park is after 3 miles. 100 yards past the **Lakeside Care Home** on the left (easily missed!!) **Landranger Sheet 108 Grid Reference 581 105.**

Explorer 19 West Pennine

Moors (SW corner)

A flat easy walk of approximately 4 miles, taking in lakeside, woodland and canal.

Diary Dates for the 2007 programme are:- 14th March, 18th April, 16th May, 13th June (4th July Roy's long walk please note 10.00am start). 11th July, 15th August, 19th September, 17th October, and in 2008 the 9th January.

There will be a **Programme Meeting** at 25 The Howgills, Fulwood, Preston at **2.00pm** on Wednesday **7th November 2008**.

The full programme will be published in the New Year.

Flo & Don Windle

Walk Coordinators

Walk - Witton Weavers Way

The Walk on the 13th September started from the **Roddlesworth Information Centre** at Tockholes and took in much of the **Tacklers Trail of the Witton Weavers way. Fourteen** assembled in the car park and with two non runners who did their own thing— to use racing parlance – left shortly after eleven o'clock. The walkers were provided with an **illustrated coloured leaflet** describing the route and the interesting features to be observed along the way – **leaders please note this precedent** and the expectancy now for future walks!!

The initial part of the walk was through the southern part of Roddlesworth Wood passing Halliwell Fold Bridge and then rising to the ruins Hollinshead Hall where only the **Well House** remains intact. The latter is the confluence of five springs and popular belief is that it houses a holy spring or is a magic wishing well. Hollinshead Hall was the manor house of Tockholes. What remains are the ruins of the 18th. and 19th century hall, stables and farm buildings, which were all

uncovered as a result of an archaeological dig some twenty years ago. **West Pennine Moors Country Service** now maintains the site.

From the hall the path crossed the Tockholes road and after a brief fairly level section climbed upwards on to the edge of Darwen Moor. Lunch was taken there and the group enjoyed excellent views across the valley towards **Winter Hill** and **Great Hill** and were by now basking in glorious sunshine which remained for the rest of the day.

A deviation was made to cross the moor, in order to avoid a nasty waterlogged section, but rejoined the printed route again at a point near to what is known locally as **Lords Hall**, a modern isolated white house perched on the hillside. The moorland path was wet in places but of more concern were the sounds of shots being fired at unsuspecting grouse that deigned to raise their heads above the heather!

The next stage was generally on a good stony path that led to **Jubilee Tower**, to give its correct name although better known as **Darwen Tower**. Here another stop was made to give an opportunity to ascend and view the panoramic view from a greater height. The Tower was built in **1897** to commemorate **Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee** and also to celebrate the opening of **Darwen Moor** to the public after a long fight for access. From the Tower we took the gravel track leading down to the Sunnyhurst Pub where we regrouped but did not enter! We then passed through the nearby Lychgate and entered **Sunnyhurst Wood**. We followed the path to the left thereby taking another deviation from the printed route and continued via path and track to Earnsdale reservoir. From here, after a short steep climb, we

followed another good track that led back to Tockholes Road where again we decided, possibly with leader persuasion, to make another deviation in order to take in the **Roddlesworth reservoirs**. This probably added a mile and a half to the walk but afforded excellent woodland walking. After a stiff final climb from the **River Roddlesworth** we eventually returned to the start point at about 4-15pm having enjoyed **9 miles** or so of good, varied, and undulating walking and all in brilliant sunshine. We hadn't seen much in the way of wildlife and the trees were still clothed in summer greenery without much hint of their imminent autumn transformation.

Eric Waterhouse"

Walk Leader

The Last Walk of 2006

The title of this walk was '**Of Water and Abbots**' and water was certainly very evident. At 9 o'clock the heavens opened with thunder and lightening and I wondered if anyone would be tempted out in such conditions. However, on arrival at **Glasson Dock** the weather had improved and **12** walkers turned out for the **10 mile walk**. Just as we were about to start off heavy rain set in and we delayed the start and fortunately it soon abated and we set off along the **Glasson Branch Canal** heading towards the **Lancaster Canal**, nearly three miles away. We had decided that if the rain came in again we could always return to our cars, but whilst the rain never stopped it did ease off considerably.

The Glasson Branch has seven locks and was opened in **1826**. **Ellel Church** once the home of the **Sandeman** family (of Port fame) and **Thurnham Mill** were

viewed along the way. On reaching the **Lancaster Canal** we turned south and a signpost indicated 27 miles to Preston and 8 miles to Lancaster. After about two miles we left the Canal at **Holly House Farm**, and then followed a track to **Centre Farm** and then went through several fields to eventually reach the main road at **Cockerham Village** where lunch was taken at roughly the mid point of the walk. Just as we opened our lunch boxes the heavens opened and soggy sandwiches were the order of the day for half the party, who had no shelter!

With the weather not much better I outlined two options – continue along the coast or take a short route back to the Canal. Nine walkers decided to go for the long route and put up with the weather. The route then took us through **Cockerham Church** grounds and a few fields before reaching **Pattys Farm** and the parachute centre right on the coast. From there the walk followed the Lancashire Coastal Path along the foreshore passing several Residential Caravan Parks to reach **Cockersands Abbey**. Fortunately the rain stopped and with the tide turning many birds were observed by our experts. The **Abbey** is now much neglected. It goes back to **1190**, and in **1539** contained **22** priests and **57** servants and was a burial chamber for the **Dalton's of Thurnham**. After continuing along the coast the path then turned right to cross several fields and then down **Tithebarn Hill**, with views of **Sunderland Point**, over the lock bridge into Glasson. On reflection a thoroughly enjoyable walk if you like rain!

Roy Rich"

Walk Leader



Membership Secretary's Report

Since our last meeting we have had **21** new members. We offer them a warm welcome. They are:

- MS V Allum (Career Link)
Poulton;
- Miss J Antcliffe (Fylde Supported Living Service) Lytham;
- Mrs Y Bailey (Social Services)
Trawden;
- Mr DE Bateson (Libraries)
Blackpool;
- Mr D Bentham (Adlington Car Parks) Chorley;
- Mrs M Bentham
Buckshaw Adlington;
- Ms G Dicioccio (School Kitchen)
Preston;
- Mr P Clarke (Resources)
Walton-le-Dale;
- Mrs G Cross (Libraries)
Ingol;
- Mrs M Evans (Libraries)
Chorley;
- Mrs KI Gaskell (Education)
Garstang;
- Mrs B Grieveson (Cook, Pendle Brook) Burnley;
- Mrs H Holden (Home for the Elderly) Leyland;
- Mrs D Leeman (Education)
Wigan;
- Mrs M Liddell (Education)
Ormskirk;
- Mr AG Moss (Chief Execs)
Fulwood;
- Mrs S Noble (School Catering)
Blackburn;
- Mr VR Platt (Worden Depot)
Chorley;
- Mrs K Tomlinson (Social Services)
Rossendale;
- Mr K Spittle (Home Help)
Blackpool;
- Mr P Whitman (Social Services)
Fulwood.

*** ** ** ** **

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

- Mrs Janine A Chattington
(Career Link) Poulton;
- Mr Eric William Higham
(Environment) Wigan;

Miss Muriel Parkinson (Education & Cultural Services) Fulwood.

Our membership is 1846 (including 28 associate members)

UNISON RETIRED MEMBERS NORTHERN SUB GROUP CHRISTMAS LUNCH

THE ELMS HOTEL BARE MORECAMBE

Thursday 7th December 2006 - 12.00 for 12.30

MENU

STARTERS

- a. *CREAM OF TOMATO & BASIL SOUP*
- b. *MELON FRAPPE*
- c. *PRAWN COCKTAIL*
- d. *CHILLED FRUIT JUICE*

MAIN COURSES

- 1. *ROAST FYLDE TURKEY*
Traditionally roasted and served with bacon, chipolata, seasoning and cranberry sauce
 - 2. *BRAISED STEAK CHASSEUR*
Tender braising steak cooked in a rich wine sauce with mushrooms & tomatoes scented with Tarragon
 - 3. *PLAICE ROYALE*
In wine sauce
 - 4. *VEGETABLE LASAGNE*
Fresh vegetables cooked with tomato & herbs layered with pasta and cheese, then baked
- All served with a selection of fresh vegetables and potatoes*

SWEETS

- W. *STEAMED CHRISTMAS PUDDING WITH SAUCE*
- X. *FRESH FRUIT SALAD*
- Y. *PANNA COTTA*
- Z. *CHOCOLATE GATEAU*

Freshly brewed tea and coffee with mint confection

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 £13.75 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 number</u>	<u>Sweet letter</u>

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