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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.

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>

3. Ian Cohen (1944 – 2016)

Ian was a remarkable man with incredible energy and boundless enthusiasm for the causes that he supported. Whereas most of us make a contribution, Ian seemed to give his all to everything. He never did anything by halves.

He spent much of his life in further education, working for the union, first ATTI, then NATFHE as Branch Secretary at West Bridgford College which became South Notts College, as Secretary of the Notts Liaison Committee, as Secretary of the union side of the Local Joint Panel when we used to meet the local authority as our employer and added member of the Nottinghamshire Education Committee. He seemed to have an encyclopaedic knowledge of all relevant matters. Latterly, he retained an interest in UCU where he was a regular attendee at the East Midlands Retired Members Branch meetings.

1. Branch meeting

Wednesday February 22nd 2017

10.30 – 12.30

(Speaker at 11.30)

Speaker: Dr John Lister

Defending the NHS.

A founder member of Keep Our National Health Service Public.

The Mechanics Institute, 3 North Sherwood St.
Nottingham, NG1 4EZ

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

When he took early retirement from South Notts College in the nineties, he devoted his time to South Notts Training Agency where he was the driving force behind the organisation which was a forerunner of Access Training. He, typically, was a member of a number of bodies as a result of this role. As a result, he had an enormous amount of knowledge about further education.

He had been an active member of the Labour Party and CND for many years and as recently as November attended the annual conference in Manchester, his home town. He was also active in Stop The War.

He was a supporter of Manchester City. Over the past few years, he has been an enthusiastic member of the local Samba Band and has been seen performing at many events, including all the local demonstrations and festivals.

All his roles seemed to generate possibilities for further involvement which he accepted with relish.

Brian Hambidge

4. The Future of Pensions

Chris Mason, UCU Pensions Official, came to our October meeting to give us a most interesting (and rather worrying!) overview of the pensions situation.

The new State Pension is good news for about 30% of recipients, but everyone else will be worse off than before. The number of qualifying years had been reduced from 39/44 years to 30 years, but from April this year, it has been put up to 35 years of fully contracted-in contributions for both men and women. UCU members are contracted out, so are not entitled to a full pension now and the situation is very complicated. Furthermore, a minimum of ten years' contributions must be made before the pension is payable.

The Government is currently consulting on changes to the State Pension Age which will be 66 by the end of 2020 and will rise to 67 and reach 68 by 2044. Some research in 2012 suggested that 2044 was too late and that the age needed to rise to 68 by 2036. However, since then, the death rate for the over-85s has actually risen so this would justify delaying the rise. The factors causing mortality to rise are continuing to increase.

John Cridland from the CBI is heading the consultation. He has identified 2 major considerations:

1. Flexibility – should people be allowed to take a lower State Pension earlier? Should different parts of the country have different ages (reflecting differences in mortality rates)? This is unlikely since, though the DR differs markedly between, e.g., London and Manchester (9 years), the difference between areas within London is even higher. Looking at location is too crude, you'd have to look also at the type of job done and the health history of workers. He is also looking at ways to support people to work longer (as we'd all love to do!) by, for example, taking some of their pension as a lump sum to spend on retraining.

2. Intergenerational fairness –The younger people are, the more likely they are to rely on the State Pension, because private pensions are now poorer. An annuity today will pay out 50% of what it would have paid 20 years ago for the same amount saved. There are now very few people on defined benefit pension schemes. Thus, baby boomers (born between WW2 and 1965) are doing much better than subsequent generations.

There is also a big political question since people have paid for their SP through the NI system. Gordon Brown raised NI rather than raise tax so, in theory, there should be plenty of money to pay state pensions. One option would be to combine NI and tax but it would be complicated to do this. If it did happen, pensioners would have to pay more tax since they don't currently pay NI. The preferred option seems to be to allow people to take an earlier SP, perhaps alongside a part time job.

There is also an issue that younger people aren't saving enough for their retirement. This has been, in part, an unforeseen consequence of a change in the rules regarding financial advice which requires commission to be paid at the start of the plan. This seems to be putting people off. The notoriously opaque way in which pension funds are valued needs to be addressed.

The essence of the political problem is that politicians think no further than the next election so there is no real long-term planning. The system is very complicated and therefore has a high administration cost. Measures which aim to make savings by cutting pensions can end up costing more in benefit spending.

TPS members have a better deal than USS because there are so many more people involved in the campaign. It is sometimes difficult to get younger members interested in pension issues because they see it as both too complicated and too far away. Another difference between the 2 schemes is that TPS members can apply for ill-health retirement

within 2 years of leaving (though it's a long, involved process) whereas USS members can only apply if they are still employed. The TPS also has smaller actuarial reductions for premature retirement

The major health concern for our members is stress rather than physical illness/injury which is likely to affect other workers. He ended on a more positive note – statistically we have greater longevity than other groups of workers and are likely to recover from workplace-induced stress.

Helen Chester

5. Up, up and away: the ever rising state pension age

“The state pension: No longer fit for purpose” was written by Centre for Policy Studies fellow Michael Johnson and published in November 2016. He advocates putting the State Pension into 'run-off' and the introduction of a 'senior citizens' pension', payable from the age of 80. He also proposes the introduction of a workplace ISA which will bridge the gap until the pension is accessed for those strong enough to achieve 80.

Mr Johnson is far from being some stray who shouts out nonsense and obscenities on street corners. He has played a major role informing Conservative Party policy on pensions and his seminal 2009 “Don't let this crisis go to waste” initiated the successful attack on public sector pensions.

More significant are the recent comments of the Chancellor Philip Hammond who said the Government would “review public spending priorities” before the next election and that the state pension will no longer be ring-fenced from spending cuts after 2020. This raises the prospect of pensioners' benefits being cut as part of the Government's austerity measures.

He suggested that after that, changes may be needed in order to “tackle the challenge of rising longevity” - the growing financial costs of people living longer. Key in this will be raising the State Pension Age (SPA) and the Cridland Report, which is due to come out by May this year, will be crucial in formulating the changes. The State Pension Age is now set to reach 67 by 2018 for both men and women. It is not slated to reach 68 until 2046 although this is likely to be brought forward following the Government review by former CBI director general John Cridland.

There are going to be many losers from increasing the SPA. The recent Age UK report “Working Later, Waiting Longer” has taken an in-depth look at eight people in their 50s and early 60s who are likely to lose out badly from any rise in the State Pension Age. The people at greatest risk are adversely affected in a number of different ways. For example, they are more likely to be in worse health, to be in physically demanding jobs, or to have had less opportunity to build up a nest egg for their retirement after a lifetime of low pay.

The report said that more than a third (37%) of 55 to 64-year-old women and around a fifth (19%) of 55 to 64-year-old men have no private pension savings at all and as many as 45% of pensioner couples and 71% of single pensioners currently receive at least half their income from state pensions and benefits.

Middle-aged carers also face hardship in later life because of having reduced their hours or given up work altogether to look after a loved one. The report said benefits to help carers do not compensate for the money most forgo in earned income so they are often left on a low income and with few savings when they themselves come to retire.

The prestigious Pensions Policy Institute produced in September 2016 “The Distributional Impact of State Pension age rises”. The Government says that it plans to increase the State Pension Age further so that people spend a third of their life receiving the state pension. However, the PPI says that the Government is basing these planned increases on calculations carried out in 2010 showing how our life expectancy was likely to increase. The problem is that our life expectancy does not seem to be increasing at the rates calculated in 2010. Calculations done in 2010 show life expectancy increasing at a faster rate than those done in 2012 and 2014. By using calculations done in 2010, the State Pension Age is likely to increase to 68 **seven years earlier** than if the Government had used calculations done in 2014.

Furthermore, we are not all living longer. Although we are living longer in terms of the population as a whole, the gap between those who are living the longest and those who are not living so long is widening.

The PPI also says that the Government works out the State Pension Age rises using an average – which is affected by very high life expectancies. This means that in a year when the State Pension Age rises, fewer than 50% of people reaching State Pension Age that year will spend a third of their life

receiving the state pension. The PPI says that if the Government chose to calculate it using the median so that in any year 50% of those receiving the State Pension had it for a third of their life and 50% for less, the State Pension Age would rise more slowly. This is important because, although women still tend to live longer than men, women in certain parts of the UK and women who've done stressful or very physical jobs will have a shorter life expectancy than those living in the most affluent areas and/or who've had a less stressful work life.

The Pensions Policy Institute says that those from poorer backgrounds, ethnic minorities and people living in certain areas will get their State Pension for a shorter time and are less likely to be able to work up until their State Pension Age. It says that one solution could be to give people earlier access to their State Pension or benefits.

A further point need stressing: the cost of the new State Pension without any acceleration of SPA will be **decreasing** as a proportion of GDP. The "we just can't afford it" argument does not wash.

Most retired UCU members have their pensions, or soon will have. Our working colleagues will be doubly hit. Not only will their SPA increase but, since our TPS and USS normal pension age is now aligned with SPA, so will their ability to access their whole occupational pensions. Actuarial reduction, and this affects USS more severely than TPS, will become more crucial as people are expected to work for longer and longer and increasing numbers are forced to retire. The UCU will have to spend time in addressing the issue of an "early" retirement that does not create financial hardship.

[Julian Atkinson](#)

6. Why the triple lock needs to be defended

Part of the rhetoric supporting the austerity strategy of the Government deals with intergenerational fairness and the myth that the old are somehow doing down the young. Needless to say, such ludicrous charges as that pensioners are imposing zero hour contracts, a dysfunctional housing market and educational fees just would not be believed. Rather, the emphasis has been on the absurdly generous state pension and the iniquitous triple lock that increases only the basic component of the State Pension by whichever is higher of 2.5%, average increase in wages or CPI.

The reality is more complex. The so-called earnings-link, which saw the State Pension increased in line with wages was abolished in 1980s, and the value of the State Pension fell

sharply after that point. The introduction in 2010 of the triple lock was an attempt to rebuild the value of the State Pension. Although the value of the State Pension has risen in real terms, it is still short of replacing 26% of pre-retirement income as it did in 1979. Given projected earnings and pension growth, in order to build up the value and re-establish the link between wages and retirement, the triple lock would need to be in place for at least **another three decades**. (*Written evidence from the Pensions Policy Institute to the work and pensions committee on intergenerational fairness*). The replacement percentage of our State Pension had placed us next to bottom in the European League but we are still in the lowest quartile. So when the committee of MPs say: "...the triple lock will by 2020 have achieved the Government's objective of securing a decent minimum income for people in retirement..." they have substituted the non-objective "decent minimum income" for the more challenging 26% of earnings goal. And for obvious reasons.

Pensioner wealth is vastly overstated. The poorest fifth of single pensioners have median net incomes of £106 a week after meeting housing costs, while the richest fifth receive £405. (*Age UK Knowledge Hub*). Furthermore, we are about to hit 'peak defined benefit' when many people are still in line to get guaranteed final salary pay-outs, after which successive pensioners will be increasingly reliant on the State Pension and on defined contribution arrangements. Curbing the triple lock could rapidly push more pensioners back into poverty.

If the rhetoric about intergenerational fairness were to be taken at face value, then the impact of stopping the triple lock on younger cohorts would have to be examined. This is where the major deterioration takes place. Income from workplace pensions is to decline when the next cohort reaches State Pension Age in the coming five to ten years. The maintenance of the triple lock will be of greatest benefit to future generations of pensioners due to compound increases as the State Pension rebuilds its value.

The scale of this latter point is revealed by the PPI, as part of its Pensions Landscape study examining the cumulative impact of recent reforms. It considered the total income that people can expect over their retirement. For younger workers, the triple lock is worth tens of thousands of pounds. Young people should not be misled by some suggesting that the triple lock should be axed in their interests. It is the young who will be the worst losers.

[Julian Atkinson](#)

7. Life expectancy in UK rises but so do years spent in bad health

As people are living longer, the increase in the proportion of time they experience ill health will put pressure on services. Life expectancy for a newborn boy increased to 79.2 in 2013-15, compared with 78.5 in 2009-11, while for newborn girls it rose from 82.5 to 82.9.

Healthy life expectancy remained static for women and only increased by 0.4 years for men over the same period, meaning the number of years not spent in good health rose to 19 years for women (up 0.4) and 16.1 for men (up 0.3).

Despite the increase in life expectancy, there remain wide geographical disparities. The highest life expectancy for males was 83.4 years in Kensington and Chelsea, London, compared with the lowest of 73.4 years in Glasgow City. The gap is higher than it was in 2009-11.

There were also big differences in healthy life expectancy, from 71.8 years for males in Rutland, East Midlands, to 54 for males in Tower Hamlets, east London. For females, the highest estimate of years in good health was 74.6 in the Orkney Islands and the lowest was 51.4 in Antrim and Newtownabbey, Northern Ireland.

The ever-increasing State Pension Age exacerbates the problem of the increasing span of life where people are expected to work but cannot.

(Based on Office for National Statistics figures)

8. TTIP and all that

Where we've got to ...

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP, see previous newsletters) is a planned EU – US trade pact which could severely restrict workers' rights, environmental protections and accelerate the privatisation of public services. Its provisions give multi-national companies the opportunity to sue Governments via secret tribunals for restricting opportunities for further profiteering.

Huge public opposition, over 3.5 million Europeans registered their opposition to the deal, has left TTIP's future stalled and uncertain. But the development of the Canada – EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the outcome of the US election may pose continuing threats to our society.

CETA

There are thoughts that, Brexit meaning Brexit, the end of TTIP is near. CETA, sometimes known as TTIP's Ugly Sister, is lurking. It is similar to TTIP, giving Canadian companies as well as US subsidiaries in Canada the same powers as they would have under TTIP. Despite action by the Belgian state Wallonia stalling CETA's progress, Nick Dearden, in *The Guardian*, commented that CETA was '*well progressed and could pass into EU law before the UK leaves the EU.*' Global Justice Now think that the final European Parliamentary vote on CETA is likely to be February 1st or 2nd. Time to get some commitments out of our MEPs?

Brexiters might think that UK 'Independence Day' would take us out of the deal and all will be well ... but Sam Fowles (a Postgraduate Researcher at Queen Mary, University of London) has suggested that the terms of CETA could still apply to the UK for up to 20 years after our EU exit.

Whilst CETA is not yet operable, a hint of its scope is illustrated by the case of Canadian mining company, Gabriel Resources. With an office in London, the company is using an existing UK – Romania trade agreement to sue Romania for refusing to grant a permit for a huge gold mine in a world heritage site, demanding £3.5 billion in compensation.

The Trump

His campaign rhetoric against various American free trade deals, vowing to withdraw from the Trans- Pacific Partnership on his first day in office and being hugely critical of the North American Free Trade Agreement, has to be judged in light of his action in the Oval Office. Even if he drops TTIP, CETA may well be in place.

As Nick Dearden puts it in his *Guardian* article, '*But life gets scarier still. Newspapers and the airwaves are now filled by free-market fundamentalists who have waited decades to design a trade system unhindered by government: a true free market. If TTIP as a thing is close to death, [TTIP](#) as a way of thinking is alive and well and residing in England.*

Why grow food when they can grow it for us more cheaply in Africa? Why keep all these consumer and environmental protections when they simply obstruct the functioning of the market? A bonfire of regulation and taxes can begin post-Brexit. It will be TTIP on steroids.'

Well

Sorry to start 2017 with such a miserable thoughts. At least the EU Commissioner responsible for TTIP, Cecilia Malmstroem, has admitted that the Partnership ' might not be the biggest priority for the new (American) administration.' So we may need to focus on derailing CETA. Guy Taylor, Trade Campaigner for Global Justice Now, noted 'the huge movement against TTIP on both sides of the Atlantic'. Claiming that 'most trade experts' had declared TTIP 'dead', he noted that the defeat '*...was very much one of progressive people power and nothing to do with Trump and his divisive policies of hate.*' It may be similar power that can save us from CETA.

Useful links

Global Justice Now

<http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/tags/ceta>

War on Want
UNISON

<http://waronwant.org/ttip>

<https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2015/02/On-line-Catalogue229952.pdf>

Mike Shuker

9. Midlands TUC Pensioner Network

This organisation aims "to bring together representatives of union retired members' groups and Trades Union Councils in the Midlands to promote TUC policy and to campaign on old people's issues"



Meetings are held three times a year at the UNITE Union Offices in Derby, to discuss current issues, plan activities and hear from visiting speakers. Currently, East Midlands UCU retired members are represented in the group by Greg Cejer and Rowena Dawson, who is also on the executive

committee as one of two women members. New members are welcome, but there is a formal registration process to join each year.

A 'Plan of Work' /Action Plan is produced every year covering Organising Activities and Campaigning and progress is regularly discussed. Last year, objectives included promotion of UNISON's 'Save Care Now' campaign following Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils' signing of the Ethical Care Charter. Mick Moreton of UNISON spoke at the November meeting. As a very experienced and active union representative, who has done a great deal of work in this area, he explained how most councils were willing to agree with points 1 and 2 of the Charter, but not point 3 which involves paying the 'Living Wage'. (See UNISON website or type UNISON Ethical Care Charter into your browser)

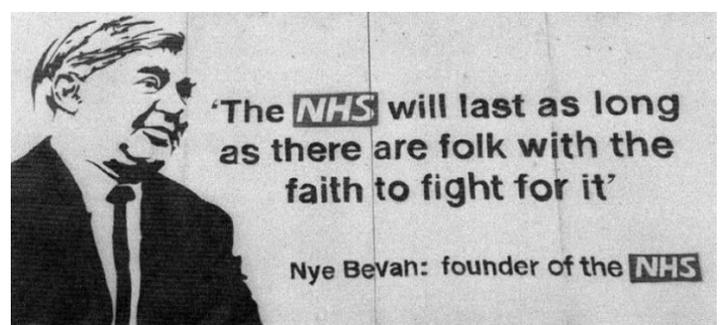
Other objectives for 2016 included carrying a banner and holding a street stall in Birmingham during the Tory Party Conference in September. Work on a new fabric banner is underway (see design above) with two members currently working on it. Objectives for 2017 will be discussed at an executive meeting shortly and presented to the network meeting in February.

It is always interesting to meet with people from other unions and across a wider area.

Rowena Dawson

10. Experiences of joining a Patient Participation Group

About a year ago, I thought it would be a good idea to join the local Patient Participation Group where I live, to find out more about what is happening in the NHS on the ground and possibly to offer support to the local surgery.



First, of course, as bureaucracy seems to be a natural part of everything NHS, forms had to be completed giving reasons for wanting to join, relevant background experience listed and statements on being "socio-demographically representative of the patient population" ticked.

Documents outlining details of group membership, ground rules for meeting behaviours and terms of reference were supplied and a confidentiality agreement, which I hope this article is not infringing, signed. There are four meetings each year and participants at my local group usually include the surgery manager and one of the doctors who are able to keep us informed of any relevant issues or events. Speakers on aspects of interest are also sometimes invited.

The group produces a newsletter which includes reminders about 'Flu Jabs', breast screening, blood donation etc. Circulation is problematic, as although it is available and prominently displayed in the surgery waiting room, other ways of circulating the newsletter have been explored and could be reviewed again. Extra, unnecessary costs are an issue. Members of the group continue to try to gain information and responses from patients other than members of this group which would be valued to ensure services and information offered meets their needs. Displays and stalls at local events have been tried, and other electronic/online ways of communicating are being considered.

This GP Practice is part of Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Group, so links with other patient participation groups in the area have been made. A major issue that may come up is likely to be about how we will be affected by financial problems at Nottingham University Hospitals such as Queen's Medical Centre and others, which were mentioned in the national press fairly recently, and will be of great concern.

At the moment, I have a particular 'bee in my bonnet' about air pollution and its effects on our health here. The village is situated very close to East Midlands Airport, Ratcliffe Power Station, the M1 and A50 roads, the mainline Railway Network through East Midlands Parkway Station and the A6 heavy traffic passing through the centre. New plans for the HS2 route will also be very, very close by. So, this is something I am looking into and hoping to interest the group in. As we have heard in recent reports about air pollution in London and other cities, effects on people's health can be serious and "Promoting Good Health" is part of the group's remit.

We are very lucky where I live in having a surgery with a culture of very caring and helpful doctors, nurses and all staff in whom we can trust and I am finding this glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes interesting when I can understand the jargon!

Rowena Dawson

11. Some thoughts on the UCU Retired Members Branches AGM 2016

The third annual meeting of RMBs took place on 23rd November at UCU HQ in London. Julian Atkinson and I attended on behalf of our branch. This article is intended to be a collection of my observations and thoughts, rather than a formal report.

My overriding impressions from the day are firstly that we are still making progress in integrating Retired Members and our branches into the union; but it remains the case that we still need more work to define what we are really for. My personal opinion is that we must all remember that we are the Retired Members of a **Trades Union** and that we should focus on the issues that are implied by that role.

It is clear that Geraldine Egan's retirement from the role of UCU Pensions Officer is a setback for us. For many years, she had acted as an advocate for us, as well as taking on a deal of the practical communication work. The resulting restructuring, upon her retirement, means that we no longer have an analogous single point of contact upon whom we can rely. The goodwill remains but we will need to see how it works out in practice. In general, support for RMBs will now come from Paul Cottrell, head of democratic services, and his team. Work is continuing to take place on developing the structures that will give us a formal voice within the union, as of right, with defined communication routes. We are not there yet, but, hopefully, we will be in due course. A good number of retired members remain attached to their former workplace branches, which presents RMBs with a set of challenges, in itself. During the meeting, 14 motions were debated and all were carried. They covered a range of relevant issues, including social care, intergenerational fairness, defence of the 'triple lock' and much else. Our own motion urging the progress of our 2016 motion to Congress regarding the 'The Crisis in Social Care' was among these.

I think we must accept that, in dire times such as these, a trade union whose main function is to defend its working members will not always be able to give retired members the attention we would like. However, RMBs may well identify issues that are of importance to working members, but have not been recognised as such, especially in respect of matters such as pensions. These matters of importance to all members, working or retired, such as pensions, the NHS and social care, must remain priorities for UCU. It may well be the case,

and experience suggests that it is, that retired members often understand their significance more than younger working members, whose immediate focus is on salaries and workload. One of our most noteworthy attributes is experience! Many of our immediate interests are well represented by the National Pensioners Convention, the TUC Pensioners Committee and the Public Service Pensioners Council, within all of which UCU representatives are very active. RMBs can provide a vital grounding for the next generation of pensioner activists.

In conclusion, the RMB Annual Meeting is a worthwhile day. It gives us the opportunity to meet with members of other branches and with HQ officials. It allows us to share ideas and reinforces the fact that we are not on our own. However, I am still left with the impression that many of us are not 100% sure of where we fit in. I think the real answer is that RMBs, both at regional and national level, are a crucial piece in the jigsaw, but we are not yet able to see exactly where we fit. Many of the really big issues, social care and pensions, are being dealt with elsewhere, but we are vital in providing the structures that allow us to be represented and our voices heard. It is up to us to make the structures that we have work and to continue to develop them so that they function ever more effectively.

Rob Kirkwood

12. NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans

The Government has required 44 “Footprint Areas” across the UK to prepare NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) for their area which will:

1. Contribute to cuts of at least £2.5bn nationally this year, and £22bn within the next five years, to wipe out the NHS so-called financial deficit.
2. Achieve this by implementing ‘new models of care’ that are set out in NHS England’s 5-Year Forward View (2014).

NHS bodies are severely limited in how they can oppose these cuts because they risk losing access to the £8bn NHS Transformation Fund.

I am sure that we all believe in an NHS that is free at the point of use. It is clear that this is under severe attack from the current Government: UK funding of the NHS per capita is below the European average and profit-based contracts are draining much needed money from patient care. I focus on Nottinghamshire here as this is the area about which I know most, but the same process is being undergone across the whole of England. The

plans may well focus, as the Nottinghamshire one does, on apparently desirable goals such as more community-based treatment and reducing the numbers of people being treated in hospital. For example, the Nottinghamshire plan envisages a reduction in beds across the county of 200. This may well be a laudable aim, but, I ask, how would all the necessary restructuring be paid for? How will all the necessary extra social care costs be funded?



The draft plan for Nottinghamshire has now been published and there needs to be the widest possible awareness of this. These plans should be publicised widely, providing the details of all proposed cuts and changes to local NHS services. The public needs to be aware that these plans are being imposed by central Government as a way of masking their underfunding of the NHS. Public consultation events have recently been advertised, including one on Wednesday 22nd February from 5pm-7pm at the Council House in Old Market Square, Nottingham.

Full details of Nottinghamshire’s STP can be found at: www.stpnotts.org.uk

Healthwatch Derbyshire provides some useful information at:

<http://www.healthwatchderbyshire.co.uk/2016/09/sustainability-and-transformation-plans-stps-explained/>

Information about Leicestershire’s plans can be found at: <http://www.bettercareleicester.nhs.uk/>

Lincolnshire’s STP is available at:

<http://lincolnshirehealthandcare.org/en/stp/>

And Northamptonshire’s plan is at:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/news/Latestnews/Pages/Northamptonshire-Sustainability-and-Transformation-Plan-2016-2021.aspx>

We hope that members can chase up all this information, educate themselves and, where appropriate, get involved.

Rob Kirkwood

13. Equalities Officer

WANTED:

Interested, concerned person to contribute to branch affairs and to keep us all aware of equality issues as committee member with responsibility for Equality Issues. Perks include possible attendance at regional and national meetings especially the annual Equalities Conference which is always lively and interesting.



14. UCU Retired Members Branch

Our branch has been meeting since 2008 and now has over 300 members. Our aims are listed below. We meet three times a year, often in places of interest to make part of a day out. Meetings focus on important issues for UCU pensioners and provide a chance to talk with other retired members.

A termly newsletter with articles of interest to retired UCU members is e-mailed to all branch members for whom we have addresses and to UCU branch secretaries in the East Midlands.

Please let us have your personal e-mail address and let us know if it changes.

RMB Roles and Functions

- 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.

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

Assistant Secretary: Rob Kirkwood
asst-secretary@ucu-em-rmb.org.uk

Treasurer: Brian Hambidge treasurer@ucu-em-rmb.org.uk

Equalities officer: Vacancy
equalities-officer@ucu-em-rmb.org.uk

Membership: Greg Cejer membership@ucu-em-rmb.org.uk

Newsletter: Bob Haskins
newsletter@ucu-em-rmb.org.uk

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