

NEWSLETTER 76 : APRIL - JUNE 2015

Retiree Enfield
UNISON
Association members

UNISON RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2014/2015

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, Pat
Gibb, Marion Rowsell
Met. Dist. Reps: Mary Stone, Kay Price
Auditor: Chris McClean

UNISON OFFICE: 020 8379 4084

Message from the Chairman.

Our meetings have been very successful this year with interesting speakers and it is good that so many people have attended.

The Spring Buffet went well as did our coach trips to Hampstead and Cambridge but we still have vacancies on our remaining trips in July to Colchester, one of the original Roman cities and the scene of many a battle between the Saxons led by their famous female warrior chief Bodicca and in August to the Heart of Essex. Booking forms at the back as usual. All are welcome, so please encourage as many of your family and friends as you wish to help us make a full coach on each of these trips.

Best wishes

Janet

DIARY DATES 2015 Members Monthly Meetings Tuesday 2.30 - 4.30 pm

14th July – D. Wass – Humorous
Police.

11th August – Sheila Parker – From
Tiller Girl to Vernon Girl.

8th September – Julia Peacock –
Antartica

13th October – Margaret Carr – On
the Treadle.

10th November – Geoff. Bowden –
Funny Girls.

Committee Meetings 2015

13th July

7th September

9th November

SPRING BUFFET REPORT

Friday 17th April 2015-06-22

About 50 of us gathered in the Civic Centre Restaurant for our annual Spring Buffet. Stan, whom we all know, played a medley of tunes for us during the evening. The Deputy Mayor attended representing the Council and spent a lot of time circulating around the tables and talking to the members present who found her to be an interesting and engaging personality. Later she acted as our caller to announce the winning raffle ticket numbers. Since that evening the Deputy Mayor has been endowed into the office of Mayor.

The buffet was of its usual high standard with a wide choice of cold dishes, some hot and plenty of food for all.

We had a good, friendly evening and look forward to seeing all of you again next year when we hope you will encourage more of our members to come, especially those new ones who have never attended before.

SPEAKERS WE HAVE ENJOYED

Tuesday 10th March.
Sylvia Coombs–Travellers Tales.

Sylvia worked in the Solomon Islands

for 18 years. Only got home once every two years at Christmas which was always very cold and always managed to catch the a cold or the ‘flu.

In 1975 when she was going back after Christmas, they usually travelled via Singapore, but this time they decided to go the other way via New York, Florida, Los Angeles and Fiji, plus Guadalcanal, New Georgia, and finally to the Solomon Islands. As they were going back to the tropics they did not take any winter clothing so just had the one winter outfit they set off in. They were invited into the cockpit to meet the pilot and see the view which, as they were flying over the Arctic Circle, was very beautiful.

They first stopped at New York where the runway had been cleared and thick snow was piled up either side of them. Then they went to Alabama where, one step outside the plane, they realised it was freezing also. At this point they had doubts about clothing. They then landed at a little airport in Florida and again it was freezing. Sylvia was desperate for a cup of tea. They were told in America it was always cold tea. It took them some time to get a very luke-warm cup of tea. The weather did not get any warmer so eventually they had to borrow suitable American winter clothing. In Florida they visited a school and gave a talk about life in the Solomon Islands. On the Sunday they went to the local church service where they invited Sylvia to sing which she firmly declined. Before the service they were given a coffee and doughnut reception but they could not get the tea they wanted as Sylvia had only brought one tea bag from a box of 80.

After the service they left for the airport but on arrival were told there was no flight that day as the pilot had run out of flying time until the end of

the month. After much discussion they had to fly to Atlanta which was even colder. On the day they arrived the cinema which had premiered "Gone With The Wind" burned down. Finally they flew to Los Angeles where they were able to change into summer clothes. Unfortunately Sylvia had lost her hard luggage, with all her shoes and clothing inside, which she could not replace. Two years later she returned to Auckland, New Zealand with no shoes as she had only been able to buy sandals made by the Solomon Islanders.

Their adventure did not end there as they had a problem with the boat to the Solomon Islands which was over full and they had to take a canoe with all there remaining luggage for the final part of the journey. Half way across the stretch of water the heavens opened up and they were caught in a violent thunderstorm. Tossed around and shaken up they finally arrived absolutely drenched and soaked through to the skin. What a journey.

We, however, had a very interesting and amusing afternoon.

Tuesday 12th May 2015.
Stephen Gilbert – Discovering Historic Enfield.

Stephen handed out the latest copy of Enfield Society News and membership application forms.

Stephen spoke for about 75 minutes on buildings well known to members including Forty Hall, Trent Park, Enfield Manor House, Broomfield, Myddleton House, Enfield Grammar School and, accompanying the talk, passed round photographs of all these buildings and many, many more. Included were photographs of local Public Houses and Enfield Town.

The object of the Society is the conservation and enhancement of the civic and natural environment of the London Borough of Enfield and its immediate surroundings for the public benefit.

Tuesday 9th June 2015.
Colin Barratt – The Story of Shredded Wheat.

Shredded Wheat has been made since 1843. The method of making Shredded Wheat was invented by an American, Henry Parkin, after he found that consuming wheat grains cured his indigestion and constipation. He invented how to make Shredded Wheat biscuits using machinery eventually shipping his product throughout the Western world.

Production started here in 1908 and in 1925 transferred to a brand new purpose built factory in the New Town of Welwyn Garden City. The reinforced concrete structure with its floor to ceiling windows running the length and breadth of the factory made for a wonderfully light and airy interior.

Colin told us he worked for various parts of the company in this new factory for over 30 years specialising mainly in improving the mechanical processes.

Outside the factory were two rows of huge silos each capable of holding 300 tons of wheat delivered by rail and after Beeching in 30 ton lorry loads. The wheat travelled down the rows of the silos as it underwent various process to convert the field product to pristine grains ready for the cooking processes. Beginning with steam cooking vats the raw grains were slowly transformed to a glutinous paste suitable for extrusion into the familiar strands of Shredded Wheat as we know it. The cooking process ended in long ovens from which emerged individual biscuits ready for wrapping and packing.. The packers competed for the title of 'Best Packer' usually won after 460 boxes of Shredded Wheat had been packed in one shift.

Shortly after Colin retired the Welwyn Garden City factory closed down and the production moved to Somerset. All the processes are now fully automated and there are no longer jobs for even the best of the manual packers of old.

The ownership of the company has changed over the years. Originally Nabisco the company became Cereal Partners UK who were bought out by Nestle. The current factory now buys in cleaned wheat, the biscuits are packed in twos rather than the original three pack and only English wheat is used to replace the original imported Canadian wheat.

Many of us remembered the wheat knitters featured in the television adverts and Colin who had shown us many slides of the factory and the production processes was fortunate enough to be invited down to the new factory where he met the original TV advert knitting lady. He had a sample of an actual woolly knitted shredded wheat made for the advertising spoof.

Shredded Wheat has seen many changes over the years but is still a popular breakfast cereal and for children a new product of similar quality has been introduced and is known as "Shreddies".

Over all it was an informative and illustrative 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

Thursday 31st May 2015
Hampstead – A London Village

Hampstead has evolved from what was once a small village set on high ground above London and therefore considered a much healthier place to live being away from the smells of the City. In the lanes and streets away from the bustle of today's life it still retains a distinctly rural and old world charm, the houses are all of fine build and set in large tree-lined gardens, there is a peaceful and welcome charm to it all.

We met our guide at the King William IV pub where we had our morning refreshment before embarking on a leisurely stroll through the lanes of old Hampstead. A flight of old stone steps gives access to Holly Mount where stands the Hollybush pub, a 200 year old building with grade II listing. A room on the first floor now used as a dining room was originally the studio of 18thC. Portrait artist George Romney.

A short stroll away is Fenton House. A 17thC. Merchant's house bequeathed to the National Trust in 1952 by its last owner Lady Binning. It has a very large walled garden featuring roses, an orchard and a working kitchen garden. The house contains many fine paintings and Georgian furniture and also the Benton Fletcher collection of early keyboard instruments one of which is often played for visitors.

We returned to the King William IV pub for an excellent lunch and then headed off in the coach through Hampstead Garden Suburb, an experiment in building for the whole community regardless of age, class or income. Bishop's Avenue by contrast does not claim the same idealism.

Kenwood House was our final stop, gifted to the Nation in 1927 by Edward Cecil Guinness the brewing magnate and first Earl of Iveagh, this truly magnificent house, remodelled in the 18thC. by Robert Adam and now newly refurbished it contains works by Rembrandt, Gainsborough, Vermeer and Turner.

The gardens too are superb, originally laid out by Humphrey Repton they afford lovely views over London. A tearoom, in what was once the Service Block, provides range of refreshments and we were able to take advantage of these before making our way homeward after a really enjoyable day out.

MEMBERS NEWS.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to:-

Mrs Marie McMahon
Mrs Elaine Barber
FRCS 33 years
Mrs Christine Tero
Mr Robert Ashton
Ms Mary Bratley
Mrs Barbara Skerratt
Mrs Claire Johnson-Proctor
Libraries & Museums 43 years
Mrs Shirley Wilson
Thomas Hardy House 29 years
Mr Paul Walker
Mrs Esther McLaughlin
Transferred from Hertfordshire

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:-

Betty Harlington has moved to
Winchmore Hill
Irene Davis has moved to Hatfield,
Herts.

LOST CONTACT.

No mail returned following last
Newsletter.

DEATHS:-

Robert Dorney passed away 17th
September 2014.

OBITUARY:-

It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing last August 18th of Frank Bacon, formally of Park Road, Highfields and Carterhatch Depots. Even though at 83 he was long retired, whilst out and about in the Borough, Frank was often recognised by former colleagues and tenants alike. He always enjoyed a chat and a laugh and is sadly missed by his Wife and Daughter.

FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday 28th July 2015
COLCHESTER GEMS, JAMS
AND BOUNCING BOMBS.

Coach leaves Civic Centre 10.30am
Cost £40.00p pp including lunch,
dessert and coffee.

We start at midday in Colchester, near a castle built by William the Conqueror. Below the castle is an old pub where we shall have lunch. After lunch we take a gentle stroll to see the

castle and view the River Colne and the old Dutch Quarter where 500 years ago Flemish refugees settled in houses already old. Inside the ruined city walls a tiny chapel was built and is still in use today as a Greek Orthodox Church.

We now go to the extraordinary shapes of FIRSTSITE a gallery of modern art. The building is rather controversial, locals call it the golden banana. We then board the coach for about an hour sightseeing before stopping at Tiptree Jam Factory for a look at the Museum and buy refreshments before heading home. Lunch, dessert and coffee included in the price.

Monday 24th August
MANMADE WONDERS IN
THE HEART OF ESSEX.

Coach leaves Civic Centre 9.00am
Cost £45.00p pp including 2 course
lunch and coffee.

Meet the Guide at a 14th Century Country pub to buy morning coffee. The River Colne runs through the pub garden where you can see the Chappel Viaduct, built in the 1840s it has 32 arches rising to 75 feet. After coffee we explore the Colne Valley. Colne was among the first to host the famous ten man Flying Fortresses and later Earls Colne was an RAF base where one pilot who flew from there was Kenneth Wolstenholme, the BBC Commentator. We stop for lunch at Finchingfield.

In the afternoon we visit two massive barns built 800 years ago and a Tudor walled garden. Buy tea and cakes before heading home.

Two course lunch and coffee included in the price.

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS.

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 0208-366-5840 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.

KEEP THIS COPY OF THE BOOKING FORMS FOR THE OUTINGS SHOWN FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS.

COLCHESTER GEMS, JAMS & BOUNCING BOMBS

**Tuesday 28th July 2015.
Leaves Churchbury Lane
10.30am**

Price: £40.00p per person

Seats required.....

Name.....

Meal choice.....

Tel. No.....

Cheque for £.....enclosed

Made payable to **Enfield Unison RM**

MANMADE WONDERS IN THE HEART OF ESSEX

**Monday 24th August 2015.
Leaves Churchbury Lane
9.00am**

Price: £45.00p per person

Seats required.....

Name.....

Meal choice.....

Tel. No.....

Cheque for £.....enclosed

Made payable to **Enfield Unison RMA**

MEAL CHOICES:-

**COLCHESTER select from:-
Steak pie, potatoes & veg. or
Number.....
Fish and chips or
Number.....
Ham, egg & chips or
Number.....
Vegetarian
Number.....**

**HEART OF ESSEX
2 course carvery
Number.....
Vegetarian
Number.....**

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

COLCHESTER GEMS, JAMS & BOUNCING BOMBS

**Tuesday 28th July 2015.
Leaves Churchbury Lane
10.30am**

Price: £40.00p per person

Seats required.

Name.

Tel. No.

Cheque for £.....enclosed

Made payable to **Enfield Unison RM**

Meals required

Steak pie, potatoes & veg.

Fish & Chips.

Ham, egg & chips,.

Vegetarian.

MANMADE WONDERS IN THE HEART OF ESSEX

**Monday 24th August 2015.
Leaves Churchbury Lane
9.00am**

Price: £45.00p per person

Seats required.

Name.

Tel. No.

Cheque for £.....enclosed

Made payable to **Enfield Unison RMA**

Meals required

2 course carvery.

Vegetarian.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Due to ever rising postage costs this and future editions of Newsletter will be sent by email. To ensure you receive your copy please complete the email and address form included with the bookings form below and send by post to:

**The Newsletter Editor, 124 Birkbeck Road, Enfield EN2 0EB or by email to:-
arjctw@blueyonder.co.uk**

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: _____