

# Lancashire UNISON

## Retired Members Section

# Newsletter

EDITION NO. 71 - December 2005

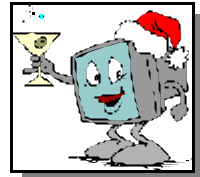
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## Diary Dates - 2005/06



### Christmas Carol Service

**Tuesday 13th December**

12.30pm - in the County Hall Chapel.

### Social Evening and Dinner

**Monday 16th January 2006**

at Barton Grange Hotel.



### Ccounty Hall Talks

2006 programme

Friday 27th January

Mr George Dobson  
a very comical speaker

Friday 24th Febuary

Mr Peter Dobson  
"As things were"  
funny renderings of times gone by

Friday 31st March 2006

Mr Melvin Carter  
"amusing" experiences of a photographer

Friday 28th April

Mrs Barbara Rudge  
talks about their Guatemala trip

Friday 24th November

Mr Ken Dagger  
talks, acts & sings Gilbert & Sullivan

### Walks

**Wednesday 11th January 2006**

11 am - meet in Anglezarke Car Park off  
Moor Rd Anglezarke Nr Chorley.

### Northern Sub Group

Talk - 2pm Headway Hotel

**Tuesday 13th December 2005**

Mrs Hurst talks about the House of Windsor

Talk - 2pm Headway Hotel

**Tuesday 10th January 2006**

Come along & enjoy an afternoon of  
fun & laughter

Valentines Day 2006

Headway Hotel

Afternoon Tea Dance

## Chairman's Remarks

### Social Evening - 16 January

Included in this month's Newsletter is more information regarding the *Annual Social Evening* on **16 January**. Last year was a great success and with **Ray Rudge** again in charge this year should be as good. It can be a worry though, Ray and his keyboard are becoming known on the Fylde coast and we may have to be quick to book him in future! We are also obliged to **Barton Grange**, their service will be at their usual high standard and again, impressively good for the price.

## Budapest

A lot of the work organising the Social Evening has been carried out by **Ray Rudge**, our *Treasurer*, and **Fran Francis**, our *Social Secretary*. Another social function, the trip to **Budapest**, was organised by **Stella Talbot**, our *Membership Secretary*. Budapest has had more history than most places and interest and sights abound. Extreme forms of Western tourism have not yet begun to obscure history which has involved thirty one sieges since Attila the Hun arrived! (That's why Hungary is called Hungary.)

There are palaces, opera houses and the second largest parliament building in Europe complete with the medieval imperial crown saved from being melted down by being held in **Fort Knox**. Out in the countryside are villages, awaiting the 21<sup>st</sup> century, where life has managed to carry on through all the vicissitudes of Hungary's history.

The main attraction was the **Christmas Market** held in an historic square in the centre of Budapest. The writer ensconced himself in an impressive café bordering the square while other members of the party (mustn't be sexist) investigated the market and shops – including a Marks and Spencers! Thanks to Stella for arranging things, she organised good weather in Budapest but we won't blame her for the snow storm that shut down Manchester Airport!

### Social Secretary

**Fran Francis**, our *Social Secretary*, also organises the talks held at **County Hall** over the winter. Following this note is a summary, by **Ray Rudge**, of the talk of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. The talk included a history of silk as well as its manufacture and

painting and decoration. I am waiting to see how Ray spells the name of the Chinese princess who invented silk. However, Fran, who has been our Social Secretary for seven years, has indicated she wishes to stand down at the next Annual General Meeting in April. Fran has been organising our summer trips as well as the winter talks and hopes to stay on the committee to help. We would be grateful for any member to come forward to help organise the summer and/or winter activities.

## Dave Sergeant”

### Pensions Update

The pensions issue continues to be a burning issue. As this newsletter goes to print, **John Prescott** has still not reached any agreement with Local Government over the ability of existing staff to retire at 60 on unreduced pensions. **The Turner Report** on pensions is about to be published on 30 November and leaks have indicated that it will suggest increasing the pension age from 65 to 67. The Chancellor has sought to damp down expectations about significant increases in the basic pension. There have been rumours about a possible reopening of the deal which the Government struck with other public sector unions (teachers, civil servants, health service)- this has been denied by No.10 but not so far by No. 11. The **CBI** are of course incensed by what they see as being special treatment for the public sector.

**Watch this space!**

### News from the Executive Committee

At our meeting this month, we had a presentation on a project being undertaken by the County

Council.

**Ambition Lancashire** Can you help the Lancashire Strategic Partnership to develop its ten year strategy on ageing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This has to be produced by June 2006 and they are asking any retired members become involved in creating the new strategy. Anyone over 50 who is willing to help, please contact **David Halpin** on 01772 534358

Most of our arrangements for our **Annual Dinner** which will take place on **16 January 2006** at **Barton Grange Hotel** have now been agreed. If you have not already sent in your form please do so. An enjoyable evening can be guaranteed for all.

### Chorley & South Ribble

#### Crossroads Scheme

#### Caring for Carers

Crossroads is a Charity that offers a home care and respite service to carers and disabled people in their own homes. They have a Board of Trustees who meet in the afternoon on the third Tuesday each month. They are looking for a retired social worker to join the board. Anyone who is interested please contact the **Care Manager** at Railway House Railway Road Chorley PR6 0HW Tel: 01257 230698.

## Maureen Vass”

Secretary

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### Northern Sub Group

#### Talk 2pm Headway Hotel

#### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

**Mrs Hurst** will talk about the **House of Windsor** and will bring along lots of very interesting memorabilia. Please bring your friends and support the sub group.

#### Talk 2pm - 10<sup>th</sup> January

#### Headway Hotel

Members & friends will be entertained by **Brenda Everest**,

who has a reputation in the Area as another *Pam Ayres*.

This should be an afternoon of fun & laughter – do come along and enjoy also the friendly atmosphere, refreshments, and a ‘good natter’!

**14th February - Valentines Day**

**Afternoon tea dance**

**2pm – 4pm Headway Hotel**

The Ballroom in the Headway Hotel has been booked for an *afternoon tea dance* live music to be provided by *Ray Rudge* on his keyboard.

Light refreshments will be provided including cakes and scones for which there will be a small charge of £4.00.

Even if you are unable to dance do come along and enjoy the music we listened to in our younger days!

**For this new venture to be a success we will need support from members & friends outside the Sub Group Area**

there is ample free car parking on the promenade near the hotel.

Please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter and return it to *Ray Rudge 9 Blythe Ave Clevelys FY5 2LL* (01253 855784). No tickets will be issued, just complete the slip.

**Ray Rudge”**

Treasurer



**Activities & Social**

**Events**

I have tried to get a good mixture of speakers again this year to try and entice more of you to come along and enjoy what I am sure is going to be a rather light hearted season of talks. Hopefully it will help lift us out of the gloom of the winter months and the tragic happenings that have surrounded the world during the last 12 months.

**January 27<sup>th</sup>** is the first talk in the

New Year; it will start with a very popular speaker *Mr George Dobson*, relating one of his many experiences called:-

**“Caribbean Capers”**

**February 24<sup>th</sup>**. *Mr Peter Dobson* will relate his and others experiences in an amusing talk about times gone by entitled:-

**“As Things Were”**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>**. *Mr Melvin Carter* will tell about funny happenings in his life entitled:-

**The “amusing” experiences of a professional photographer.**

**April 28<sup>th</sup>**. *Mrs Barbara Rudge* will give a fascinating talk about their trip to *Guatemala* and display their unusual souvenirs.

**November 24<sup>th</sup>**. *Mr Ken Dagger*, who is the Chairman of Marton Operatic Society. Talks and acts Gilbert and Sullivan and their operas. **A talk “with Musical illustrations”** an excellent performance.

*Next* the usual information for our new members, the talks will be held on the last Friday of the month on the dates shown above.

**Talks** commence at **2:00p.m** in **COUNTY HALL PRESTON** and they usually last for 1 to 1½ hours. Please use the **County Hall entrance in Pitt St** and sign in at the reception area, obtain a visitors badge and tell the security person you are a retired member: they will direct you to the relevant cabinet room where the talks are to be held. You are welcome to use the **New Staff Cafeteria** for a meal or snack before the performance, this is situated near the main entrance in Pitt Street; the security person on the door will direct you. Hopefully we will again see many of our Members & their friends. 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.

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL AND I HOPE YOU HAVE A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**

Hope to see many of our members and their guests at **Barton Grange** on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006**, we will start the New Year as we mean to go on.



At this time of year we receive many envelopes that 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). Please keep sending your stamps to; **Derian House Stamp Appeal, The Appeals Office, Derian House, Chancery Road, Astley Village, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 1DH.**

**Fran Francis”**

Social Secretary



**Preston Talk - 25<sup>th</sup> November**

*Mrs Valerie Anderson* gave a very interesting & humorous talk about the history of silk going back thousands of years to when it was first discovered in **China**. Then she outlined how the silk moths breed and produce the silk being totally dependent on the white mulberry tree. Finally, she demonstrated the two primary methods of painting silk, displaying numerous scarves, cards and other objects which she had made herself. This was a very good start to our winter talk’s programme.

**Walks**

Next walk is **11 am Wednesday 11th January 2006**. Walk Leader is **Peter Kilgour**, contact him on 01257 279650.

Meet in **ANGLEZARKE CAR PARK** off **Moor Road**, Anglezarke Nr Chorley. On East Bank of Anglezarke Reservoir on 1:25000 scale maps there is a spot height of 144 metres on reservoir

edge adjacent to rendezvous. The walk is approximately 6 miles, (NB no toilets at car park.) A reservoir side walk with a moderate well graded climb and descent of *Healey Nab*. Paths are generally good but will reflect mid winter conditions.

**Walk at Spring Wood**  
**12th October 2005**

Given a discouraging weather forecast matched by heavy rain and a prospective leader with an injured foot, we didn't need two hands to count the six colleagues, who emerged from their cars and immediately enveloped themselves in waterproofs. Thanking the *National Trust* for developing a waterproof map case to protect my 1985 Pathfinder Map, we ventured forth following Bill's proposed route. Six hundred metres up the Sabden Road then across fields via five stiles, plus a gate and we arrived at a familiar stone bridge on the *Roman Road* from Yorkshire to Ribchester. From the bridge the road climbs up a steep hill, a fact which helped the *Cromwellian* supporters repulse the *Royalists* storm troopers on April 20<sup>th</sup> 1643 saving some of the estates in the Calder Valley from war damage. The extent of the Read Hall Park gives some idea of the lifestyle of

the King's Magistrate in 1612, when he committed *Alice Nutter* and the defenceless Demdike family to Lancaster Assizes in 1612.

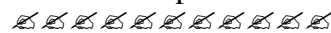
The parklands developed by the estate owners in the sixteenth century once extended from Nelson to Preston although the landscape suffered in the *Industrial Revolution*. Fortunately sufficient woodlands survived for us to enjoy the Ribble Valley in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our path now follows the 1000 metre long carriage drive of bygone years down to the A680. A footpath now opens up on a vista of mixed woodlands just beginning to show signs of autumn colour. The rain also stopped for about twenty minutes while we sat on the bank of the Calder to eat our lunch. Eric was fortunate enough to see a solitary Kingfisher as it flew upstream. Eventually we emerged onto Whalley Nab, with a bird's eye view of the village.

We descended into Whalley, leaving the ducks and a heron to enjoy the rain and the river, we returned to Spring Wood Car Park where a notice advises us that we have travelled "*one bow shot east of Whalley Abbey*" approximately 700 metres.

Fortunately the natives are friendly!!

**Don Windle"**

Walk Reporter



**Membership**

**Secretary's Report**

Since our last meeting we have had 4 new members. We offer them a warm welcome. They are:

- John Ackroyd  
Burnley;
- Robert Barry (Education)  
Lancaster;
- Patricia Barton  
Hesketh Bank;
- Brenda Vickery (Education)  
Great Harwood.

**Deaths of Members**

Sadly one of our members has died, we offer condolences to his family and friends.

Harold Rigby (Social Services)  
Blackburn.



**Our membership is 1819,**  
**(including 41 associate members)**

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**May I take this opportunity to wish all our Members, family & friends a Very Merry Christmas With a peaceful New Year.**

**Feliz Navidad y un Año Nuevo próspero**  
**Christine Shaw - Editor**

**Northern Sub Group**

**Valentines Day - Afternoon Tea Dance**  
**Headway Hotel, Morecambe.**

I/We will attend the above tea dance for which I enclose a cheque for £..... (£4 per person)

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

**Enter your Name & Address:**

*Signature* .....

Name .....

Address .....

.....  
.....

Please send to:-  
**Ray Rudge, 9 Blythe Ave,**  
**Clevelys. FY5 2LL**

Contact Number:- 01253 855784

Tel No. ....

