

NEWSLETTER 78 : FEB. - MARCH 2016.

**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**

Come and join us in the Restaurant at the Civic Centre, Silver Street for our Spring Buffet 2015.

Take the chance to meet friends, old and new, at this lovely social evening; with plenty of food for all with red or white wine, an ale or two, and soft drinks to suit all tastes plus live music. Come and meet your Mayor and participate in our renowned Large Raffle.

Tickets priced at £3.00p each so you can afford to bring a friend or two.

Please complete the booking form at the end of this newsletter and send to our Treasurer, Olive Parsons..

Look forward to seeing you.

Janet

Nightingale Pennies Collection

£25.50p was sent from the pennies collection box in July 2015

**DIARY DATES 2016
Members Monthly Meetings
Tuesday 2.30 - 4.30 pm**

8th March – Alan Lamprell – Tracing Heirs
22nd April – Spring Buffet – Civic Centre Restaurant 7.00pm
10th May – Stephen Jennings – ‘Titanic’
14th June – To be Confirmed
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

8th March
10th May
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:-

Summer 17/06/2016

Autumn 16/09/2016

Spring 10/02/2017

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

SPEAKERS WE HAVE ENJOYED

Tuesday 12th January
Sylvia Combes – Have Canoes will Travel.

Sylvia started by telling us about canoes. There are many different

kinds of canoe in different parts of the world. Sylvia also talked about canoes used in and around the Solomon Islands where she worked for many years. She brought with her examples of two different kinds of paddles used in the Islands. Longer narrow blades on the paddles used by females and shorter broader blades used by the males. The handles also differed according to the gender of the canoeist.

Sylvia bought a canoe for her own use when she was in the Islands as it was the only way to travel between places on the island. Some ceremonial and war canoes held up to 100 men but such large canoes are now used only for ceremonial purposes. Originally hewn out of convenient sized trees canoes gradually changed as different materials became available including fibre glass in more recent times and, inevitably, driven by petrol or diesel engines.

The school where Sylvia worked closed for two long holiday periods, one in the middle of the year and the other at the end of the year and January. There were no short holidays as the children travelled many, many miles to attend school and stayed for the whole of the term as boarders. All of these were primary school children and most finished their schooling with the end of primary school examinations. Exceptionally there were some places available at secondary school but these were only for the ablest children as secondary education was wholly fee paying and much had to be sacrificed to send a child forward to secondary education. The churches ran the schools and still do to this day but they now get some government subsidy to help with the running costs. In the Solomon Islands almost 70 languages are spoken so all teaching is conducted in English.

During the long Summer holiday period Sylvia used to travel around and between the islands to conduct the end of year examinations. Everything they required to care for themselves during the whole of the period had to be carried with them in their canoes as the most the local villagers could provide them with was a rough shelter to sleep in and a place to hold the exams.

Needless to say, travel by canoe was not a dry experience and so everything had to be wrapped in waterproof cloth. They had no life jackets and Sylvia could not swim so passage between Islands was made only when the weather was favourable. On one occasion as they paddled along the shore of one Island they were flagged down by a local who wanted to make a visit to the next island they were to land on. So he climbed aboard their already fully loaded canoe with all his gear including fishing nets, poles, personal clothing and an axe. He also brought a very welcome additional paddle which he applied with gusto.

On a later trip they had a difficult journey to another Island and the accommodation was to be the Co-op store room. They found there was no toilet facility but a hole had been dug in the ground nearby and a canvas surround built. There was no water flush but they were given a spade to slowly backfill the hole. The ladies of the school slept in the store room on their own that night but found that they had lots of company as the local rats found the store room a very congenial place to feed. They stayed there for 3 nights washing themselves and their clothes in the nearby river. During their stay they interviewed all the children who wanted to go to secondary school to ensure that they had a good enough command of spoken English to be able to keep up with the teaching in the classroom. Many of the children could read and write quite well in English but did not have a good grasp of spoken English as they did not meet many people who could help them develop the level of fluency required to be a successful secondary pupil.

On another occasion they were given

buckets of water placed on a bench outside their hut as a washing facility but found that all the local children quickly crowded around to watch their ablutions as they had never seen white people before. Sylvia and her colleagues were very understanding and quickly got used to being the centre of excited attention.

Sylvia was very entertaining and we had an enjoyable 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

None to Report this Period.

MEMBERS NEWS.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to:-

David Bulger Finance

William Bonekyn,
Coleridge Primary School
20 years

Irene Grint, Lea Valley R.P.A. 15 years

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:-

None to report

LOST CONTACT.

Martin Webb, Enfield. Can any one help with details of address change?

DEATHS:-

Betty Stephenson 17th December 2015

OBITUARY:-

Betty Stephenson.
29 July 1926–17 December 2015
Betty who was a very long standing

member of Unison passed away peacefully on 17th December 2015. Betty enjoyed attending our monthly meetings with her daughter Julie. Betty worked in the Superannuation Department at the old Edmonton Town Hall in the 1960s where she met and married Arthur Stephenson in 1974. When Arthur retired they left Enfield and went to Australia for two years. On their return they settled in Buntingford. Arthur got a job as a Court Usher and Betty worked for Hertford County Council. Arthur died in 1997 and Betty returned to Enfield to be near her family. She will be sadly missed.

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

**Friday 22nd April @ 7.00pm
Spring Buffet 2016.**

See formal announcement in the Chairman's message on page one, column one.

Monday 23rd May 2016
Pianolas, Pilots and Pirates
Coach leaves Civic Centre at 10.30am.

Cost £52.00p including lunch and afternoon tea.

Having collected the guide we begin at midday with lunch in the Mess Hall of the 1st World War aerodrome at Stow Maries, Essex. After lunch we visit the little museum in the hanger where enthusiasts tinker with old aeroplanes and we explore life in the Royal Flying Corps a century ago. After the War the aerodrome returned to farmland until Russell Savoury, a sports car entrepreneur, bought the site for workshops and set about restoring the site in tribute to those brave young men who fought in WW1. Stow Marie is also a wildlife sanctuary which has featured in the television programmes, Countryfile and Springwatch. After leaving Stow Marie we go on a panoramic coach tour of beautiful landscapes and a mix of thatched and weather-boarded villages dotted across salt marshes. We end the tour at Burnham-on-Crouch where we are booked in for tea and cake before heading home at 4.30pm.

Walking guide = level 1 = Total distance up to 440 yards. Suitable for all groups.

Thursday 23rd June 2016.
Anglesey Abbey, Cambridge.
Coach leaves Civic Centre at 10.00am.

Cost:-
National Trust Members £18.00p
Non NT Members £29.50p.
NT membership cards must be produced on entry.

This is a very elegant House which takes you back into the golden age of Country House living. There is lots to see inside the house where Lord Fairhaven lived and ran the house like clockwork. The celebrated garden with its sweeping avenues, classical statuary and flower borders offers captivating views, vibrant colours, and scents for all seasons. There is also a working watermill where you can buy bags of freshly milled flour. There is a restaurant serving light meals and snacks, a gift shop and garden centre.

Electric buggies may be available for hire but booking is essential and Olive must be notified as soon as possible.

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.

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](mailto: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: _____

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.

SPRING BUFFET

Friday 22nd April 2016.

Civic Centre 7.00pm

Price: £ 3.00p per person

Seats required.

Name.

Tel. No.

Cheque for £.....enclosed

Made payable to Enfield Unison

PIANOLAS, PILOTS & PIRATES

Monday 23rd May 2016.

Leaves Churchbury Lane 10.30am

Price: £52.00p per person including two course lunch with tea or coffee.

Choose from:-

Baked Salmon with roasted vegetables.....or

Cottage Pie & Seasonal vegetables.....or

Vegetarian option

Macaroni Cheese.....AND

Apple Crumble with

Custard.....or

Rice

Pudding.....or

Ice

Cream.....

Seats

Required.....

Name.....

Tel.No.....

Cheque for £.....enc.

Made payable to:

Enfield Unison RMA

ANGLESEY ABBEY

CAMBRIDGE

Thursday 23rd June 2016.

Leaves Churchbury Lane at 10.00am.

Price: £18.00p for NT Members

£29.50p for Non NT Members

National Trust membership cards must be produced on entry.

Seats

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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.....or

Jelly and

Ice Cream.....

Seats

Required.....

Name.....

Tel.No.....

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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.....

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Made payable to:

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