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Please inform us of change of address or email

We encourage retired members to use their **home** e-mail for when you give up your work e-mail address. We send out a quarterly newsletter by email, but only an annual newsletter by post. Sending the newsletters by post is increasingly expensive.

3. Russ Bowman (1941-2016)

William Russell Bowman, 'Russ' to all of his friends and colleagues, was born on 15th November 1941 in Camps Bay, a suburb of Cape Town where he grew up and went to school. He subsequently attended the University of Cape Town, gaining a first-class honours degree in chemistry. By this time, Russ had already developed a political consciousness, resulting in his joining the South African Liberal Party in order to oppose the increasing oppression arising from the Apartheid regime, which came to power in his early adulthood. After a period working for ICI (South Africa), he moved to Canada where, under the supervision of Bill Ayer, he studied for a PhD at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Russ's first publication with his supervisor appeared in the *Canadian Journal of Chemistry* in 1965, followed in 1968, after his departure from Canada, by their co-written paper on the synthesis of Lycopodine, which was published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, one of the most prestigious journals in the field.

Russ first came to Loughborough in 1967 as a post-doctoral assistant working on a number of biosynthesis problems with Professor Gordon Kirby. He went to Warwick for a time to work with the Nobel Prize winner Sir John Cornforth, before returning to Loughborough in 1970 to take up a lectureship in organic chemistry. Russ quickly established a reputation as a good and friendly

1. Branch meeting

Tuesday April 26th 2016

11.00 – 13.00

(Speaker at 12.00)

Speaker: Chris Tansley, UNISON NEC
Chris heads their social care charter campaign.
This will be the topic of his talk.

The Gothic Warehouse, Mill Road
Cromford, DE4 3RQ

2. More information and news can be obtained from these websites. We suggest you have a browse.

UCU National Website: <http://www.ucu.org.uk>

AgeUK: <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/>

68 is too late: www.68istoolate.org.uk

National Pensioners Convention (NPC):

<http://npcuk.org>

East Midlands NPC:

<http://leicesternpcgroup.btck.co.uk/>

Your branch now has its own website at
<http://www.ucu-em-rmb.org.uk>

teacher. However, as a consequence of his interest in wider political issues, he did not immediately establish a research area of his own.

The stories that Russ had to tell were many and various. One of the more memorable is that Germaine Greer nominated him for his first AUT position while he was at Warwick, because he was so 'cute'! Another was the agreement he struck with the Scottish Nationalists at an early AUT conference that he would support them in return for being granted Scottish citizenship on independence. The quality of this agreement was never tested. However, along with some others, Russ resigned from the AUT in the 1970s, in order to join ASTMS, a 'proper trade union'. The local AUT branch was, at the time, too right-wing for him and a number of others. In his early years at Loughborough it was difficult for the University's managers, and in particular the then Head of Chemistry, to appreciate that there were two sides to Russ: on the one there was the good and conscientious lecturer, on the other a man committed to combating injustice both within and outside the institution. All his life Russ was noted as someone unafraid to speak the truth to power, whether at Loughborough or in the wider world.

Russ rejoined the AUT in the late 1970s, once it had shed its 'gentlemen's club' image and finally affiliated to the TUC during 1976. He was last elected to Loughborough's AUT (later UCU) Branch Committee in the mid-1980s and remained one of its key members until his retirement in 2007. Serving the Union in most senior positions during this period, he was for a long time our lead negotiator on the Academic and Related Staff Negotiating Committee (ARSNC). For someone who had such firm beliefs, he was remarkably capable of building working relationships across the management-employee divide, in the interests of making a difference in the present to the benefit of those he represented. A kind and considerate man, Russ had friends right across the institution and readily supported colleagues, often acting as 'prisoner's friend' in disputes with the establishment. Harry Heaney recalls being a member of a three-person panel considering whether the probationary period of a young colleague should be judged unsatisfactory: Russ so completely demolished the case made by the witnesses that the lay chair did not wait to have a discussion at the end of the hearing, but simply stated that it was clear that a case for dismissal had not been made. Nevertheless, Russ often said that in casework we should not try to defend the indefensible: the aim of a good Union officer should be to ensure a just outcome. He was very clear in his understanding that the employment law is

based on the concept of master and servant and is therefore not on the side of the employee. In these circumstances the union is a vital bulwark in the defence of worker's terms and conditions, collectively and individually.

Anyone attending national meetings of the AUT with Russ heard at first-hand his passionate and effective oratory. He made many friends and contacts among other branches of the AUT, and was known and respected by a succession of Union General Secretaries. Russ was also a key advocate of the AUT-NATFHE merger, from which all UCU members now benefit. This also encapsulates his advocacy of Revolutionary Defeatism: and how it served him well. Try and try and try again and eventually you may succeed.

Many developments that benefited Loughborough University staff were also won this way, Russ's good humoured tenacity so often winning through in the end. Locally, Russ was a prime mover in the codification of a number of important changes that greatly benefited members. Three particular areas come to mind: the appointment of probationary advisors and specifying of their duties; the requirement for properly structured appraisal meetings with colleagues; and the move towards a University-wide workload model. After he had retired, LUCU's Branch Committee was frequently supported by information, insight and advice obtained from Russ about agreements previously made with University managers at ARSNC.

By the early 1980s Russ began to establish his own research specialism in free radical chemistry: for him it had to be free and radical. Russ knew everyone around the world working in this area and they all knew him to be an original, inventive and accurate scientist. He obtained many research grants to support his work and published more than 100 papers in the best journals. Russ was in due course promoted to a personal chair in organic chemistry; the referees' reports were so strong that the then Vice-Chancellor, with whom he had had many battles, phoned him to offer his personal congratulations. Russ was always happy to discuss colleagues' research with them, often providing wise advice and new insights. The Swan in the Rushes in Loughborough, a favoured venue for many political gatherings, also featured many discussions of interest to organic chemists.

Russ met Dorothy in the 1990s. Russ had admitted to friends that in his earlier years politics had taken precedence over his personal life. So we were all delighted that Russ and Dorothy were later married and able to be happy together in his later years. They particularly enjoyed going to South

Africa, after the end of apartheid, and if you visited their home South African wine was always served, as it was during the recent celebration of his life. Russ and Dorothy's summer parties in their garden were a fixture in the social calendar for many years, featuring friends and family across the generations from all walks of life.

Outside the University there were many people in Loughborough, Leicestershire and the wider East Midlands who benefited from Russ's help. He was an officer of Loughborough Trades Union Council for many years. In the 1970s he was very active in opposing the National Front. He was a great supporter of the miners in 1984. In retirement Russ became very active in community politics in his local area as a member of the Storer and Ashby Road Residents' Group. Russ was a leading light, too, in the UCU retired members' branch network: he helped to found the East Midlands Branch and was, until his death, editor of its newsletter, thus further demonstrating his belief in the importance of keeping members informed and energised.

Russ died on 10th January 2016. It is a testament to the esteem in which he was held that so very many friends and former colleagues attended the celebration of his life on 26th January. We will all miss Russ, our friend and comrade: much more than he would have ever realised.

We are very grateful to Bob Haskins and Phil Page for sharing their own memories of Russ.

[Harry Heaney & Rob Kirkwood](#)

4. State pension News

Men born after 5th of April 1951 and women after 5th of April 1953 will be entitled to the new single tier State Pension when they reach State pension Age. This new "simplified" SP becomes steadily less simple and less attractive by the minute.

The Department of Work and Pensions website is supposed to give those who will get the single tier an accurate prediction of the SP they will receive. The complications over the amount that that be lost by those who paid into contracted out Public Sector pensions have proved too complicated for the DWP.

A quarter of people retiring between 2016 and 2030 will be worse off under the new state pension rules, according to estimates by the DWP. Some people will benefit from the change to the new system, which is worth £155.65 a week to people retiring from April 2016 with 35 years' national

insurance contributions. But those who have not reached the qualifying 35 years' will not be eligible for the full amount. During the first five years, almost three-in-ten people will receive around £100 less a year on average as a result of the switch. Roughly the same proportion of retirees will be worse off between 2020 and 2030, though the amount they could lose increases over time. Some 30% of people retiring in 2030 will lose £350 a year, on average.

A further problem has turned up for those who were contracted out. Under the new pension regime, around seven million people employed across both the public and private sector could see some reduction in retirement income due to the loss of valuable index-linking on final salary benefits built up in the eighties and nineties. Affected savers are those who paid into final salary pensions between 1978 and 1997. During those years most savers swapped a chunk of their future state pension for an alternative benefit provided by their employer. Previously the Government paid for the benefit to rise in line with inflation but for those retiring after April 2016 it was due not do so. Final Salary schemes in the private sector would not have been affected since they were differently covered in law. Belatedly the Treasury has realised that this problem exists and an interim guarantee to cover the extra cost by Government has been given. The long term future will need careful monitoring.

The other major sufferers from the new SP are women. The Coalition Government perpetrated a major injustice in 2011 when it announced that women would have to wait longer to draw a state pension. This was on top of previous changes designed to equalise the state retirement age for men and women.

Many women born in the 1950s have been given too little time to adjust their finances to a later state retirement age. Steve Webb, was in charge when the 2011 changes were made. No longer an MP he admitted it had been a 'bad decision'. Hopefully the money he is receiving from pensions specialist Royal London will stop him grieving for too long; unlike his financially challenged victims. No doubt when the new SP is rolled out the spin machine will laud its virtues. A recent OECD study puts the SP in the UK as one of the worst in the developed world in terms of providing replacement income for earnings in the developed world. But at least we beat Chile and Mexico, and we promise to be a leader with the highest official retirement age in the OECD countries in future.

[Julian Atkinson.](#)

5. Care and State Pension reform

The Nuffield Foundation is funding a research project on understanding the interactions between state pension and long-term care reform. It involves researchers from the Pensions Policy Institute, the Personal Social Services Research Unit at the London School of Economics and Political Science and the Health Economics Group at the University of East Anglia. The first report has been produced: [Interactions between state pension and long-term care reforms: An overview](#) (November 2015). Inevitably it cannot be a final evaluation. The New State Pension (NSP) is due out in April of this year but the DWP is still frenetically trying to iron out the glitches in a scheme that was firmer on “vision” (reducing spending) than mundane detail.

The report correctly identifies that post 2040 the NSP will actually save money compared to an extrapolated costing for the old scheme since the State Second Pension would have had an accelerating effect on expenditure. The current state pension system uprated by the triple lock would cost around 9.1% of GDP by 2060 compared with 8.7% for the NSP uprated by the triple lock, or 7.7% if uprated by earnings. This might indicate that the days of the triple lock are numbered.

Lower income renters are those more likely to lose out from the pension reforms as they can lose more in means-tested benefits than they gain in state pensions. Reduced Housing Benefit is a main reason why low earning renters do not benefit from higher state pension income.

This report fails to mention the impact on those in public sector pensions of contracting out which will lower the NSP for those pensioners. Reforms to the English long-term care financing system were also to be introduced in 2016 but have recently been postponed until 2020. Already we have seen a steadily decreasing life-time cap for a portion of care costs. The combined effects of these two sets of reforms have received little attention despite interactions between them.

The “simplified” NSP will still involve some means testing of benefits such as Housing benefit and some disability additions. Savings Credit is abolished for new retirees in April 2016. This may have profound implications for both NSP and Care funding. As alluded to before, low earning renters are less likely to benefit from the reforms. Their entitlements to means-tested benefits can fall because of the removal of the Savings Credit and to offset higher state pension. Therefore some individuals, even if they have a higher NSP, could see a fall in net income. Their entitlement to

means-tested benefits is reduced by more than the increase in their state pension income.

On present Government thinking the removal of the Savings Credit will lead to the removal of the savings disregard in residential care. This is one reason why the state pension reforms can appear to cause a reduction in state support for care needs. If an individual’s net income changes as a result of changes in their state pension entitlement, the contribution they are required to pay towards their care costs can change. Thus an increase in state pension income can be wholly or partially offset by an increase in liability for care charges.

Additionally, the residential care means test incorporates a small disregard on income from savings (the ‘savings disregard’) which was implemented when the Savings Credit was introduced. The savings disregard applies to all forms of savings income and people do not have to receive the Savings Credit to benefit from it. Since the pension reforms remove the Savings Credit this disregard may also end, with a consequent increase in care costs.

Long-term care for older people costs much less than state pensions but is projected to rise substantially even under the current funding system due to the rising numbers of people at the ages where care needs are greatest. In contrast with the state pension reforms, the long-term care financing reforms to be implemented in 2020, are projected to increase public expenditure on social care for older people from about 2025 compared with the current system. By 2035 net public spending on social care for older people is projected to be 0.80% of GDP under the reforms compared with 0.69% for the current financing system. But even this essentially small increase – scarcely enough to fund a small war – can be eroded by the interaction between the care, pension and benefit systems. We can be certain that the promises on long-term care will be extravagant but the financing will be miserly.

[Julian Atkinson](#)

6. What is all the fuss about climate change?



On Sunday Feb 28th, the BBC weather man told us that here in the UK, this winter had been the warmest since records began (in 1910). Is this important? Does this matter?

Climate change can be described as a long-term change in average weather patterns and conditions. This is caused by various processes such as variations in solar radiation received on earth, plate tectonics and volcanic eruptions. Some human activities have also been identified as significant in causing global warming, which is about surface temperature increases - an important aspect of climate change. Energy received from the sun is moved around by winds and ocean currents to create the temperature and climate on earth in different regions. The ocean plays an important role in the climate system even though changes there occur at a very much slower rate.

We are already experiencing many worrying changes that are indicating serious climate change and the realisation that we need to do something is gradually being more widely recognised. Jan Zalasiewicz, professor of Palaeobiology at Leicester University writing in June 2015 said "Life on earth is in trouble. That much we know. ... How soon, before the earth's biological treasures are trashed, in what will be the sixth great mass extinction event?"

He goes on to explore what can be called the "current biological crisis". Using information from his colleagues and fellow scientists in related fields and explaining that Homo Sapiens through the way we live, is driving the extinction of many other species that we read about and see on our TVs so often nowadays.

Writing for the Green Party last year, David Flint explains that the "Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change" has been working for twenty eight years and their most recent report in 2014, stated

that "Continued emission of greenhouse gases ... will increase the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems" To illustrate the effect on people's lives, he gives examples of the European heatwave in 2003 during which as many as 70,000 people died while the Somalian famine of 2010 to 2012 caused an estimated 260,000 deaths. In northern Kenya the desert has expanded at the expense of pasture which in turn affects cropland. Many herders and farmers have left to seek work in the cities. Events like these, combined with national and religious differences, will have contributed to internal conflict and wars for water and land which are behind the migration and mass refugee camps we are already seeing.

Obviously these are very complex problems and some of the key issues around human activity to be explored further include: Energy production and use, Transport (on sea and land), Food production, People and Population expansion, Politics and Economics etc.

Recently Al Gore (Climate Reality Project Founder and Chairman), spoke about reasons to be hopeful, in spite of global temperature records being broken, rising seas, droughts and wildfires destroying forests, and more severe hurricanes and typhoons. He points out that the world has already surpassed predicted amounts of wind energy, volumes of solar power produced and costs reduced. He is even hopeful about the Paris Agreement at the UN Climate Conference in December which aims to reduce carbon emissions and put us on a path to a sustainable future.

There is hope as Prof. Zalasiewicz also says that some aspects of the changes to the earth's biology may help to alleviate the worst effects of global warming. But he also warns "Averting a mass extinction is still possible - but we don't have much time!"

Rowena Dawson

7. Fighting the Anti Trade Union Legislation

Alan Tuckman delivered a talk to our February Branch Meeting in Nottingham in which he said that the Conservative manifesto flagged up many of the attacks on trade unionists which are in the Bill currently going through Parliament. Examples are requiring at least half of the workforce to vote in a strike ballot, an even tougher threshold for 'essential services' of 40% of those eligible voting, repealing the legislation banning employers from using agency workers to break strikes, attacking facilities time and reforming the role of the certification officer.

The Tories have argued that these changes are about modernisation but in fact, they are ideological. Previous bouts of anti TU legislation have occurred when strike activity has been high but strikes have been at an all-time low over the past few years, although days lost to strikes have increased somewhat over the last 2 years or so.

The Carr Review spoke of “leverage tactics”, i.e. using new ways of publicising a case such as noisy picket lines, dancing, use of ‘scabby rat’ by UNITE, rather than traditional tactics.

This is all occurring on the back of severe austerity cuts. The nature of the employment contract is changing, for example widespread use of zero hours contracts. There used to be a notion of welfarism in the UK but there has now been a shift towards everything being the responsibility of the individual.

Ken Coates used the concept of ‘frontier control’ - the idea that trade unions push to improve rights and conditions are improved. The idea of a legalised strike as part of a trade dispute goes back to the Trade Disputes Act of 1906 which gave TUs immunity from civil tort. This formed the basis of employment law until the 1970s. In the 50s and 60s the ‘frontier’ moved towards labour but then governments began legislating to restrict rights. Labour governments introduced some favourable legislation but the Thatcher government’s legislation in the 1980s, based on the ideology of Hayek and Friedman, seriously restricted TU rights by, for example, outlawing the closed shop, the regulation of strike ballots, outlawing of secondary action, restrictions on picketing, the withdrawal of TU members from tripartite bodies, the attacks on collective bargaining (as in the FE contracts dispute). All of this remains in force and was brought together in the 1992 Trade Union and Labour Relations Consolidation Act.

The present Bill is an amendment to that act. It was introduced last May and 3 consultations were set up covering intimidation, ballot thresholds and the hiring of agency staff. The last of these has not yet reported. There was no mass mobilisation around the Bill which rather got caught up in the Labour leadership election. The Bill is currently in a committee stage in the Lords and is due for one further reading in the whole house.

The ILO has accepted the idea of a 50% turnout for strike ballots but not the 40% of membership requirement for essential services. This restriction would have outlawed most of the strikes of the past few years, especially the large ones. There is a

possibility of a slight concession on voting to allow electronic rather than postal voting but there is a requirement that the ballot paper must include a statement of the matters under dispute. Postal voting is very expensive for unions and a requirement to re-ballot every four months could bankrupt them. The most dangerous change is that relating to the use of agency staff even though that hasn’t been talked about much. It is a separate piece of legislation which would remove the ban on using agency staff to break strikes. It is possible that people could be forced to strike break or risk losing benefits.

The change from opting out to opting in to the political fund is a direct attack on Labour Party funds. It is also intended to prevent TUs putting money into other causes, e.g. Hope not Hate, PSC. Employers would also be required to publish details of facility time for TU representatives (a move suggested by the Taxpayers Alliance). The government has argued that this is all about ‘transparency’. Nick Bacon’s research has shown that facilities time brings a return for councils and many organizations wish to retain it. To remove it would undermine collective bargaining. There are also plans to abolish check off which many trade unions in the public sector rely on.

The role of the Certification Officer was introduced in the 1970s but the government is now planning to give it a more disciplinary role – policing TUs and able to investigate and fine them.

The effect of this Bill could actually be to increase action and increase the use of leverage tactics. UNITE, for example, has changed its constitution to drop the reference to action having to be legal. It is possible that escalation is what the Government wants. They want to re-shape the labour market with more self-employment, short term contracts etc. and for TUs to be more like friendly societies. The Thatcher government introduced a new anti-TU law around every two years.

We need to campaign for a positive right to organize and to strike.

[Helen Chester](#)

8. Nottingham, Mansfield and Nottinghamshire Trades Union Council

January Meeting

The Trades Council meets, usually the first Tuesday of the month, alternatively at the GMB Office in Nottingham and the Notts NUM Office in Mansfield.

Recent activities have included supporting the Ainscough Crane drivers, in Unite's Nottingham Branch, over their dispute concerning job allocations anywhere in the country and at very short notice.

The Trades Council is investigating the possibility of a new Trades Council banner. Estimated cost £1000, most of which is now pledged from Branches.

Council heard from a BMA Junior Doctor's representative in January and pickets were mustered at Nottingham City, Queens Medical Centre and Kings Mill Hospitals. Press statements were sent to the BBC and all Notts newspapers on behalf of the Trades Council supporting the Junior Doctors in their dispute.

Council unanimously passed a resolution supporting steel workers and a speaker from Unite has been invited to the February meeting.

Council noted that a contentious union recognition issue at the charity Framework, had been resolved. Council discussed the somewhat precarious situation at Notts County Council, where Labour are in a minority, due to the resignation of two Councillors from the Labour Whip.

Council was again out in support of the Junior Doctors strike in February at Nottingham City, Queens Medical Centre and Kings Mill. The Notts NUM Area banner was also present at Kings Mill.

1st March Meeting

The Annual General Meeting on the 1st March elected the following officers:

President: Jean Thorpe, Unison

Vice President: Vicky Morris, Unison

Secretary: Liam Conway, NUT

Treasurer: Paul Martin, GMB

Women's Officer: Lee Probert, Unite

It is noted that women occupy leading positions on the newly elected Council.

Steve Battlemuch, Labour City Councillor, Nottingham, spoke about the March 5th Momentum Conference at Nottingham University. Over 500 had registered.

A report was given of the Midlands TUC Conference by Liam Conway (NUT) and Hazel Allister (Unison).

The Trades Council motion on the Spanish Civil War Anniversary campaign was unanimously supported.

Arrangements for the Trades Council to show its support for the Junior Doctors next round of strikes, commencing on March 9th, were confirmed including the presence of the Trades Council banner.

Officers were to meet to plan the details of the Trades Council's May Day march which would be held this year on Saturday 30th April. The march will commence at the Robin Hood Statue, at the

Castle and proceed to the Brian Clough statue in the city centre.

The outgoing Treasurer confirmed that there were now 45 branches affiliated to the Trades Council. This figure was somewhat reduced due to branch amalgamations, but compared very favourably with the 8 affiliations when Council reformed in 2007.

The retiring President, Liam Conway, Secretary, Paul Martin and Treasurer, Darren Glebocki were thanked by Council for their services to the Council.

Barry Donlan

9. Chesterfield Trades Council Report

"Refugees are welcome here" and "Not fair, not safe." are the two slogans give a flavour of Chesterfield Trades Council's recent work. The trades council will be attending the United Nations Anti-Racism Day march and demonstration in London on 19th March. Migrants are not responsible for the climate of continued austerity; despite a new deal currently being brokered by David Cameron in Brussels to cut migrant workers' benefits, effectively blaming them for the state of the economy.

- On 24th February delegates from Chesterfield Trades Council joined the picket lines at Chesterfield College, where both UCU and Unison staged a day of action, with UCU demanding an extra £1 an hour to go some way towards the loss of real earnings over the last few years.
- The Trades Council actively supported the days of strike action by junior doctors campaigning under the slogan of 'not fair, not safe.' On 12th January and 10th February 2016 union members provided breakfast for the striking junior doctors.
- Against the trade union bill and In support of unions, the TUC called for a week of campaigning from 8th -14th February, entitled 'Love Unions Week.' We met with regional members of the TUC at Chesterfield train station at 8.00am on 11th February to distribute hundreds of leaflets. Many useful discussions took place with the public, particularly younger people, some of whom were unfamiliar with the work of trade unions.
- Recent work of the trades council reflects the impact of government austerity measures on people in and out of work. To discuss this, delegates and the public attended a talk on 11th January, presented by Professor Christina Beatty of Sheffield Hallam University about her

research on the impact of welfare reforms on the most vulnerable members of society. Participation in the People's Assembly national demonstration for Health, Homes, Jobs and Education, in London on 16th April, is important. Details on the People's Assembly website.

- Lastly, the government's austerity policies penalize vulnerable groups, despite public funds available, indicated by plans to spend billions on replacing Trident. The Trades Council will be participating in the Stop Trident demonstration in the centre of London on 27th February.

Lucretia Packham

10. The European Union Referendum

With the upcoming EU referendum coming up on 23rd June, at their last meeting, your committee felt the appropriate thing to do is to point you in the direction of the TUC's information on the issues. These can be found at www.tuc.org.uk/euref. Some of the topics that are explicitly covered include:

British Steel: Why Brexit won't save our steel

Health and Safety: What Brexit would mean

Women's Rights - The risks of Brexit
TUC report outlines the workers' rights at risk from Brexit

UK employment rights and the EU

We hope that some of the information provided by the TUC will help you in discussions about the EU and, for those of you who are undecided, how to vote.

11. UCU Retired Members Branch

The branch has been underway for four years with over 200 members. The aims are diverse, but include bringing together retired members of UCU in the East Midlands, giving advice to branches on pension and retired members' matters, campaigning on issues relating to retired members and representation to the UCU national congress, National Pensioners Convention (NPC), Local and Regional TUCs. If you previously worked outside the East Midlands, but lived or now live in the East Midlands, please join our branch.

Meetings: We hold meetings three times a year, in places of interest to make part of a day and lunch out. The meetings centre round important issues for UCU pensioners and give a chance to chat to other retired members.

Newsletter: A termly newsletter with useful articles for retired UCU members is sent to all branch members for whom we have email addresses and to UCU branch secretaries in the East Midlands.

Email addresses: We encourage retired members to use their home email for when you give up your work email address. Please let us have your email address and also changes to your email address.

**For more information
please contact Julian Atkinson**

e-mail: secretary@ucu-em-rmb.org.uk
telephone: 01773 532105

East Midlands Branch officers and committee

Chair: Angus McLardy chair@ucu-em-rmb.org.uk

Vice-Chair: Rowena Dawson vice-chair@ucu-em-rmb.org.uk

Secretary: Julian Atkinson secretary@ucu-em-rmb.org.uk

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Membership: Greg Cejer membership@ucu-em-rmb.org.uk
Newsletter (acting): Bob Haskins
newsletter@ucu-em-rmb.org.uk

East Midlands regional UCU committee
representatives: Brian Hambidge, Rowena Dawson

Roles and functions for retired members' branches

The branch committee has drawn up a list of roles and functions of the retired members branch. These will be discussed at the next branch meeting in March.

* To represent the interests of retired members within the union.

* To represent the interests of retired union members within the wider union and pensioner movements.

* To provide a forum within the union for retired members to come together to consider and debate matters of mutual interest.

- *To provide a resource of collective memory, advice and expertise in support of the union, in particular to those still in active employment.
 - *To provide active support, where appropriate, by involving the broadest section of the branch in support of the wider interests of the union and its members, including support for those still in active employment.
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12. Stop Press: Geraldine Egan retires

Geraldine Egan, the National Pensions Official, is to retire soon after many years of service to both

UCU and before that to Natfhe. Her last day in the office is likely to be Wednesday 8th June. Geraldine has given sterling service to the union over many years, both in her current role and previously as a Natfhe regional official. She has been a great friend and supporter of the Retired Members Branch network. We owe her a great debt of gratitude. Geraldine will be greatly missed by her many friends and colleagues.
