

Lancashire UNISON

Retired Members Section

Newsletter

EDITION NO. 86 - April 2007

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Diary Dates - 2007

LCC Retired Members AGM

11:30am Friday 27th April
at *County Hall* - followed with a
talk by **Barbara Rudge** (see below)

County Hall Talks - 2pm

Friday 27th April
Mrs Barbara Rudge
Talks about one of their fantastic
holidays in South Africa

Northern Sub-Group

Canal Cruise with Buffet Lunch **Tuesday 8th May - 10:30am**

Meet us at the Tithebarn Hotel
Garstang, come earlier if you want to treat
yourself to a coffee before the cruise.

Summer Lunch **Tuesday 17th July**

Come & join us for lunch and a pleasant
afternoon at the Elms Hotel Morecambe

Next Walk

Wednesday 18th April
A walk over Dunsop Fell and Croasdale.

Big Friday

Friday 27 April is our big Friday at 11.30 it's our **Annual General Meeting**, 12.30'ish it's our free annual Chairman's buffet and at 2.00 there is **Barbara Rudge's** talk on her and **Ray's** travels in **South Africa**.

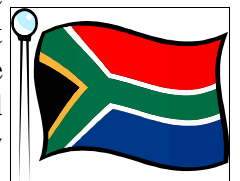
Ok, OK, OK, I know **AGMs** do not immediately have an image of drama and interest, but in our case a lot has happened in the last year and some of our changes will substantially affect the Section for the future. So even if you have enough confidence in us to not to



feel it necessary to check on what we are doing, **we want you to tell us what you think**. As with last year the **AGM** will be organised to be short and sharp, it wasn't all that long ago it started at 10.00!

We are well used to **Barbara's** travel talks, who can forget her description of a canoe journey on a piranha habited river with Ray carefully avoiding holding the gunwales.

South Africa is a country of such contrasts that when we were told of their intended holiday some of the Executive started wondering if we might need a new **Treasurer!** It seems to be an incredible combination of urban Britain and the Wild West. It is also a country we should be taking an interest in, for example, there is a **Preston** scheme to provide football pitches in some small townships. We hope to see you there.



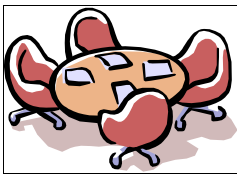
UNISON BRANCH OFFICE - Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ.
Tel. 01772 533072 or email:- unison@unison.lancscc.gov.uk

Angels with Dirty Faces

The *County Hall* talk for March was arranged quickly by *Fran Francis* but was a demonstration of the many rare and highly skilled jobs being carried out by County Council staff. *Heather Davies* is the *Conservation Manager* of the *Conservation Studios* of the *County Museums Department*. This does not just involve the many substantial, and excellent, museums owned by the County Council but *Heather* has dealt with the preservation and restoration of all manner of antiques in *Lancashire*. It is always interesting to see how antiques, which you see on television, are dealt with by the experts.

Dave Sergeant
Chairman

News from the Executive Committee



As previously notified in our Newsletter, we will be holding our **AGM** at

11.30am on Friday 27 April at County Hall. Please note the time is **11.30 not 11am** as previously printed. An agenda for the meeting is with this newsletter. Your committee had hoped that we would have had a number of nominations or volunteers to come on the committee. If anyone would like to join us, please get in touch, we have places available and can co-opt you on after the **AGM**. We have already started to look at a possible date for our next **Reunion and Dinner**. I hope we can pick a date that is

convenient for you all – it is a very enjoyable event.

Lancashire County Council Credit Union

Several years ago, several members of the *Branch* got together to form a *Credit Union* for the benefit of all members of staff of *Lancashire County Council*. It is open to anyone who receives a regular payment from the *County Council* – either salary or pension.

The *Credit Union* is run by its members who can

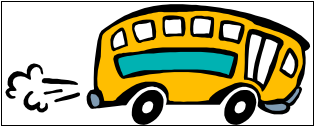


save direct from their salary/pension for a holiday, for Christmas, for a special occasion or an unexpected event – such as replacing the washing machine. The *Credit Union* also grants loans up to **£3000**; the only proviso is that you have **20%** of the loan required in your shares (savings). Why don't you consider joining. You can save as little as **£10** per month (or, of course, more if you wish). The telephone number at County Hall is **01772 532296**. The *Credit Union* is registered by the *FSA* and is supported by the County Council.

Maureen Vass
Secretary

What's New? Concessionary Travel

Pensioners will be pleased that local authorities in Lancashire have decided not to increase the 50p flat fare for cross district



boundary trips and therefore not to

introduce a banded scheme for cross boundary fares. This decision is presumably influenced by the Government proposal to introduce free local travel for pensioners on buses in **2008** and the desire not to complicate matters for the sake of one year.

Lyons Report on Local Government Finance

The long awaited and long delayed report was finally issued alongside the *Chancellor's Budget*. However its main proposal introducing additional council tax bands at the top and bottom end was instantly kicked into touch by the *Government* who said (unsurprisingly) that there would be no revaluation of domestic property during the current *Parliament*. The report also suggested that direct charges should be made for the collection and disposal of waste instead of via the council tax. If a workable and abuse-free method of charging can be devised this proposal has much to commend it as a way of tackling the current **"throw away society"**.

Changes for future generations of Local Government Pensioners

Discussions are continuing on the shape of local government pensions for people retiring from **2008 onwards**. Pensions will be based on **60ths** of final salary instead of **80ths** and there will be no automatic lump sum. However individuals will be able to convert some of their pension to a lump sum payment *e.g.* in simple terms they will be able to forego part of their pension in order to receive a lump sum of **12 times** the pension

foregone. Graduated levels of em p l o y e e contributions are also proposed – currently ranging from 5.5% on earnings up to £12000 pa to 7.5% on earnings over £75000 pa. An improved death in service lump sum of 3 x salary is also proposed. A differential 3 tier approach is also proposed to ill health cases.

Final point – none of these changes will impact on existing pensioners!

Stop Press Item...

" None of the bids submitted by Preston, Lancaster and Burnley/Pendle for unitary status were successful so 2 tier local government will continue in Lancashire. It was interesting that most of the approved submissions were for counties to become unitaries. The approved bids will now go out to public consultation."

Roger Rymer"

Northern Sub-Group

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**, and a form is enclosed with this Newsletter which should be returned to **Ron Clement** at the address shown. Please note that this trip is open to **All** Members & friends, not just those in the sub group.

Summer Lunch, Tuesday 17th July, at 12:30pm Elms Hotel Morecambe

A private room has been booked for this popular event, and the menu includes a choice of four starters, four main courses and four sweets. The price inclusive of coffee & chocolates is **£12.95**; and afterwards **Barbara Rudge** will give one of her adventure holiday talks.

An application form will be included in the *May & June* Newsletters. However, if you wish to put your name down early please ring **Ron Clement** on 01524 35860.

Ray Rudge"

Treasurer

Retired Members Walking Group

Lancashire County Branch of Unison Walking Group Correspondent:

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



See the full *Programme Briefing* in the *February* edition of the Newsletter on the web at: - <http://www.unisonlancs.org.uk/retired.asp>

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:- 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 18th April

Walk leader is Roy Rich you can contact him on 01772 454601, walk starts at 11am. Meet at **SLAIDBURN** in the car park adjacent to the B6478



immediately north west of the bridge over the River Hodder. Landranger Sheet 103- G r i d Reference 714 524 - Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure 41. A walk of approximately 8 miles, there are toilets in the car park. A walk over Dunsop Fell and Croasdale.

Flo & Don Windle"

Walk Coordinators

Ribchester Walk - 14th March

Seventeen members took part in the walk from **Ribchester** on a sunny, spring like day. **Ribchester**

was the *Roman fort of Bremetennacum*, though most of the buildings, other than the C13 church of *St Wilfrid*, are now of the C18 and C19 and include some handloom weavers' cottages. We first passed the *White Bull* (1707), with its 4 much earlier *Tuscan Doric* columns at the front (said to have been found in the river), before passing through Stydd, famous for its almshouses (1728) and the *Church of St Saviour*. The latter is one of the best examples of *Norman* and *Early English* architecture in Lancashire. We headed north west from Stydd, past the old *Bobbin Mill* at *Buckley Gate* (1835) which made use of the fast streams flowing off *Longridge Fell*, and *Buckley Hall*, spotting a group of deer en route, and on through *Dilworth Bottoms* to the *Written Stone* at the edge of Longridge. The *Written Stone* is inscribed as having been laid down in 1655 by *Ralph Radcliffe*, a local landowner, to trap a boggart (evil spirit) and if anyone were ever to move it they would suffer bad luck for life. It is claimed the milk turned sour if churns were placed on it! We then walked through *Greenbank Quarry* which is being redeveloped as a holiday chalet park. We saw one of Longridge's largest old quarries at *Tootle Height*, including the old mineral railway tunnel which connected the quarry with the main line in Longridge centre, plus the embankment of another branch which went to *Lord's Delf Quarry*, now filled with inert waste and being restored. Longridge was, of course, famous for its quarrying industry in the C19 and early C20. From here we turned south to head back to Ribchester via *Higher* and *Lower College Farms* (there was a college in Longridge before it was

demolished when the reservoirs were built), Oxhey and Parsonage Farm with excellent views towards *Pendle Hill*. By the time we arrived back in Ribchester we had covered just over 8 miles (about 13 km). It had been a pleasant day's walking, helped considerably by the good weather.

Tony Ingham"

Walk Leader

Members - Talks at County Hall

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.

Fran Francis"

Social Secretary

Members



Membership Secretary's Report

Since our last report we have had 3 new members and 1 new associate member. We offer them a warm welcome. They are:

Mrs CA Shattock (Cleaner/
Supervisor) Leyland
Methodist School;
KA Watson (Environment)

Darwen;
Mrs M Wilkinson (Care Services)
Freckleton.

Associate Member

Mrs D Brown - Leyland.

Deaths of Members

Sadly 2 of our members have died; we offer our condolences to their family and friends.

Mr FW Brown - Leyland;
J Read - (Social Services)
Padiham.

**Our membership is 1864
(including 31 associate members)
[Corrected Numbers]**

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.*

and to finish from
your Editor

***This next text looks weird but
believe it or not, you should be
able to read it.....***

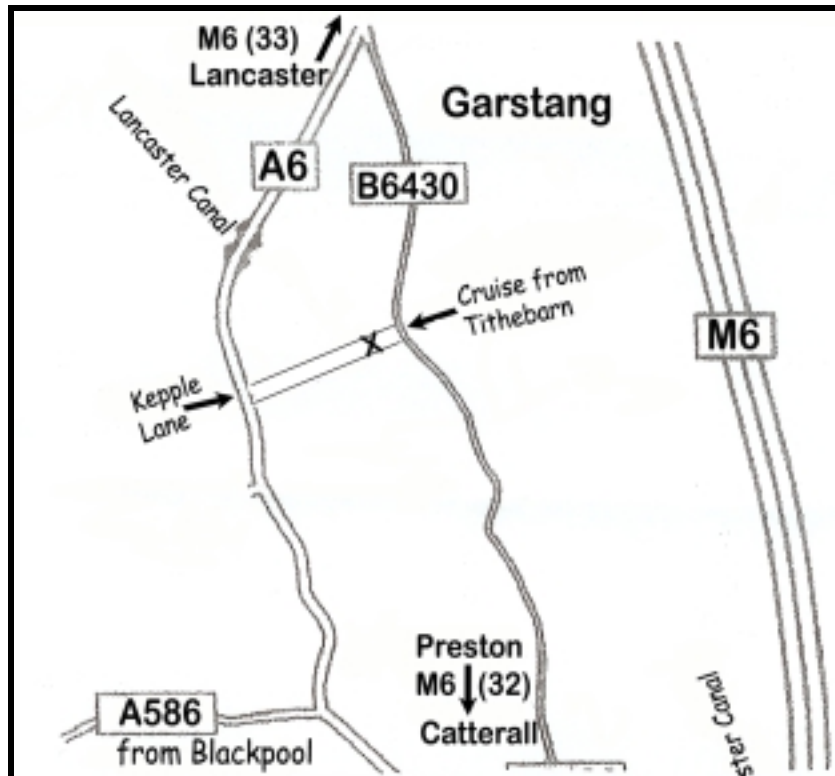
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Lancashire Unison Northern Sub Group

Canal Cruise with Buffet Lunch

Tuesday 8th May 2007

This visit is by own transport again and we meet at the *Tithe Barn Hotel Garstang* at 10:30am for 11:00am *Cruise* on the boat *Swallow*. A *Buffet Lunch* will be served onboard. The *Cruise* is 4 hours and the all inclusive cost is £17 *each*.



Northern Sub Group
Canal Cruise with Buffet Lunch
Tuesday 8th May

I/We wish to attend the above Canal Cruise & Buffet Lunch
I enclose a cheque for £..... (£17 per person)

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

Signature

Enter your Name & Address:

Please return this part of the sheet with payment, to:-
Ron Clement
2 Leycester Drive
Lancaster LA1 5HP

Name

Address

.....

.....

Contact Number:- 01524 35860

Tel No.

