

# Lancashire UNISON

# Newsletter

## Retired Members Section

EDITION NO. 95 - January 2008

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### Diary Dates 2008

#### County Hall

##### Talks - 2pm

**Friday 25th January**  
Mr Ken Dagger portraying  
*My Entertaining Life*

**Friday 29th February**  
Mrs June Corner a very  
amusing talk *Naughty but Nice*

**Friday 28th March**  
Mr Aled Jones

A most enlightening talk on the  
*Life and Times of Florence Nightingale*

**Friday 25th April**  
Mrs Barbara Rudge on the 'life of a child'  
*A special Mission in Thailand.*

#### Northern Sub-Group

**Talk 2pm Headway Hotel**  
**Tuesday 12th February**

A demonstration and talk about the skills  
of the *woodworking* craft

**Musical Afternoon -**  
**2pm Headway Hotel**  
**Tuesday 11th March**

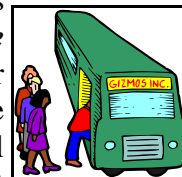
A mixture of "old" popular  
music, quiz, & sing-a-long.

#### Walks 2008

See dates for 2008 in this newsletter

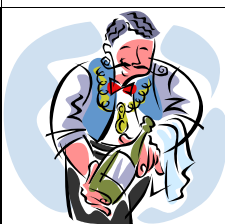
### Bus Passes

As many of you may have realised on April 1<sup>st</sup> this year the new *national bus pass* arrangements come into effect. In general it means that a more standard system will replace the many variations currently operated by local authorities. Obviously we intend to provide information as it affects *Lancashire* with one of our *Executive Committee* attending a national seminar to learn as many details as possible. We hope to be able to provide full information by our *March* newsletter at the latest.



### Annual Social Evening

At our *Annual General Meeting* I mentioned thoughts we have been having about our annual social evening at *Barton Grange*. There have been many changes over recent years with the evening becoming less formal; however, the logic of looking at changes nearly always raises the question of the date of the evening. Last year we moved the date from early January to mid February but that is still winter with dark nights and cold weather, so this year we are taking the bull by the horns with a date that should guarantee an evening out without complications of the weather. We have arranged the social evening for *11<sup>th</sup> April* as usual at *Barton Grange* and starting as usual at *6.30*. We have been able to fix a price of *£20*, just slightly



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

more than the last two years: more information will be included in the next newsletters.

**Ken Dagger**

The *County Hall* January talk on 25<sup>th</sup> this month is by *Ken Dagger*. *Ken* has spent a lifetime in musicals and opera and can not only explain many of the intricacies of this enormous subject but will demonstrate with music! *Ken* is a professional and to anyone (like me!) confused by the stories behind musicals and operas his talks can open up a previously closed world.



***Dave Sergeant***  
Chairman

**Executive Committee News**



On behalf of your *Executive Committee* I would like

to express their thanks for the *Christmas Cards* we received. It is always nice to hear that the work the *Committee* do is appreciated. We seem to be getting some winter weather, even it the snow is only on the hills. I hope that the cold weather kills off the colds which are affecting some of us.

At our meeting we set out the information we have been preparing on the changes which have occurred to the structure of the *County Council*. We are now going to have it checked carefully and we hope to send it out with the *Information* about our *Annual General Meeting* which will take place at the end of April.

As I said last month our *Reunion and Annual Dinner* will be held, once again, at *Barton Grange Hotel*, on *Friday 11 April*. We have decided to use a smaller room this year. When you receive the application form please return it quickly.

We regularly get information for the *National Pensioners Convention* on campaigns they are organising and other



issues of importance to older people. One of the items we received recently was from the *Nursing and Midwifery Council* (23 Portman Place, London. W1B 1PZ) who are developing standards for the care of older people, both in homes and in their own homes. They are asking for thoughts from organisations such as ours as service users or about our expectations for nursing care.

They are planning to run a series of forum groups in *February* and *March* and if we hear where and when these are to take place we will put this in the *Newsletter*. If anyone wishes to put forward any Comments please send them to the *London* address above.

***Maureen Vass***  
Secretary

**Travel Insurance**

Following on from the *Terry Carter's* article in last month's newsletter you can also get annual travel insurance for the older traveller from *Saga* (Tel. 0800 015 8055) and *RIAS* (Tel. 0800 052 5251). A number of other companies offer single trip insurance. It is also possible to obtain travel insurance as an additional benefit (at a price) via your bank.

**Insurance for Car Hire**

*Car hire* companies include the cost of insurance in the hire charges. However there is

normally a substantial excess payable in the event of a claim. Companies allow you to protect yourself against this excess by paying an increased hire rental. It is cheaper instead to take out an annual insurance to cover these excesses particularly if you are frequently hiring vehicles abroad. You can do this with a firm called *Insurance4car hire* at an annual cost of **£49** to cover *Europe* or **£59** to cover *worldwide*. For hirers aged **75 to 85** the cost is **£65** and **£95** respectively.



**Contact details:**

*Insurance4carhire*, Trans-world House, 100 City Road, London EC1Y 2BP. Tel no. 020 7012 6300.

Website [www.insurance4carhire.com](http://www.insurance4carhire.com)

***Roger Rymer***  
Vice Chairman

**Northern Sub Group**

**Talk 2pm Headway Hotel**  
**Tuesday 12th February**

*Andrew Drysdale* will give a demonstration and talk about the skills of the *woodworking craft*. Numbers were somewhat low in *December* so please come along bring your friends and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee & biscuits.

**Musical Afternoon**  
**2pm Headway Hotel**  
**Tuesday 11th March**

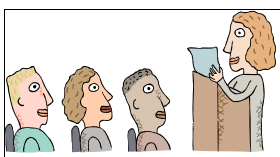
A mixture of "old" popular music, a quiz, and a sing-along, with *Ray Rudge* on his keyboard.



***Ray Rudge***  
Treasurer

## Activities at County Hall

The *November* talk was again very well supported with 50 members attending on a very wet



and windy afternoon. A few of the members had come

along to support *Irene Cottam* and were disappointed that *Irene* had to cancel. Unfortunately due to a family bereavement she had to withdraw at the last minute as the funeral was on the same day and at the same time as the arranged talk. However not to disappoint her follower's she has agreed to come again this year in *December* and do an extra talk for us. At short notice the humorous *George Dobson* kindly stepped in even though he was booked at another function on the same night, he helped to save the day with his robust humour.

The first speaker in the New Year **FRI JAN 25<sup>th</sup>** we welcome once again *Mr Ken Dagger* who will entertain us with a nostalgic talk full of humour and song called *My Entertaining Life*.

On **FRI FEB 29<sup>th</sup>** a newcomer to County Hall *Mrs June Corner* will give an amusing talk on underwear suitable for both sexes from the 1840's to the present day. **NAUGHTY BUT NICE.**

**FRI MAR 28<sup>th</sup>** will bring us *Mr Aled Jones* who has been recommended to me by one of our members. He will present a most interesting talk about the **LIFE AND TIMES OF FLORENCE**



## NIGHTINGALE.

**FRI APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>** incorporating with the **A.G.M** we have once again by popular demand *Mrs Barbara Rudge* who will tell us about their holiday in *Thailand* entitled **A SPECIAL MISSION** To see the child they have sponsored for many years for the very first time.

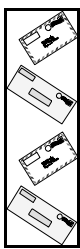
I hope to see many of our usual members at the talks, and hopefully some of our new members and friends would like to join us. I will take this opportunity to thank everyone who comes along to support these events for making them more enjoyable for the speakers. Everyone is welcome so come along do bring your friends and enjoy a pleasant afternoon finishing with free tea or coffee and biscuits.



The usual reminder for our new members, the talks are held on the last **Friday** of the month, they start at 2.00pm finishing approx 3.15pm and are held in the cabinet rooms at **COUNTY HALL**, unless directed elsewhere by the security person on the day. The entrance is from the *Pitt Street Main Door*, please ensure you sign in and receive a visitor's badge. When you come to these talks you are welcome to 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.

### 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.*

I hope you all had a *Very Merry Christmas* and I wish you all that you wish yourselves for the *New Year*.

*Fran Francis*"

Talk Organiser (01772 742459)

## Members Walking Group

*Group Correspondent: Don Windle*, contact number 01772 713820.



*Dates for the 2008 programme are:* 12th March, 16th April, 14th May, 18th June, 9th July (*Roy's Long Walk*) 16th July, 13th August, 10th September, 15th October, 12th November (*programme meeting*) and in 2009 14th January

*Flo & Don Windle*"  
Walk Coordinators

## Membership Secretary's Report

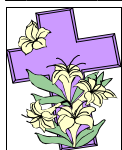


Since our last report we have had **4 new members**. We offer them a warm welcome.

*Julie Anne Huddart* (Education) Chorley;  
*Audrey Issott* Fulwood;  
*Linda Middleton* Clitheroe;

Cliff Matthias  
Chorley.

## Deaths of Members



Sadly 3 of our members have died, we offer our condolences to their

family and friends.

**Dorothy Billington** (Ashton High School) Preston;

**Leslie Shaw**  
Lytham;

**John Golgan** (Educ & Cultural Services) Penwortham.

Our membership is 1851  
(including 30 associate members)

and to finish...

One of the British national daily newspapers (*although I'm not sure what year*) was asking readers:

*"what it means to be British?"*

Some of the emails are hilarious, the first one is from a chap in *Switzerland.....*

*Being British* is about driving in a *German* car to an *Irish* pub for a *Belgian* beer, then travelling home, grabbing an *Indian* curry or a *Turkish* kebab on the way, to sit on *Swedish* furniture and watch *American* shows on a *Japanese* TV.

And the most British thing of all? Suspicion of anything foreign.

*Only in Britain...* can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

*Only in Britain...* do supermarkets make sick people walk all the way to the back of the shop to get their prescriptions while healthy People can buy cigarettes at the front.

*Only in Britain...* do people order

double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a DIET coke.

*Only in Britain...* do banks leave both doors open and chain the pens to the counters.

*Only in Britain...* do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and lock our junk and cheap lawn mower in the garage.

*Only in Britain...* do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't Want to talk to in the first place.

*Only in Britain...* are there disabled parking places in front of a skating rink.

### NOT TO MENTION...

*3 Brits* die each year testing if a 9v battery works on their tongue.

*142 Brits* were injured in 1999 by not removing all pins from new shirts

*58 Brits* are injured each year by using sharp knives instead of screwdrivers.

*31 Brits* have died since 1996 by watering their Christmas tree while the fairy lights were plugged in.

*19 Brits* have died in the last 3 years believing that Christmas decorations were chocolate.

*British Hospitals* reported 4 broken arms after cracker pulling accidents.

*101 people* since 1999 have had broken parts of plastic toys pulled out of the soles of their feet.

*18 Brits* had serious burns in 2000 trying on a new jumper with a lit cigarette in their mouth.

A *massive 543 Brits* were admitted to A&E in the last two years after opening bottles of beer with their teeth.

*5 Brits* were injured last year in accidents involving out of Control Scalextric cars.

### and finally.....

*In 2000 eight Brits* cracked their skull whilst throwing up into the toilet.

### Quotes from smart women

1. I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb ... and I also now that I'm not blonde.  
**-Dolly Parton-**
2. Nobody can make you feel inferior without your permission. **-Eleanor Roosevelt**
3. I want to have children, but my friends scare me. One of my friends told me she was in labour for 36 hours. I don't even want to do anything that feels good for 36 hours.  
**-Rita Rudner-**
4. My husband and I are either going to buy a dog or have a child. We can't decide to ruin our carpet or ruin our lives.  
**-Rita Rudner-**
5. I've been on so many blind dates, I should get a free dog.  
**-Wendy Liebman-**
6. Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth. **-Erma Bombeck-**
7. If high heels were so wonderful, men would still be wearing them.  
**-Sue Grafton-**
8. I'm not going to vacuum 'til Sears makes one you can ride on. **-Roseanne Barr-**
9. I think-therefore I'm single. **-Lizz Winstead-**
10. When women are depressed they either eat or go shopping, men invade another country.  
**-Elayne Boosler-**
11. Behind every successful man is a surprised woman.  
**-Maryon Pearson-**
12. I base most of my fashion taste on what doesn't itch.  
**-Gilda Radner-**
13. In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man; if you want anything done, ask a woman. **-Margaret Thatcher-**
14. Some of us are becoming the men we wanted to marry.  
**-Gloria Steinem-**