

Lancashire UNISON

Retired Members Section

Newsletter

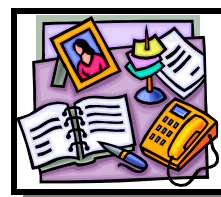
EDITION NO. 83 - January 2007

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

Maureen Vass - Secretary
email:- maureen.vass@unisonfree.net
telephone:- 01257 271480

Edited & Produced by:

Mrs Christine Shaw
Buzon 139,
Camino Tossal 5,
03729, Lliber,
Alicante, Spain.



email:- casashaw@gmail.com

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

Diary Dates - 2007

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

County Hall - Talks 2pm

Friday 26th January

**Paul Kelly. N.W. Ambulance
Rescue incidents.**

Friday 23rd February

**Daren & Carol of Aphrodite Penwortham
talk of Alternative Medicines.**

Annual Social Reunion

Monday 12th February

See form enclosed with this newsletter

Northern Sub-Group

Talk - Headway Hotel - 2pm

Tuesday 20th February

**Mary and John Broster talk about Guide
Dogs & their role in helping the deaf**

Tea Dance 13th March

Headway Hotel - 2pm.

Come & join us for a pleasant afternoon

Walks

Wednesday 14th March

First walk of the 2007 programme

12th February 2007 Annual Social Reunion Updated

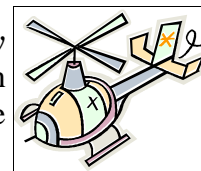
Attached is an application form for our *Annual Social Reunion* on 12th February at *Barton Grange*. Compared to our application forms in the last two Newsletters you will see we have provided more details of the menu and arrangements for anyone wishing to stay overnight. Oh yes, and *Fran* has noticed how near the date is to *St. Valentines day!* As usual *Ray Rudge* will be organising the entertainment and, since last year members told us it was our best ever annual "do", this year should be even better.



N. W. Air Ambulance

County Hall Talk 26 January

This month's talk is by *Paul Kelly* who will be giving us the human stories of people who needed the helicopter.



February's talk is by *Aphrodite of Penwortham* on *Alternative Medicines*, a hot topic of the moment, more details in the next Newsletter.

Dave Sergeant"

Chairman

UNISON BRANCH OFFICE - Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ.

Tel. 01772 533072 or email:- unison@unison.lancscc.gov.uk

News from the Executive Committee



Thank you for the good wishes I received following my accident. I am

not yet fully mobile but with a bit of improvisation, I am managing to get around.

One of the two main issues that concerned your *Executive Committee* this month was receiving an update on arrangements for our *Annual Reunion and Dinner*, which takes place on Monday 12 February at *Barton Grange Hotel*.

The other was regarding the position of our members who had worked on a part time basis and been excluded from joining the *Superannuation* scheme. When this changed and part time staff became eligible to join, a back dating arrangement applied. Several of our members, through *UNISON*, appealed for an earlier date of entry.



Letters were sent to these

members in November setting out the proposals to obtain these additional benefits, and whilst the offer seems very acceptable there is one query. If the member paid full *National Insurance Contributions*, the *State Retirement Pension* they are receiving will include credit and benefit from *SERPS* for that period. It may be advisable to check with the *National Insurance Benefits Office* if acceptance of the improvement to their *Local Government Pension*

affects the *State Benefit*. The telephone number is **0845 3013011**. If you only paid the married woman's contribution, this should have no effect.

Maureen Vass"
Secretary

Local Government News Update

Different views have been expressed about the worth of the *Government's White Paper* on local government. So what are the main proposals?

Firstly, it proposes a significant reduction in the number of performance targets and indicators which local authorities are expected to meet – a sensible and long overdue move – perhaps more time can be spent on actually delivering services.

Secondly, it proposes the transfer of powers from central government to city regions provided they have elected mayors like *London* – still vague on what those powers will be.



Thirdly, it suggests the possibility of additional unitary authorities where they are an agreed way forward. There is a *12* week consultation period on this ending at the end of *January 2007*. Proposals are certainly being worked on for the *Preston* area as well as others.

Finally, it is proposed that there should be increased public involvement in local services by the creation of parish council style neighbourhood councils; and more powers for LA scrutiny committees to question bodies such as police and PCTs (but not at present private sector or voluntary sector) over their

actions and policies. The publication of the *Lyons* report on financing and structural reform of local government has been delayed again into the *New Year*. The significance and worth of the *White Paper* may be clearer when this is published.

The Queen's Speech promised legislation on a national scheme for free bus travel for pensioners, proposals for road pricing and reducing carbon emissions, and reform of the pension and benefits systems. Details of the pension changes have been included in previous newsletters but a more recent proposal relates to the second (graduated) pension where it is proposed that the complicated link to annual earnings should be replaced by a fixed sum payable to everyone based on the number of years either working or caring. A figure of **£1 – 40 per week** has been floated.

Local Government Pensions

Unions and Employers are on a collision course again over the proposal to increase the current employee contribution rate from the current *6%* as part of the major overhaul of the *Local Government Pension Scheme* - further strike action is threatened.

Roger Rymer"

Northern Sub-Group

Talk 20th February 2007
Headway Hotel - 2pm

Normally we associate guide dogs with blind persons but *Mary and John Broster* are coming to tell us about the role played by them in helping *deaf* people. This

should be a fascinating talk. Please come along bring your friends and enjoy a free cup of tea/coffee and biscuits.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TUESDAY

Tea Dance 13th March 2007
Headway Hotel - 2pm

On *Valentines Day 2006* we held a very successful tea dance enjoyed by 40 members and friends. Disappointingly a second one arranged for last September had to be cancelled because of lack of support.

However, undaunted, another tea dance has been arranged in **March** instead of our monthly

talk. There will be a small charge of £5 to cover the cost of tea coffee cakes etc; and even if you are not very active, the music played by **Ray Rudge** on his key board will be those popular tunes we all enjoyed in our younger days.

Please complete the slip at the end of this news letter and return it to Ray Rudge, 9 Blythe Ave, Clevelys, FY5 2LL. (01253 855784) (no tickets will be issued)

Ray Rudge"

Treasurer

Retired Members Walking Group

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 a future Newsletter.

Flo & Don Windle"

Walk Coordinators

Talks

The usual information for our new members, the talks are held in **COUNTY HALL PRESTON;** they start

at **2:00pm** and usually last for **1 to 1½ hours,** finishing with tea or coffee and a social chat.

Please use the **COUNTY HALL ENTRANCE IN PITT STREET** 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 usual 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.

See future newsletters for more information.

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

Members

Membership Secretary's Report

Since our last report we have had 11 new members plus 2 transfers in. We offer them a warm welcome. They are:

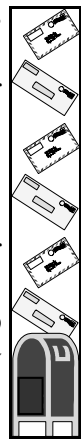
- Mrs CA Boothman (Education) Lammack;
- Alan Dewhurst (Environment) Colne;
- Mrs L Kirkham (Social Services) Whitefield, M/C;
- Robert Allen (Client Support) Cleveleys;
- Mrs CA Lewis (Education) Fulwood;
- Mrs J Parkinson (Education) Poulton-le-Fylde;
- Mrs A Utley (Social Services) Wrea Green;
- Mr B Dunn (NHS Wigan) Whitefield M/C;
- Mrs C Patten (Tulketh Comm) Fulwood. Spts Coll;
- Mrs C Pollard (Catering) Padiham;
- Mrs A Robertson (Burnley Coll) Waterfoot, Rossendale.

Transfers In

- Mrs C Siddall (Preston Health) Fulwood;
- Mrs M Wharton (Burnley Gen) Helmshore, Rossendale.

Deaths of Members

Sadly 5 of our members have died, we offer our condolences to their family and friends.



JA Duckworth
 Leyland;
 Walter Fell
 Preston;
 Valerie Hardacre
 Broughton;
 CRH Howard (Environment)
 Garstang;
 Irene Radcliffe (Education)
 Skelmersdale.

**Our membership is 1854
 (including 28 associate members)**

Please note Editor's
 new email address is
 casashaw@gmail.com

*...and to finish from your
 Editor...*

The Twelve Days of Christmas
 What in the world does *Leaping
 Lords; French hens; swimming
 swans*, and especially the
Partridge who will not come out
 of the *pear tree* have to do with
Christmas?

WELL!!!

The story - so it
 goes.... is....

From 1558 until 1829, Roman
 Catholics in England were not

permitted to practice their faith
 openly. Someone during that era
 wrote this carol as a catechism
 song for the Catholics. It has two
 levels of meaning the surface
 meaning plus a hidden meaning
 known only to members of their
 church. Each element in the carol
 has a code words for a religious
 reality which the children could
 remember:

The Partridge in a pear tree was
 Jesus Christ.

Two Turtle Doves were the Old
 and New Testaments.

Three French Hens stood for
 Faith, Hope, and Love.

The Four Calling Birds were the
 four Gospels of Matthew, Mark,
 Luke, and John.

The Five Golden Rings recalled
 the Torah or Law, the first five
 books of the Bible.

The Six Geese a-laying stood for
 the Six Days of Creation.

Seven Swans a-swimming
 represented the Sevenfold
 Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 (Prophecy, Serving,
 Teaching,

Exhortation, Contribution,
 Leadership, and Mercy).

The Eight Maids a-milking were



the Eight Beatitudes.
Nine Ladies Dancing were the
 Fruits of the Spirit (Love, Joy,
 P e a c e ,
 P a t i e n c e ,
 K i n d n e s s ,
 G o o d n e s s ,
 F a i t h f u l n e s s ,
 G e n t l e n e s s ,
 a n d S e l f -
 c o n t r o l) .



The Ten Lords a-Leaping were
 the Ten Commandments.

The Eleven Pipers Piping stood
 for the Eleven Faithful Disciples.

The Twelve Drummers



Drumming
 symbolized the
 Twelve Points
 of Belief in the
 Apostles Creed.

.....

So there is a
 history lesson for today, this was
 shared with me and I found it
 interesting.

BUT!!

As you know not everyone will
 take this version of modern
 folklore seriously, so here is a
 link for all you computer addicts
 out there to see a different view..

[http://www.snopes.com/holidays/
 christmas/12days.asp](http://www.snopes.com/holidays/christmas/12days.asp)

just copy & paste it into your
 browser.

Northern Sub Group
Afternoon Tea Dance
Headway Hotel, Morecambe.

I/We will attend the above tea dance for which I enclose a cheque for £..... (£5 per person)
 Please make cheques payable to:- 'Lancashire Unison Retired Members Section'.

Signature

Enter your Name & Address:

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

Name

Address

.....

.....

Contact Number:- 01253 855784

Tel No.

