

Lancashire UNISON Retired Members Section

Newsletter

EDITION NO. 84 - February 2007

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Diary Dates - 2007

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

Canal Cruise with Buffet Lunch

Tuesday 8th May - 10:30am

Next Walk

Wednesday 14th March

A walk through Hothersall & Longridge areas

Don Windle, which even stretches to 2008!

Fran never fails to come up with a mix of talks to cover all tastes. Last month's talk was the *North West Air Ambulance*, this month the talk is on the hot topic of *alternative medicine* and in *March* there is a *craft demonstration* which always arouses interest. Finally, in *April*, after the *A.G.M.*, is one of *Barbara Rudge's* talks, this time on her trip through *South Africa*, a country which seems to manage to combine urban Britain with the wild west. One of those areas of the world which is not only interesting but in which we should be interested.

Details below - all talks start at 2.00 p.m.

Friday 23rd February

Carol and Darren

From Aphrodite of Penwortham
Herbal remedies to help ease your aches
and pains

Friday 30th March

Marjorie Wolstenholme

Gives an interesting craft demonstration
on the art of Quilling

Friday 27th April

Mrs Barbara Rudge

Talks about one of their fantastic
holidays in South Africa
Again with a display of unusual souvenirs

County Hall Talks

It is often easy to overlook the "bread and butter" of our activities while "one off" activities get publicity. Below are more details of *County Hall* talks arranged by *Fran Francis* and also in this Newsletter is the substantial programme of walks arranged so well by

Last months talk at County Hall was given by *Paul Kelly* about the *N.W. Air Ambulance*. They have a new helicopter name *Katie* after a benefactor gave

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

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

them **£500,000**. The helicopter covers **Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire** and, in the summer, averages 10 call outs a day (yes, you read it right, that's **TEN** per day!). **Paul** owes his life to the helicopter and gave a graphic description of his accident and rescue. His injuries and the way his hands were put back together had people swallowing somewhat underlining the importance to people of the helicopter and its organisation. Descriptions of the rescues by the helicopter never fail to impress with the dedication of the crew. (And, by the way, if you want to be an air ambulance paramedic you mustn't weigh over **11 stone**; now who would that exclude. . . .)

The **annual cost** of the helicopter is **£1.3 million** and fund raising is constantly going on. If you want more information telephone **0800 587 4570** or if you want to send a donation you only need to address the envelope "**Freepost North West Air Ambulance**". Also, if any of you have any used computer ink cartridges or any old mobile phones the **North West Air Ambulance** would be able to use them to increase their funds, this again is an ongoing appeal.

Dave Sergeant"
Chairman

News from the Executive Committee



Final arrangements were made for our **Annual Reunion & Dinner** on 12th of this month. Sadly, our numbers are reduced this year but I am sure that those who are able to attend will have an enjoyable

time. The **AGM** of the **NW Region Retired Members** was held on 12th January and **Kath Montgomery** and I were re-elected to the Committee, which held its first meeting that afternoon. I was re-elected as **Secretary** and also as our representative on the **Conference Standing Orders Committee**. The next **AGM** will be that of Branch, which will be held at 4pm on Thursday **8th March** at County Hall. As retired members of the Branch we are entitled to attend. We will be holding our **AGM** at 11am on Friday **27th April** at **County Hall**. Nominations are invited to serve as Officers or as committee members and a nomination form will be circulated with the March newsletter. **There is a closing date of 31st March.**

Maureen Vass"
Secretary

Northern Sub-Group

Talk 20th February 2007
Headway Hotel - 2pm

Normally we associate **guide dogs** with **blind** persons but **Mary & 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.

No replies have been received for this **Event** advertised in last month's newsletter. If there is no, or insufficient, response this month, then **Ray** will still bring his keyboard and instead provide an afternoon of musical entertainment.

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**).

Canal Cruise with Buffet Lunch
Tuesday 8th May - 10:30am
Tithebarn Hotel, Garstang

This year's **Annual Trip** where Members & friends use their own transport to arrive at the chosen Venue, has been arranged for **Tuesday 8th May**. A large canal boat has been hired, and a **four hour** cruise has been arranged including a very good buffet lunch (a bar is also available). We will meet at the **Tithebarn Hotel Garstang** (which is on the side of the canal) at 10:30am – or come earlier if you want to treat yourself to an early coffee before the cruise.

The inclusive cost is **£17:00**. A form will be included with the **March Newsletter**, but if you wish to put your name down before then please ring **Ron Clement** on 01524 35860.

Ray Rudge"
Treasurer

Retired Members Walking Group

Lancashire County Branch of Unison

Group Correspondent: Don Windle,
25 The Howgills, Fulwood, Preston,
Lancashire PR2 9LX. Telephone
(01772) 713820.

Dear Member,

PROGRAMME BRIEFING Walks 2007

We have once again managed to produce a varied programme for our **2006** walks. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to lead the walks, which will be something for us all to look forward to.

The next few paragraphs are mainly for the information of **prospective members**. All the walks are scheduled for **Wednesdays** to fit in with our other commitments. As the morning starts seemed to give a more relaxing day, the walks will commence at **11.00am** with a stop to eat a **picnic lunch** and other breaks to look at points of interest. The pace is leisurely, routes are circular returning to the start point by mid to late afternoon, diversions may be necessary due to missing footbridges, broken stiles or similar problems and no definite finishing times can be given.

The walks are planned to suit mature walkers. When a total ascent of less than **60 metres** is required the walk will be referred to as **almost level**. Undulating walks will involve a series of moderate inclines. Should the route include ascents or descents steeper than **1 in 5** for more than **100 metres** reference will be made to **steep banks**. **Walking sticks** are very useful on slippery banks and for testing the depth of mud in heavily used gateways.

To ensure everyone has an

enjoyable day out please note the following recommendations:

Leave your dog at home.

Arrive in good time and lock up your car carefully.

Listen to the weather forecast and bring suitable clothing, plus dry socks.

Wear stout footwear, footpaths and bridleways can be muddy and eroded at any time of the year.

Height barriers at 2 metres elevation and **Parking Charges** are a regular feature of rural car parks; please assume they may be present at the meeting points as they have not been specially noted.

If there are any queries for a particular walk, please contact the person leading the group for that day.

Please note that **Unison** does not provide insurance for any members taking part in these walks. Each participant is responsible for their own safety and if you consider insurance to be necessary, please make your own arrangements.

Looking forward to the pleasure of your company.

Flo & Don Windle

Walk Coordinators

2007 WALKS

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 **Ordnance Survey Map Outdoor Leisure 41 Forest of Bowland and Ribblesdale**, has distinctive blue arrows pointing to several of the rendezvous points we regularly use and referred to where applicable.

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**.

Each walk will be published in future Newsletters.

Wednesday 14th March

Walk starts at 11am, Walk Leader is **Tony Ingham**, you can contact him on 01772 782480

Meet at the Pay and Display Car Park in **RIBCHESTER**, opposite the playing fields.

Take the **B6243** from Preston to Longridge. Bear right at the Old Oak at the edge of Longridge and stay on the **B6423** until reaching the Corporation Arms. At this point bear right onto the **B6245** and follow it into **Ribchester**. Go straight on at the **Black Bull** and turn right into the car park and toilets after about 200 metres.

Landranger Sheet - 102, **Grid Reference** 649 352, **Explorer** 19 West Pennine Moors. A walk of approximately 9.5 miles.

A walk through **Hothersall** and Longridge areas returning to **Ribchester** via Buckley Hall and Stydd. Undulating terrain.

Walk Report - Worthington Lakes - 10th January

Twenty members joined me at the **United Utilities, Worthington Lakes Car Park** for the one mid winter walk for the group. The weather was unseasonably warm with a few intermittent showers.

Our route took us around the lakes – a series of reservoirs built in **1867** to supply the growing town of **Wigan**. Today they support a sound bird population, in addition to the usual common birds, and a medium sized gull roost, **Tufted Ducks, Great Crested Grebes** and on the day, three **Little Grebes**.

Three modern boundaries meet here; our walk started in Wigan (Standish), crossed into Lancashire (Adlington), visited Greater Manchester (Blackrod)

returning briefly to Lancashire before finishing in Wigan.

On leaving the lakes we crossed the *River Douglas* where battered remains of an early industrial water mill once ground charcoal, a reminder that in *Lancashire* you are never far from the effects of the *Industrial Revolution*. A short climb through *Arley Wood* brought us onto the towpath of the *Liverpool to Leeds canal*, here in a very rural setting. Eastwards to *Aberdeen Bridge*, where we had a short stop; it would have been longer but for a shower of hail. After a muddy field we gained the trackbed of the Wigan to Adlington disused railway, a joint venture by the *London North Western* and *Lancashire* and *Yorkshire Railway Companies*, it mainly carried coal in its day.

The route turned off the trackbed to pass Abbey Farm and *Arley Hall*. Abbey Farm bears testimony to the past, where there was once an Abbey on or near the site. It ran into serious trouble when it was confiscated by *Henry I* in the early 12th century.

Arley Hall is a fine moated site, one of the best moats with water in this area. The present hall mainly dates from the *18th*

century, but the site is much earlier. It is now the club house of *Wigan Golf Club* which was established in *1899*. After crossing a corner of the golf course we returned through Arley Wood and the lakes. A sound winter walk.

Peter Kilgour

Walk Leader



The usual information for our new members, the talks are held in *COUNTY HALL PRESTON*; starting at *2:00pm* usually lasting for *1 to 1½ hours*, they finish with tea or coffee and a social chat. Please use the *COUNTY HALL ENTRANCE IN PITT STREET* and sign in at the reception area. Hopefully we will again see many of our usual members who support these talks and bringing along their friends who are 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

Membership Secretary's Report

Since our last report we have had six new members. We offer them a warm welcome. They are:

- Mrs J Brand (Social Services) Fleetwood;
- Mrs J Hayes Morecambe;
- Mrs J Ingham (Education) Blackpool;
- Mrs RA Maudsley (Social Services) Accrington;
- Sir B Taylor (Education) Blackburn;
- Mrs D Wrapson Lancaster.

Sadly one of our members has died, we offer our condolences to his family and friends.

Mr S McDermott
Nelson.

**Our membership is 1859
(including 28 associate members)**

Northern Sub Group
Afternoon Tea Dance - 13th March
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.

