

NEWSLETTER 80 : MARCH - JUNE 2016.

Retiree Enfield
UNISON
Association members

UNISON RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2015/2016

Chair: Janet Norton
Vice Chair: Carole Rhodes
Secretary: Barbara Bowery
8805-2667
Treasurer: Olive Parsons
8366-5840
Outings Orgs: Anne Best, Janet Norton
Speaker Org: Doreen Denton
Newsletter: Allan Thow
Members: Malcolm Carter,
Marion Rowsell
Met. Dist. Reps: Mary Stone, Kay Price
Auditor: Chris McClean

UNISON OFFICE: 020 8379 4084

Message from the Chairman.

Spring Buffet 2016 Friday 22nd April @ 7.00pm

About 60 of us gathered at the Civic Centre Staff Restaurant for a very enjoyable evening. There was a lovely buffet and plenty to drink with a choice of wines or beers or soft drinks. The mayor joined us and circulated among the members to talk to them. Later she helped with the very large raffle winning several prizes herself. Stan was kind enough to play some well known tunes and songs throughout the evening and a good time was had by all.

There are still a few seats available on our coach trips so if you have not already booked or would like to bring a friend or two please contact Olive

Look forward to seeing you.

Janet

DIARY DATES 2016 Members Monthly Meetings Tuesday 2.30 - 4.30 pm

12th July – Colin Barrat – Turin Shroud.

09th August – Sue Jessell - The Rotary Club.

13th September – Peter & Christine Padwick – Schooldays.

11th October – Maggie Radcliff – Year of Discovery.

08th November – Jeff Nichols – Bygones – Hands-on quiz.

Committee Meetings 2016

12th July

13th September

8th November

Newsletter Publication Dates

Any article you wish to appear in the Newsletter must be received by the Editor not later than the following Dates:-

Autumn 16/09/2016

Spring 10/02/2017

Summer 16/06/2017

Publication is at the sole discretion of the Editor and may be modified for space or editorial reasons.

SPEAKERS WE HAVE ENJOYED

Tuesday 8th March

Alan Lamprell – Tracing Heirs

Alan started trying to trace people who owed money to companies such as Tricity Finance and other similar firms. One day he met an old school friend and he suggested a re-union of class mates and Alan managed to trace 35 old pupils from a class of 40 and they had a great re-union event. One of the boys came over from Nigeria and he suggested that Alan could make a living from this knack he had and the more Alan thought about this the more

he liked the idea so he set up his own company and this was known as A1 Tracing.

He was contacted after a month by yellow pages to go in their directory but they didn't have a section to put his company so he was put in under "detective agency". Within a week he had lots of 'phone calls. One lady wanted him to follow her husband because she thought he was cheating on her. So they arranged a time on the following Saturday. However he had met a lady and arranged a date for that Saturday. In the end she agreed to go with him as they followed this man's car to Broxbourne Woods and stayed long enough for the other car to get all steamed up and was able to verify what was happening before leaving. His lady friend thought it was a strange first date, but in the end they stayed together and are still together. Then a lady wanted him to trace her uncle and it turned out that he lived in the next road to her but they were not aware of this.

Next he was asked to trace Myra Hyndley's relatives and people she had known so his client could write a book about her. He also did some work for Enid Blyton's relatives.

One day in Somerset House he could hear a guy from Canada with his wife and children going up and down. He was trying to find his birth mother's name. Eventually he asked Alan to help him find his mother. Alan eventually found her and that she had had a son called Ben when she was only 16 and was forced to have him adopted. She said her husband did not know this so she did not know what to do for the best. Eventually she spoke to her husband and to her other children and they all agreed she should meet Alan's client in his hotel. She telephoned Alan afterwards to say that

as he came down the stairs with a large bouquet for her they both burst into tears and hugged each other so it had a happy ending.

Another lady from Glasgow hired him to find a guy called Eric. She met him at a dance during the war and he wrote to her every day despite being posted away. This went on for some time until eventually he was posted abroad and after about a year his letters ceased. She never heard from him again and she was heartbroken and had assumed he had been killed. Time went by and a few years later she met someone else and had a daughter. Later after her daughter and her husband died she found Eric's letters in a shoebox. Alan was employed to try to find out how Eric had died, but Alan couldn't find him listed among the dead nor could he find a marriage record so he thought he might be able to trace him through his parents or siblings. Eventually he found a sister and much to Alan's surprise found that they were actually looking for his client, Cathy for more than three years. Eric had been posted to the jungle and had contracted cancer. He did not want Cathy to see him in this condition and had stopped the correspondence. Eric had died the year before Alan had started looking for him but he had always told his family that Cathy was the love of his life and asked them to find her and let her know what had happened to him.

In Germany there was an area of land that developers wanted to build on but could not do so without tracing the owners. Alan was asked to trace a man called Kitchener whose father matched the details of the missing owners. He found a relative who told him that the father had moved to New Zealand and changed his name to Cottons. He was the sole beneficial owner of the land which by now was worth about £800,000. When he was eventually traced and contacted he said he did not want anything to do with this land. The German developers sent a representative to talk to the old man and when accosted he told them to "b--r off" or else he would turn his shotgun on them. Some time later Alan went to New Zealand and he

could not resist going to see the old man to find out his story and why he refused the land. The old man lived just outside Wellington but before Alan could arrange a time to visit he received an email telling him the matter had been settled and he would be receiving a cheque for £23,000 for his time and expenses. So Alan never had his curiosity satisfied. Had the old man died or had he accepted the land was his? Alan was never to know.

It was a fascinating tale to end on and left us all wanting to hear more.

Tuesday 10th May
Stephen Jennings – The Titanic

This ill fated ship sailed on the 14th April 2012 at 2.20 and sank on the 15th April. It was built by the White Star Line designer Pirrie who proposed the construction of three gigantic liners to compete with the Cunard Line and the idea was to make them bigger and more luxurious than any of the Cunard ships. They were to be called Britannia, Titanic and Olympic. In March 1909 construction of the Olympic and the Titanic began in the Belfast shipyard more or less side by side.

840 feet in length and 240 feet wide with 4 funnels each 80 feet high work began under the guidance of Purrie's nephew. It took 4000 men and 3 million rivets to build the Titanic. The rudder weighed 101 tons, the propellers 21 tons and it had three engines. Her maximum speed was 23 knots, fast but not as fast as the fastest Cunard liners. Nevertheless the Titanic was the largest man made moveable object of its time and it was supposed to be unsinkable. To ensure this she was divided into 16 watertight compartments. If ever in difficulty she could communicate by telegraph over a radius of 360 miles. It took 46000 hours to build. There had been no amendment to lifeboat regulations since 1894 so there were only 16 lifeboats on board yet the ship could carry 2200 passengers. Each lifeboat could carry only 75 people so the number was very inadequate.

Launching Titanic caused considerable problems due to her length and weight. The interior of the ship was the most beautiful imaginable. Inside the ship was a gym and an indoor swimming pool, turkish baths, a squash court and restaurants which it was claimed could serve food as good as any top class New York restaurant. Dinner was 7 courses long and included choices from 4 meat, 4 savoury and 4 dessert dishes. 75000 pounds of meat, 40 tons of potatoes, and 20000 bottles of beer were loaded as well as 6000 tons of coal.

Prior to the iceberg strike the California which was the nearest ship to Titanic had tried to radio Titanic on may occasions to warn her of the icebergs in her path. Their warnings did not seem to be taken seriously and it is known that one of the very important messages was never delivered to Captain Smith. The temperature was dropping alarmingly and the lookouts were asked to watch out for icebergs. One lookout suddenly saw a big black shape and realised it was an iceberg. He called out and the wheel was thrown over to turn to avoid the danger but there was insufficient time to change the direction of travel of such a large ship and she struck the iceberg causing extensive damage. White flares which were then the recognised distress signal were sent up but they were also the White Star Lines company signal used to announce the presence of one of their ships in an area and were not recognised as the distress flares they actually were. At 1.40 in the morning the last distress flare was sent up and the collapsible lifeboats were put out but they were not put up properly. The Carpathia which had tried to reach the Titanic was 45 miles away and could not reach her before she sank. Only 703 people out of more than 2000 on board were saved.

Stephen brought many artefacts from his White Star Line collection that were representative of those used on board the Titanic. These were available for examination during and after his talk and contained some very beautiful pieces.

Everyone enjoyed this afternoon.

We have many good speakers and anyone wishing to join us on these afternoons would be most welcome. They are the second Tuesday in the month at 2.30 pm at the Civic Centre.

OUTINGS AND OTHER REPORTS

**Monday 23rd May 2016
Pianolas, Pilots and Prates.
Stow Maries WWI Aerodrome**

Stow Maries Aerodrome was built during the Great War as a base for 37 Squadron Royal Flying Corps Home Defence. This area, between the Rivers Blackwater and Crouch, was where Zeppelin Airship captains aligned their airships for their bombing raids on London. The spot was a remote hilltop farm requisitioned by the War Department and situated near to Woodham Ferrers and Maldon.

Having collected our guide enroute we arrived at the aerodrome in time to commence the tour with a two course lunch in the Officers Mess Hall, a jolly bunting hung place where a pianola played cheerful tunes of the day. We saw a film describing the aircraft and men who flew their dangerous missions from here. Many pilots died in flying accidents caused by inexperience and lack of sufficient training. They frequently flew at night and their aircraft were difficult to fly and highly dangerous if mishandled. The object was to shoot down the Zeppelins and a special shell called a Pomeroy shell was developed which would explode on entering the airship's body and ignite the gas within.

We visited the hanger where we were able to see several of these aircraft and also a German fighter of the period, an Albatross which had very good performance and an excellent machine gun. There was also a small museum on site and opposite an open garage where several vehicles of the period were on display both of which proved

very interesting.

We then took a panoramic tour by coach through moody salt marshes with weather boarded villages and thatched buildings. The Dengie Hundred is to Essex what the Romney Marsh is to Kent; there were many pirates and smuggling was a commonplace activity

Our final stop was at Burnham-on-Crouch to see the unusual octagonal clock tower and the splendid Georgian houses. The Royal Yacht Club made us welcome with tea and cakes and here we could look out across the eastuary and see the many boats bobbing on the water. A pleasant end to the trip and time to return to Enfield.

MEMBERS NEWS.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to:-

None to report

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:-

None to report

LOST CONTACT.

None to report

DEATHS:-

None to report

OBITUARY:-

None to report

IMPORTANT CHANGE

In future our monthly meetings will start at 2.00pm with an informal half hour session to give you a chance to catch up with each others latest news and information. Tea and biscuits will be available for a small charge.

Our speakers will still give their talks starting at 2.30pm and

finishing at 3.30pm as usual.

We also hope to have hand made greetings cards for sale with all proceeds to going to charity. We may even have the occasional raffle to help our own funds along.

The reason for the change is to make the meetings more of a social occasion and to help new members become known and feel welcomed.

Your committee hope that you will like these new arrangements.

FUTURE EVENTS

**Thursday 23rd June 2016.
Anglesey Abbey, Cambridge.**

This event has already taken place and a report will be printed with the next issue of Newsletter

**Tuesday 26th July 2016
Sussex Seaside Matinee Explorer.
Coach leaves Civic Centre
9.00am.**

Cost £48.00p including lunch.
We collect the guide enroute to Old Pevensy where we will have lunch at an old oak beamed inn with an inglenook fireplace and a resident ghost. After lunch we take a gentle stroll along the picture postcard High Street to the ruined Norman Castle where William the Conqueror landed in 1066. The coach will then collect us and take us on a panoramic tour of the South Downs to Beachy Head, finishing at Eastbourne. We will be set down at just the right spot to enjoy the famous Carpet Gardens, the centerpiece of Eastbourne Promenade. There will be time to buy a cup of tea and have a short stroll before heading home at 4.30pm.

Walking guide = level 1.5 = Total distance up to 600 yards with stops for contemplation or refreshment.

Wednesday 24th August 2016
Eltham Palace & Thames Cruise.
Coach leaves Civic Centre
9.00am.

Cost:- English Heritage
Members £31.50p
Non Members £42.00p.
EH membership cards must be
produced on entry.

Tea and coffee can be purchased on arrival ready for a very entertaining morning as we travel from the Tudors to the Twenties. Following an introduction with our guide you will enjoy a tour of the house once owned by textile millionaire Stephen and Virginia Courtauld and time to browse as an invited guest in the 1930s. The house is full of quirky details from the built in vacuum cleaners to the suite of rooms for Virginia's pet lemur. The Courtaulds were keen horticulturalists and today their gardens represent a rare example of 1930s design. To allow plenty of time to enjoy them we will stay on site for lunch. Plan to buy a snack type lunch in the café or bring a packed lunch. After lunch we head to Greenwich for a one hour commentary cruise to the Palace of Westminster. Hot and cold drinks are available at the bar. We head home at 4.30pm. Walking guide = level 2 = Total distance up to 880 yards including stops for contemplation or refreshment

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS.

It is important that if you are interested in joining a trip or other event you let Olive know as soon as possible. No money is required until a month before the trip but we must be sure that the outing is going to attract sufficient people to cover its cost or we must cancel.

Coach outings can be booked in advance by completing the forms provided and sending them to the Treasurer Mrs. O. Parsons, 38 Halifax Road, Enfield EN2 0PP. Please make cheques for all events payable to Enfield Unison RMA. You need not send all of the money immediately as long as you pay for each outing at least four weeks in

advance. Please be aware no refunds will be given for unused tickets.

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your enquiry to enable us to confirm your booking. Members will be contacted by the Treasurer if the coach is full and they have been put on the waiting list.

If you are unable to attend after paying for tickets, please contact our Treasurer - Olive Parsons on 020-8366-5840 as soon as possible. We maintain a waiting list for over subscribed events and a member on the waiting list may then buy your ticket(s). If there is not a waiting list, you may then sell your tickets to relatives or friends. All coaches pick up in Churchbury Lane (at the side of Civic Centre). Tickets for events are given to members at the time of boarding the coach.

Help Us On The Day One!

Please keep a note of our mobile phone number which will be used exclusively for outing in your diary and phone. On the day, if you are unable to come or are stuck in traffic you can phone in. This will help us leave on time, particularly important when there is a guide to meet on the way. The number is:

07956580823.

Please keep this number with you on the day in case of difficulties. Thank you all very much for your co-operation and support. We look forward to seeing you on the outings.

Help Us On The Day Two!
Trips with Lunch included.

Once you have made your choice from the menu provided on the booking form it cannot be altered. When it is a long time between booking and the actual day it is easy to forget so write your choice down on the copy booking form provided and bring it with you on the day.

COACH TRAVEL REGS. We have been asked by the coach operator to make all passengers aware that they must remain in their seats and not move about in the coach whilst it is moving, and that seat belts must be worn at all times. These are requirements by law and could carry a substantial fine for the coach operator if broken.

SEATING - If because of a medical condition you have difficulty when walking and would like a seat at the front of the coach, please ask for this at the time of booking.

EVENING & WEEKEND
PARKING FOR COACH
OUTINGS/MEETINGS

It is now possible to park at the Civic Centre for evening and weekend coach outings or meetings free of charge. It might be an idea, if you so wish, just to put a note on the dashboard - UNISON RMA so that security are aware. For daytime outings the £2 fee is still applicable, and should be paid for at the time of booking your outing.

THEATRE TICKETS. Please note a £10.00 per ticket holding fee will now be required when you book theatre tickets, this is because we have to pay for all tickets in full at the time of our making the booking.

DISCLAIMER

Enfield Unison Retired Members Association its officers and members are not liable to any member person guest or company whomsoever for any loss accident injury or damage which may occur during or arising from any activity, meeting or outing arranged by for or on behalf of them at any time.

THIS BOOKING FORM FOR THE OUTINGS SHOWN BELOW IS FOR YOU TO KEEP AS A RECORD OF THE ORDER YOU HAVE PLACED. PLEASE BRING THIS WITH YOU.

SUSSEX SEASIDE MATINEE EXPLORER.

**Tuesday 26th July 2016
Sussex Seaside Matinee Explorer.
Leaves Churchbury Lane
9.00am.
Price: £48.00p per person
including two course lunch with
tea or coffee.**

Choose from:-

**Smoked Haddock in white wine
sauce topped with cheesy
breadcrumbs.....or
Ham, Egg and
Chips.....or
Chilli Con Carne with
Rice.....or
Vegetarian Pasta of the
Day with Garlic Bread.....AND
Homemade Fruit Crumble
With Custard.....or
Eton
Mess.....
Jelly and
Ice Cream.....
Seats
Required.....**

Name.....

Tel.No.....

Cheque for £.....enc.

Made payable to:

Enfield Unison RMA

**ELTHAM PALACE & THAMES
CRUISE**

**Wednesday 24th August 2016.
Leaves Churchbury Lane at
9.00am.**

**Price: £31.50p for EH Members
£42.00p for Non EH Members
English Heritage membership
cards must be produced on entry.**

**Seats
Required.....**

Name.....

Tel.No.....

Cheque for £.....enc.

Made payable to:

Enfield Unison RMA

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THIS BOOKING FORM FOR THE OUTINGS SHOWN BELOW IS TO BE SENT TO THE TREASURER WITH CHEQUE PAYABLE TO ENFIELD UNISON RMA. THANK YOU.

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With Custard.....or
-----**

SUSSEX SEASIDE MATINEE EXPLORER continued

**Eton
Mess.....or
Jelly and
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Seats
Required.....
Name.....**

**Tel.No.....
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**Made payable to:
Enfield Unison RMA**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR OTHER DETAIL

Send this form by email to :- arjctw@blueyonder.co.uk

Or by post to:- **The Newsletter Editor, 124 Birkbeck Road, Enfield EN2 0EB.**

My email address is: _____

My name is: _____

My membership no. is (found on your address label): _____

My postal address is: _____

My telephone number is: _____

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