

# Lancashire UNISON

## Retired Members Section

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# Newsletter

EDITION NO. 89 - July 2007

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## Diary Dates - 2007

### County Hall Talks - 2pm

**Friday 26th October**

*Gill Atherton* from the *Pension Service* on entitlement to benefits and form filling

**Friday November 30th**

*Mrs Irene Cottam* a first hand experience of *Christmas Day* in the *Work* house.

### Northern Sub-Group

**Summer Lunch**

**Tuesday 17th July**

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

### **First Talk of the Season**

**Tuesday 9th October**

guest speaker *Mr David Guest*, of the *BBC Television* programme *North West News*

### **Next Walks**

**Wednesday 11th July**

Mainly a valley walk with moorland climb

**Wednesday 18th July**

Roy's long walk of 15 miles

### **Preston Health Branch**

**Tuesday 14th August - at 9am**

A trip on the Leeds/Liverpool canal

**Wednesday 19th September - at 9am**

Trip to Lightwater Village Complex

## B&B Benefits & Bills

*Fran Francis* has written in the Newsletter about the winter County Hall talks. On 26<sup>th</sup> October *Gill Atherton* from the *Pensions Service* will be talking mainly about financial issues relevant to retired people and there will also be information about the *Credit Union* operated within the County Council. From my experience working in Social Services I know how likely it is that people miss out on available benefits and also end up paying bills that are unnecessary. Clearly *Gill* will not be in a position to deal with individual cases, but if you can inform us of a concern you have we can arrange for the matter to be covered on the 26<sup>th</sup> October. Various addresses, phone numbers and emails are printed on this page, contact us through any one.

## Alban Bamber

It is with great regret that I have to report the death of *Alban Bamber* who died on 25<sup>th</sup> June aged 59. His funeral was held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June. I am sure the vast majority of people reading this Newsletter will have heard of Alban and could very well have met him.

*Alban* started work in the old *Treasurers Department* and, after joining *NALGO*, became *Lancashire Branch Secretary* in 1976. Following a national policy of appointing professional officers to branches *Alban* became *Branch Organiser* in 1979 and in 1999 was promoted to *UNISON N.W. Region Branch Development Officer* with specific

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responsibilities for **Retired Members' Sections**.

With a rare ability to make bureaucracy understandable, any subject interesting and always to the point Alban could be relied upon to influence any discussion. One of my experiences of **Alban** was at a recent **A.G.M.** of the **N.W.Region UNISON Retired Members' Sections**. The meeting was inconsequently debating an issue which had hung around for years when Alban intervened producing the answer, with his polite unassuming expression, in around ten words.

When required Alban could harness the English language in no uncertain terms. To be on the other side of the table while Alban fixed you with a stare and let you know how reasonable his viewpoint was could be discomfoting; you really felt you should be saying yes when you know you have to say no. If words didn't work Alban was never short of another approach; for yet another meeting with managers over car parking Alban demanded the presence of a representative of **Property Services**, who as it happens was **Ian Holmes** who gave a eulogy at Alban's funeral. Ian tried unsuccessfully to find out the specific reason for the meeting and on arrival Alban produced a game of snakes and ladders based on the County Hall car parks to demonstrate how difficult things has become.

On a personal level Alban was endlessly courteous and had deep wells of patience with peoples' problems. With strong political views himself he was always supportive of people with differing strong views. He could be relied upon to turn up almost anywhere in the County Council and sometimes just the mention of

his name was enough to ease a problem. With a name at least as well known as **Chief Executives** and Department heads **Alban Bamber** will be remembered for a long time in **Lancashire**.

## Dave Sergeant

Chairman

### News from the Executive Committee



I am not sure that I should be saying that summer is here, but certainly the holiday season is upon us. This was the last committee meeting before our summer break, we meet next on 7 September. It was a routine meeting with not much to report. When we return we will be considering the **conference agenda** and determining how your delegates should vote. Having been elected by the **North West Regional Committee** to sit on the **Standing Orders Committee** I attended my first meeting this week and we had a total of **48** motions to consider. Not all met the criteria for our **Retired Members Conference** so at least the agenda may be fit the one day allowed for discussion. I am off to our holiday village in **Croyde, North Devon** at the end of this month. I am hoping the weather improves and that everyone has a pleasant summer holiday

## Maureen Vass

Secretary

### News Update

The recent spate of new **Government** initiatives has included:

**1. Proposal** to establish an independent commission to judge

planning applications felt to be of national significance.

**2. An energy** white paper paving the way for a new generation of nuclear power stations combined with some investment in renewable sources of energy. One senses some connection between the previous item and this one!

**3. A proposal** to remove the need for individuals to obtain planning consent for some areas of home improvement/extension (building regulations will still need to be satisfied).

**4. A Transport** Bill allowing local authorities to establish road-pricing schemes like London. Manchester has already expressed its wish to set one up.

**5. A delay** in the introduction of House Information Packs (**HIPs**) from 1 June to 1 August and a phasing in so that it only applies initially to **4+** bedroom houses. The original purpose of these packs has been hopelessly lost but unfortunately the **Government** seem to think that they are too far down the track to abandon the thing entirely – so we just have the recipe for perfect chaos!

**6. A surge** in support amongst both main political parties for the establishment of new **school academies** – an attempt to see whether changing the packaging of **Education** will succeed where previous attempts to improve it have failed. The question is what will attract the private sector to invest significant amounts in Education? On past experience one can only assume profit potential in some form or another.

**7. Privately** run clinical; treatment centres and the private sector starting to run **GP** practices.

**8. The idea** of penalties for not recycling waste and rewards for

recycling – a good idea if a practical method of operating the system can be found.

9. **The** so-called “personalisation” agenda which aims to make the customer king as far as the provision of public services is concerned. In the private sector this only seems to work where the customer is prepared to pay the price. *Can one expect the public sector to be any different?*

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have a new *Prime Minister* – it remains to be seen what effect this will have.

**Roger Rymer**

Vice Chairman

**Age Concern Lancashire**

*Age Concern* are looking to recruit volunteers age 55+ to support/mentor children and young people in *Fleetwood*.

This is part of a project called **Employees And Trans Age Action, Fleetwood**. The volunteers will spend up to half a day per week in local primary schools to help young people with reading. If anyone is interested the telephone of the *Age Concern* office in *Fleetwood*, is **01253 777887** and the project co-ordinator is *Christine Campbell*.

**Northern Sub Group**

We have now concluded our **2006/2007** programme, one which has been our most successful if measured only by the number of Members and friends who attended the *Talks, Lunches and the Canal trip*.

Next years programme **2007/2008** commences in *October* with our first monthly talk held on the

second Tuesday of the month at the *Headway Hotel*. Our first guest speaker is *Mr David Guest*, the chief reporter on the *BBC* television programme *North West News* (and who is also the son-in-law of one of our regular supporters).

**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.

The full *Programme Briefing* is the *February* edition of the Newsletter on the web at:-

<http://www.unisonlancs.org.uk/retired.asp>

*Diary Dates for the 2007 programme are:- 11th July, 18th July Roy's long walk please note 10.00am start, 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**.

A note from your Editor-apologies are in order. The walk write up in the *June* edition of the Newsletter took place on the **16th May** and not on the **14th March** as shown.

Also please note we now have the *Itinerary* for the **17th October** walk. Walk leader is *Bill Poole* for further information you can contact him on 01253 761519.

*This* and future walks will be published in forthcoming Newsletters.

**Wednesday 11th July**

Walk leader is *Peter Kilgour* you can contact him on 01257 279650 walk starts at **11am**.

Meet in **DUNSOP BRIDGE** on the car park at the east end of the village .

*Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure 41. Grid Reference 661 501*. A walk of approximately 8 miles. There are toilets at car park.

Mainly a valley walk but with a steepish moorland climb to the *Whins Brow* ridge and a steep descent.

*Flo & Don Windle*

Walk Coordinators

Roy's Long Walk

*Roy's* long walk of 15 miles on the **18th July** will start from *Appleby* in *Cumbria* at **10am**. It is approximately 72 miles from *Preston* leaving the **M6** at Junction 38 for *Tebay* - allow two hours. The precise starting point will be made known on the normal July walk on the **11th July** or contact *Roy* on **01772 454601**. *He will not be on the June walk.*

**Roy Rich**

Walk Leader

**June Walk From Kettlewell**

After several weeks of warm dry weather the morning of the *June* walk was damp, with a forecast of showers for the rest of the day. Never the less twelve hardy souls made the trip to the starting point of *Kettlewell* in the *Yorkshire Dales*. Because of the wet conditions it was decided to reverse the proposed route so as to avoid a steep decent on limestone outcrops.

The village of *Kettlewell* derives its name from the *Old Norse* name of *Kettil's* well or bubbling spring. It was the picturesque setting for a number of exterior locations in the film *Calendar Girls*. Although on a damp misty morning it was perhaps not quite so picturesque.

*Flo* and *Don Windle* had already decided to do an alternative valley walk along the river *Wharfe* to

**Starbottom.** The remaining ten set off climbing the lower slopes of **Hawswick Moor** in the direction of **Kilnsey** crag. Thankfully the rain abated for a while towards the top of the moor and we were able to look down on Wharfedale and the winding path of the river **Wharfe**.

The walk then swung round the moor on a gradual decent into **Littondale** and the village of **Hawswick**. It apparently took its name from the fact that birds of prey were once prolific in the area. Unfortunately the showers resumed, so lunch had to be taken sheltering under trees and a footbridge over the river **Skirfare**.

After lunch the showers again relented and we were able to enjoy the riverside path that meanders through the pleasant dale. On the rocky islands in the middle of the river **Oystercatchers** could be seen nesting along with **Sandmartin's** nest holes in the banks. Whilst overhead, Swifts and Swallows swooped. We eventually arrived at the village of **Arncliffe** that again derives its name from the **Old Norse** meaning **Eagle Cliff**. The village, which was a medieval stockade settlement, has a 15<sup>th</sup> century church that featured in the TV series **Emmerdale**. Inside the church there is a list of yeomen who fought at **Flodden Field** in 1513. In more recent times the author **Charles Kingsley** wrote the "**Water Babies**" there.

From **Arncliffe** we crossed the river and began the initially steep ascent of **Hawswick Moor** through **Cackle Rash Wood**. As we began the trek over the open moor the showers returned again. Thankfully as we descended back into **Kettlewell** they eased allowing the opportunity for some of the party to explore the village and even enjoy an ice cream!

Having now led the June walk for

the last three years I'm optimistically looking forward to real ice cream weather in future years. In the meantime, thanks to everyone who made the effort this year despite the weather.

Trevor Draycott"

Walk Leader

### Talks booked for 2007

#### Friday October 26th

**Gill Atherton** from the **Pension Service** will talk about your entitlement to benefits and form filling

#### Friday November 30th

**Mrs Irene Cottam.** Irene's first hand experiences of Christmas Day in the Workhouse.

**Would the two ladies** who rang me while I was on holiday, please get in touch again, unfortunately your messages were erased before I got your contact details.

I am in the middle of trying to get speakers for the year 2008 season of talks. I am hoping to get speakers that will accommodate all tastes, so please:- let me have your ideas on any speaker that you can recommend and would like to see again in our next years programme.

**Once again** thank you to everyone who comes along to support the talks it couldn't continue without you.

### Derian House Stamp Appeal

Please keep sending your stamps to **Derian House**, many envelopes get thrown away, it only takes a minute to tear the stamp off the corner of an envelope (please leave 1 inch around the stamp.) Save the stamps in a container till you get a few to send on to the address below this is an on going stamp appeal for a worthwhile cause.

**Derian House Children's Hospice,  
The Appeals Office,  
Derian House, Chancery Road,  
Astley Village, Chorley,  
Lancs. PR7 1DH.**

**THANK YOU** to everyone who sent bedding for the **German Shepherd Rescue**.

Due to a mammoth response from the many animal lovers out there, the appeal is now closed until further notice. Ted will get round to collect the items from everyone in due course.

Fran Francis"

Talk Organiser 01772 742459

Our membership is 1856  
(including 31 associate members)

An Editors note to **Mrs Kathleen Allen of Southport**, many thanks for your letter, but I'm afraid that I am not **Miss Drake's** secretary, most of my working life was in the **Treasurers (Resources) IT** department at **County Hall Preston**.



### Membership Secretary's Report

Since our last report we have not had any new members.

### Deaths of Members

Sadly 8 of our members have died; we offer our condolences to their family and friends.

Matthew Banks (Resources)  
Ingol;

Mrs Beryl Foulds  
Clitheroe;

Mrs Irene Hodkinson  
Lostock Hall, Ex South Ribble;  
Michael David Hoole  
(Resources Treasurer's)  
Blackpool;

Charles Middlehurst (Educ &  
Cultural Services) Morecambe;  
Derek Turner  
Longton;

Jack D Booth (Resources  
(Architects) Penwortham;  
Clifford Young (Environment  
(Surveyors) Penwortham.

**UNISON RETIRED MEMBERS NORTHERN SUB GROUP LUNCHEON AND TALK**

**THE ELMS HOTEL BARE MORECAMBE**

*Tuesday 17th July 2007 - 12.00 for 12.30*

**MENU**

**STARTERS**

1. **CREAM OF VEGETABLE SOUP**

Freshly prepared with dairy cream and croutons

2. **DOVETAIL OF MELON**

Ripe dovetail of honeydew melon served with seasonal fruits and raspberry coulis

3. **PRAWN COCKTAIL ELIZABETH**

On Iceberg lettuce with seedless grapes and Marie Rose sauce

4. **PATE MAISON**

Chicken and pork liver pate on torn leaves of lettuce with fruit chutney and fingers of hot toast

**MAIN COURSES**

A. **ROAST RIB OF BEEF**

Presented with Yorkshire pudding and horseradish sauce

B. **ESCALOPE OF PORK CALVADOS**

Braised with apple and crème fraiche

C. **SALMON HOLLANDAISE**

Lightly steamed with rich egg and butter sauce

*All three served with a selection of fresh vegetables and potatoes/chips*

D. **HAM SALAD**

With seasonal salads

**SWEETS**

w **FRESH CREAM GATEAU**

x **BAKED JAM SPONGE AND CUSTARD**

y **FRESH FRUIT SALAD**

z **VARIOUS ICES**

*Freshly brewed Kenco coffee with chocolate confection*

**Northern Sub Group**

**Luncheon/Talk - Tuesday 17th July 2007**

I/We wish to attend the above I enclose *my/our* meal selections & cheque for £.....(at £12.95 per meal)  
Please make cheques payable to:- 'Lancashire Unison Retired Members Section'.

**Enter your Name & Address:**

Name .....

Address .....

Tel No. ....

Signature .....

<u>Starter number</u>	<u>Main Meal letter</u>	<u>Sweet letter</u>

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