

Lancashire UNISON

Retired Members Section

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

Maureen Vass - Secretary
email:- maureen.vass@btinternet.com
telephone:- 01257 271480

Newsletter

EDITION NO. 92 - October 2007

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

County Hall



Service of Remembrance

Friday 9th November

10.50 am in *The Chapel of Christ the King*

Talks - 2pm

Friday 26th October

Elizabeth Barker from the *Pension Service* on entitlement to benefits and form filling

Friday 30th November

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

Northern Sub-Group

Talks - 2pm

Tuesday 13th November

Lizzie Jones presenting a "dramalogue" entitled "*The Dark Lady*"

Tuesday 11th December

Edward Lawson, with a talk entitled "*Christmas Cracker*"

Christmas Lunch

Thursday 6th December

Come along and enjoy a *Festive* lunch at the *Elms Hotel Morecambe*

Next Walk

Wednesday 17th October

see the extensive views from the eighty foot high hill in *Preesall*

£2.5 Billion

So I forgot my little prepaid ticket for my normal *posh* broadsheet newspaper. I am sure you would all expect me to read a *posh* newspaper. So I bought one of those more popular papers, well it was cheaper. And the first headline in the business section was "*Pensioners leave £2.5 billion unclaimed.*"



I am not surprised. Having had more than a passing involvement with computers in the *County Social Services Dept.* I am very well aware of how complicated financial life is for retired people – even if you don't think you have money problems. That is why I am more than happy that *Fran* has arranged the talk for Friday 26th October in *County Hall* by the *Pensions Service*; we all need more information.

The Dark Lady

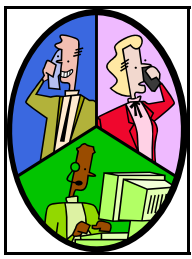
By the time you read this the *Northern Sub-Group* talk by *Dave Guest* will have taken place at the *Headway Hotel* Morecambe. However, just to rub in how enterprising the Morecambe group are, their next talk, on 13th November is a "dramalogue" by *Lizzie Jones* entitled "*The Dark Lady*". You sure get variety at the *Headway Hotel*!



Our membership is 1853
(including 31 associate members)

County Organisation

At the start I mentioned my involvement with *Social Services*, but, did you realise there is no longer a *County Social Services Dept?* Or, for that matter an *Education Dept.* We have recently received some queries about where members who have died worked. For example *“Resources”* could include half a dozen old Departments such as *Treasurers.*



In future Newsletters we hope to be able to inform you of how Departments have changed so you can follow how your and your old colleagues', Department has been moved about.

Dave Sergeant
Chairman

Executive Committee News



Now that *Autumn* is upon us, we are at the start of our season of talks. The first one in *Preston* will be on the last Friday in October and will be about *Pensions and Benefits.* A subject that interests us all.

Over the years there have been many changes in the structure of the *County Council* with several since I retired in 2000. Your committee have started to look at these changes and over the coming months will try to explain the changes in future issues of the Newsletter.

Your delegates will be at the *Retired Members Conference in Plymouth* next week and a report will appear in our next Newsletter. For those who usually attend the *Service of Remembrance*, this will take place at *10.50 am* in *The Chapel of Christ the King* at *County Hall* on Friday 9 November.

Maureen Vass
Secretary

Talks at County Hall

The first of the new season of talks will commence in October starting on *FRIDAY October 26th*

County Hall has undergone yet another restructure and The *Benefit Service* has been included.

Therefore instead of *GILL ATHERTON* giving the October talk we will be welcoming *ELIZABETH BARKER* who will be taking her place, the format will be the same. *Elizabeth* will give advice on benefits, how to claim and form filling.

Make a note of your questions and let me have them, I will pass them on to *Elizabeth* and hopefully she will be able to get the answers ready in time for the talk.

PLEASE NOTE

Elizabeth will only be able to give advice on general questions, **NOT** individual problems

As an extra *LIZ CARBERRY* will be at the talk to give information on the benefits of saving and taking out a loan with the *L.C.C. Credit Union*

Friday November 30th

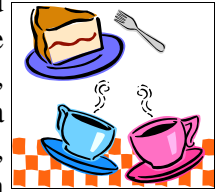
The welcome return of *Mrs Irene Cottam.* *Irene's* first hand

experiences of *Christmas Day in the Workhouse.*

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.



The usual reminder for our new members, the talks are held in one of the cabinet rooms in *COUNTY HALL* unless directed elsewhere by the security person on the day. They start at 2.00pm finishing approx 3.00pm, the talks are open to members and their friend's so come along and enjoy the afternoon, finishing with a free coffee/tea, biscuits and a



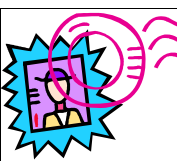
social chat. You can use the staff cafeteria situated near the main door before the talk begins for a snack or meal, again the security person will direct you. The talks are held on the last Friday of the month, the entrance is from *Pitt Street Main Door*, please ensure you sign in and receive a *visitor's badge.* I hope to see many of our usual members at the talks and hopefully some of our new members and friends would like to join us. Again I would like to thank everyone who comes along to support the talks it couldn't continue without your support.

Louie Vitali's son *Steven* has asked me to thank everyone who sent cards and good wishes to his father, he was overwhelmed with the many good wishes from his friends and colleagues.



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.
Fran Francis"**

Talk Organiser
Contact No. 01772 742459

Northern Sub Group

Talk 2pm Headway Hotel Tuesday 13th November

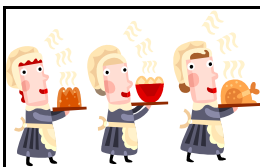
"Talk" is a misnomer - we will have the pleasure of listening to **Lizzie Jones** presenting a "dramalogue" entitled "**The Dark Lady**" Lizzie dresses with the appropriate costume and acts the part she is portraying. She came to **Preston** a year or two ago and was a great success. Please bring your friends and enjoy free coffee/tea and biscuits.

Talk 2pm Headway Hotel Tuesday 11th December

A return visit by **Edward Lawson**, his talk entitled "**Christmas Cracker**".

Christmas Lunch 12:30pm Thursday 6th December

We are repeating our very successful **Christmas Lunch** in a



private room at the **Elms Hotel**. There is a choice of four **Starters**, four **Main Courses** and four **Sweets** together with **coffee and mints**, all for a very reasonable price of **£13.95**.

Afterwards **Ray Rudge** will play on his keyboard seasonal and other popular music.

A **Form** is enclosed with this **Newsletter** to be returned to **Ron Clement** at the address shown. Please book early - there is a possibility we may be over-subscribed!!

Annual Subscriptions

A reminder to those members who pay their voluntary subscription annually (usually **£12**), that they are now **overdue** for 2007. Please make your cheques payable to **Lancashire Unison Retired Members Section** and send to **Ray Rudge** at **9 Blythe Ave, Clevelys, FY5 2 LL**.

"Ray Rudge"
Treasurer

Retired Members Walking Group

Lancashire County Branch of Unison

Correspondent: Don Windle,

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

Diary Dates for the 2007 programme are:- 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**.
Contact Don on (01772) 713820.

Wednesday 17th October

Walk leader is Bill Poole you can contact him on 01253 761519 walk starts at **11am**.

Meet at **KNOTT END on SEA** in the public car park immediately south of the ferry ramp at the west end of the promenade minor road **B5270**. Next to **River Wyre**. North of the **Golf Club House** with a private car park.



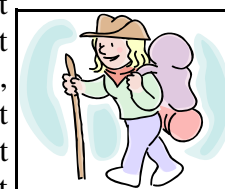
Landranger Sheet 102. Grid Ref 345 484. A walk of approximately 8 miles. There are toilets at the car park.

An almost level walk through countryside once marshland but now well protected against the **River Wyre** and the sea. Past **Hackensall Hall** the haunt of a spectral horse which gave everyone a quiet night providing a warm fire was left burning in the kitchen all night. Sounds like a cover for smuggling or possibly the horse was searching for its mistress as a **female skeleton** was found bricked up in one of the walls during renovation work. There are extensive views from the eighty feet high hill in **Preesall** the site of an ancient tumulus left by early Lancastrians.

Flo & Don Windle"
Walk Coordinators

Higher Bentham Walk 19th September

When I led the walk over **Arnside Knott** last year it was the hottest day for **70** years, I was just hoping that today would not



be the *wettest* for **70 years!** Just after 11 a.m. our party of **14**, fully kitted out in waterproofs, set off from the car park in pouring rain. We followed the **Bentham Heritage Trail** for part of the walk and were educated, by several information boards, about the history of the area.

When we scouted the walk we counted **28 stiles** which had to be negotiated. On the day of the walk the second stile was blocked by a herd of cattle in ankle deep mud! However I very bravely, for me, tapped a couple of them on the backside with my walking pole and that did the trick – they moved out of our way. We made our way over **Cowslip Hill**, down to the railway and across the river **Wenning** which was in full spate helped no doubt by the very wet weather.

The object of the walk was to visit the **Great Stone of Fourstones** which date back to the **Ice Age**. Lunch was taken at **Fairfield House** when the rain actually stopped for about 20 minutes and there was a glimpse of the sun and also the **Great Stone**. When we were all duly refreshed we set off for the **Great Stone**. **Peter** informed us that in **Victorian** times people used to come by pony and trap from the railway station at **Bentham** for a day out to visit the **Great Stone**. **This is me on top of it** on the day



we scouted the walk. After examining the stone one or two people took photos and **Garth** climbed to the top. We continued through the fields and lanes to **Fleet Green** where we were greeted by a very vociferous dog – a **Doberman** or **Ridgeback** – I for one was very relieved that it was enclosed in a

large pen! We had a short tea break near **Low Bottom Farm** and some of us saw 2 deer about 200 yards away. One managed to clear the fence into the next field but the smaller one could not manage it. We eventually made our way to the river through the caravan park, crossed the railway and so back to the car park. Thank you for your company and I will try to order better weather next time.

Incidentally I read on one of the information boards that the **hosepipe** was invented in **Bentham!!!** I don't think anybody would have needed to use one today!

Joan Booth

Walk Leader.

Membership Secretary's Report



Since our last report we have had **3 new members**. We offer them a warm welcome.

Mrs EM Cairns

Lytham;

Mrs E Eastwood

(Home Care-Ross) Rawtenstall;

Mrs RJ Mackey

(Children & Families Service)

Chorley.

Deaths of Members

Sadly 6 of our members have died, we offer our condolences to their family and friends.

Ms V Barritt

(Education) Swinton;

James Bates

(DSO (Cleaning) Formby;

Mr K Harwood;

Mrs P Jameson

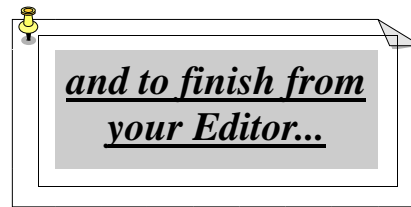
Darwen;

Mr D Ollerton

(Resources-Property) Morpeth;
Mr L Vitali
Weymouth.

Correction from last month:

Miss Mary Joanne Clarkson
(Resources) Fulwood.



A drunk phoned police to report that thieves had been in his car. **"They've stolen the dashboard, the steering wheel, the brake pedal, the radio, and even the accelerator,"** he cried out. However, before the police investigation could start, the phone rang a second time and the same voice came over the line.

"Never mind," he said with a hiccup, **"I got in the back seat by mistake."**

Actual extracts from letters sent to various council and housing associations throughout the UK

I want some repairs done to my cooker as it has backfired and burnt my kn*b off.

The toilet is blocked and we can not bath the children until it is cleared.

Our toilet seat is broken in half and is now in three pieces.

Will you please send someone to mend the garden path, my wife tripped and fell yesterday and now she is pregnant.

My toilet seat is cracked, where do I stand?

I request permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.

50% of the walls are damp, 50% have loose plaster and the rest are plain filthy.

Also my apologies regarding the confusion with days/dates in last months newsletter.

UNISON RETIRED MEMBERS NORTHERN SUB GROUP CHRISTMAS LUNCH

THE ELMS HOTEL BARE MORECAMBE

Thursday 6th December 2007 - 12.00 for 12.30

MENU

STARTERS

- a. **VEGETABLE & BASIL BROTH** - Freshly prepared and scented with basil
- b. **MELON, ORANGE & KIWI COCKTAIL** - Pearls of honeydew melon, orange segments & kiwi fruit macerated in fruit juice and presented in a chilled glass
- c. **EGG & PRAWNS MARIE-ROSE** - Chilled Icelandic prawns and cooked egg halves on a crisp salad napped with Marie-Rose sauce.
- d. **CHILLED FRUIT JUICE**



MAIN COURSES

- 1. **ROAST FYLDE TURKEY** - Traditionally roasted and served with bacon, chipolata, seasoning and cranberry sauce
- 2. **BRAISED PORK NORMANDY** - Tender pork escalope cooked in a cider, apple and cream sauce scented with tarragon
- 3. **HADDOCK FLORENTINE** - Steamed fillet of haddock wrapped with spinach and napped by a creamy cheese sauce
- 4. **MUSHROOM STROGANOFF WITH RICE** - Fresh button mushrooms cooked with paprika and shallots finished with cream and accompanied by rice.

All served with fresh seasonal vegetables and potatoes



SWEETS

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

Freshly brewed coffee with mint confection

Northern Sub Group

Christmas Lunch - Thursday 6th December 2007

I/We wish to attend the above I enclose *my/our* meal selections & cheque for £.....(at £13.95 per meal)

Enter your Name & Address:

Name

Address

Tel No.

Signature

<u>Starter letter</u>	<u>Main Meal number</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. (Telephone:- 01524 35860)
Make cheques payable to - **Lancashire UNISON Retired Member Section**