

# Lancashire UNISON

# Newsletter

## Retired Members Section

EDITION NO. 97 - March 2008

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### Diary Dates 2008

#### County Hall

Annual Reunion Dinner  
*Friday 11th April*

See the form included with this newsletter

Annual General Meeting  
*Friday 25th April*

We will be holding our AGM at  
*11.30am in County Hall.*

#### Talks - 2pm

*Friday 28th March*

*Mr Bill Poole (note change of speaker)*  
gives an interesting incite into *Bee Keeping*"

*Friday 25th April*

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

#### Northern Sub-Group

Visit to a Forge and a Fudge Factory  
*Tuesday 13th May*

Come and join us on this *Annual*  
*May* trip further details in this Newsletter

#### Annual Summer Lunch

*Tuesday 1st July - Elms Hotel*

Further details in the *May/June* Newsletter

#### Walks 2008

*Wednesday the 16th April*

An easy flat walk of approx 8½ miles

### Barton Grange

The form for our *Annual Reunion Dinner and Social Evening* at *Barton Grange* is included with the Newsletter. It takes place on Friday 11th April.

The evening is nowadays free and easy and one reason for changing to *April* is that the weather should be more agreeable for members than mid-winter in the past. And, by the way, we have moved from *Monday* night to *Friday* night which we know people prefer.



#### And there's more.

*Ron Clement* has organised a car trip out to *Burnley and Whitefield* on 13th May with more details included with the Newsletter. O.K. who knows where Whitefield is?

### Fran and Ileana

*Fran Francis*, in *County Hall*, and *Ileana Parr* in *Morecambe* continue to arrange talks of huge interest and excellent speakers. Don't know where they find



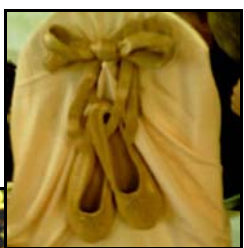
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© Copyright Ladies Treasury 2008

them. The talk organised by *Fran* for 29th February, titled *Naughty but Nice*, by *June Corner* ranged from history to downright hilarious covering the subject of underwear since *Victorian* times. It was mainly ladies underwear (yes, you read that right if you haven't read previous Newsletters properly) and, girls, if

you want to know why Nylon is called Nylon you

will have to ask someone who was at the talk, you will be surprised. For the talk on 28th March there is *a change* of speaker *Fran* has arranged *Mr Bill Poole*. Who will give us an extremely interesting talk about bee's and their habits (Of course all the workers are woman) a very interesting topic. Entitled **Bee's Life in the Hive**.

*Ileane* organised a talk at the *Headway Hotel* in *Morecambe* on 12th February about the skills of the woodworking craft by *Andrew Drysdale*. It was an eye-opener! A couple of photos are included of the work carried out by *Andrew* just as a hobby in his spare time, you can see the quality.

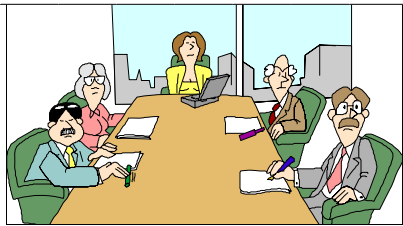


### A.G.M.

A reminder that our *Annual General Meeting* will take place on *Friday 25th April*. Nomination papers for the *Executive Committee* are enclosed, at the last *A.G.M.* we changed our rules to allow Committee members' greater flexibility in their involvement - work is spread much thinner. After the *A.G.M.* there will be one of *Barbara Rudge's* talks, she has been to some wild places (sometimes we worry if she will come back) but this time the place is not only wild there is real human interest.

***Dave Sergeant***  
Chairman

## Executive Committee News



As previously notified in our *Newsletter*, we will be holding our *AGM* at *11.30am* on Friday 25th April at *County Hall*. Please note the time is *11.30am* not 10.30am as previously printed. Lunch will be provided at the end of the meeting.

Final arrangements are now in place for our *Annual Reunion and Dinner* which will take place at *Barton Grange Hotel* on Friday 11th April. If you haven't returned a form please do so as quickly as possible so that you do not miss a very enjoyable event.

At the *Branch AGM* a representative of *Thompsons Solicitors* spoke and handed out a report on the services they offer to all *UNISON* members and in some cases to family members. They will act on behalf of retired members in relation to accidents, offer a free will service and provide a low cost conveyancing service. I can speak from personal experience. In *May 2005* I tripped on uneven pavement and broke a bone in my foot. *Thompsons* acted on my behalf and obtained, at no cost to myself, a compensation payment from the contractors who had left the pavement in such a dangerous condition.

***Maureen Vass***  
Secretary

## Long Term Care Costs

While we are still waiting for the Government's proposals on

changing the way *long term care* costs are funded here are a few pointers about the current system:

- 1. If you are entitled**, make sure you claim attendance allowance and at the right rate depending on the amount of care you need. *Attendance allowance* is not means tested at present.
- 2. Claim a NHS** contribution towards nursing home fees. If you are on the highest band of *NHS* contribution you may be entitled to full *NHS funding*.
- 3. If your property** is left empty while you move into care you should receive full exemption from *council tax* until it is sold.
- 4. The local authority** must disregard the value of your property for the first 12 weeks of residential care and assist you with your fees for this period if your *other* capital is below £21,500.
- 5. Anyone paying** for care from a joint account should *split the account* into separate single accounts.
- 6. Investigate** the advantages of an *"immediate needs"* annuity with an Insurance Company.

Some of this may be relevant for someone in your family.

## Telephone Charges

Some of you, like me, may be on *BT's Option 1* charging scheme. If you make a lot of evening calls on weekdays you need to take some action because from 1 April the charge will be going up from about *5 pence* for a call of up to an hour to *1.5 pence per minute* (reminiscent of the current Zimbabwean rate of inflation!). *BT* is offering various alternatives to get round it (apart from changing one's provider) but doing nothing is probably not a good option!



## Stroke Recognition

If a stroke can be recognised and treated within **3 hours**, its effect can be totally reversed. If you feel that someone may have suffered a stroke there are **3 tests** to establish whether it is a stroke – S, T, and R

S Ask him/her to Smile

T Ask him/her to Talk (i.e. say a simple sentence coherently)

R Ask him/her to Raise both arms

If they have difficulty with any of these tests **call 999 immediately** and describe the symptoms.

A further test is the “**Tongue test**” – Ask him/her to stick out their tongue. **If it is crooked**, i.e. goes to one side or the other, that is also a sign that they have suffered a stroke.

Some of you may already know this but it is important that everyone is aware of it.

**Roger Rymer**

Vice Chairman

## Northern Sub Group

### Visit to a Forge and a Fudge Factory, Burnley

**10.15am Tuesday 13th May**

The **Annual May** trip, using your own transport, has been arranged to visit both a **Forge** (displaying and selling a wide range of wrought iron etc) and a **Fudge Factory**, situated close to each other in the Burnley area.

After your visit to the **Forge** you will travel to have lunch at the **Fudge Factory**.

The price is **£13.99** inclusive and details are set out in the attached



Form to be returned to **Ron Clement** at the address shown.

Please note that there are only **40** places available, and the **Trip** is open to all **Members/friends**, not just those in the **Northern Sub Group**.

### Annual Summer Lunch. Elms Hotel Morecambe **12.30pm Tuesday 1st July**

This popular event has been arranged in a private room at the **Elms Hotel**. Further details will be in the **May/June** Newsletters.

**Ray Rudge**

Treasurer

## Activities at County Hall

**Friday 28th March** we have a change of speaker **Mr Bill Poole**. Who will give us an extremely interesting talk about bee's and their habits (Of course all the workers are woman) a very interesting topic, it is entitled “**A Bee's Life in the Hive**”



**Friday 25th April** 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/coffee and biscuits.

The usual reminder for our new visitors about the talks they are held on the last Friday of the month, they start at **2.00pm** finishing approx **3.15pm**. and are held in one of the cabinet rooms at **County Hall**, (unless directed elsewhere by the security person on the day). The entrance is from **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.**  
**Fran Francis**

Talk Organiser (01772 742459)

## Members Walking Group

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

We have once again managed to

produce a varied programme for our **2008** walks. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to lead the walks, which will be something for us all to look forward to.

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.

**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.

**Dates for the 2008 programme are:** 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.

The next walk is on *Wednesday* the **16th April**. Walk starts at **11am**, walk leader is **Roy Rich**, you can contact him on Tel: **01772 454601**.



Meet at **GARSTANG** in the car park adjacent to the *Garstang Discovery Centre rendezvous* in the eastern end near the River Wyre.

**Landranger Sheet 102. Grid Reference 493 454. Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure 41.**

An easy flat walk taking in the villages of Ford Green and Catterall. A walk of approximately 8½ miles.

There are toilets at the car park.

***Flo & Don Windle***

Walk Coordinators

**Membership Secretary's Report**

Since our last report we have had **one new member** and **one transfer in**. We offer them a warm welcome, they are:

**Mrs Andrea Green** (Educ & Cultural Services) Preston;  
**Jack Wakefield** (Transferred in) Preston.



Sadly 3 of our members have died; we offer our condolences to their family and friends.

**Stephen McDermott**

Nelson;

**Margaret Rose Parkes**

Lancaster;

**Valerie Hall**

Garstang.

**Our membership is 1850 (including 32 associate members)**

***...and to finish - from the Internet The Sad Passing of Common Sense.***

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn't always fair, and maybe it was my fault.

**Common Sense** lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not children, are in

charge). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

**Common Sense** lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer Panadol, sun lotion or a sticky plaster to a student; but, could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

**Common Sense** lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

**Common Sense** took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar can sue you for assault.

**Common Sense** finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

**Common Sense** was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by three stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, Someone Else is to Blame, and I'm A Victim. Not many attended his funeral because so few realised he was gone.

***Lancashire County UNISON Retired Members' Section***  
**Annual Reunion / Social Evening / Dinner**

Our Major Event this year will be held in the **GRANGE ROOM** at Barton Grange Hotel,  
 Barton, Nr. Preston, Lancs.

**On Friday 11th April 2008 Reception 5:45 for Dinner at 6:30p.m**

The price per person will be **£20:00** for the following menu

**MENU**

**Freshly Made**

Leek & Potato Soup

\*\*\*\*\*

**Medallions of Pork Fillet**

Served with Cider Mustard & Thyme Sauce  
 Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sorbet Ice**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Blackcurrant Cheese Cake**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Freshly Brewed Coffee and Tea**

With Chocolate Mint Wafers

**Members and Guests** are all welcome to attend this event.

Tables once again will consist of 10 or 12 persons, depending on numbers.

**Please book with your friends if you wish to sit together.**

Once again we have had to guarantee a minimum number of persons attending in order to keep the cost down, so your support is most welcome; we can't continue without you.

This is a time when you can enjoy a good meal and have some fun with our **Music Maestro Ray**, who once again will provide dancing, quizzes and games. Come along, meet up with old friends and even make some new ones.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Please return the application form and cheque as soon as possible to**

Fran Francis, 38 Shaftesbury Avenue, Penwortham, Preston, Lancs. PR1 0EL  
 Telephone 01772 742459

**APPLICATION FORM**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Telephone Number .....

**Please reserve ( ) place/s. For the Annual Social Reunion at £20.00 each**

I enclose a cheque for £.....Made payable to: **Lancashire Unison Retired Members Section**

I shall require a Vegetarian Meal **PLEASE INDICATE YES / NO**

**OR**

Extra Special Dietary Requirements **PLEASE INDICATE YES / NO**

**FORGE AND FUDGE FACTORY VIST (By Own Transport)**

*Tuesday 13th May 2008 at 10.15am for 10.30am start*

Please arrive at the *Forge* by 10.15am for 10.30am *demonstration* followed by time afterwards to visit the *Gift Shop* and *Showrooms*.

**HOW TO FIND THE FORGE:- LEAVE M65 AT JUNCTION 9 FOLLOW THE HALIFAX SIGN, TURN LEFT ONTO THE A679. THE FORGE IS HALF A MILE ON THE LEFT.**

After we leave the *Forge* you will be given the route to the *Fudge Factory* to arrive for the *1.00pm Lunch*.

The *Menu* is as follows, please indicate your preference on the form at the bottom of this sheet.

**MAIN Course**

- A. *Lancashire Pie served with Peas*
- B. *Fish & Chips and Mushy Peas*
- C. *Beef Baguette with Onions, Mushroom gravy served with Chips*

**SWEET Course**

- X. *Jam Roly Poly Pudding, with Hot Creamy Custard*
- Y. *Bread and Butter Pudding, with Hot Creamy Custard*

*Tea or Coffee with Truffles*

After our meal we will be visiting the *Interactive Fudge demonstration* and see how the world famous fudges, nougat, truffles & conserves are made and taste.

**Forge & Fudge Factory Visit**

*Tuesday 13th May 2008*

*I/We* wish to attend the above I enclose *my/our* meal selections & cheque for  
 £.....at **£13.99 each** (for the inclusive visit & meal cost)  
 Please make cheques payable to:- **‘Lancashire Unison Retired Members Section’.**

**Enter your Name & Address:**

Name .....

Address .....

Tel No. ....

*Signature* .....

<u>Main Course Letter</u>	<u>Sweet Course 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)  
 Please note number of places is limited to **40 only**. Please book by the **5th May 2008**.