

Retired Members Fringe meeting

Annual Conference 2018



John Martin RMAC Member Chaired the meeting.

John welcomed delegates to the meeting and introduced the guest speakers to the meeting and explained that the meeting would have to close at 2pm sharp as there were important motions being debated on the Conference floor that delegates needed to be present at.

The first speaker to address the meeting was Phil Chadwick, former Branch Secretary Western Counties. Phil gave a short presentation on a book that has been published on the Great Post Office Strike of 1971. The book contains the memories of those who were involved, many of them who are now in their 80s. He thanked all those who helped to put together this book that has taken five years to produce. He said there were some who thought the strike was a defeat, but many now believe that it was a success in view of what has now been achieved.

Phil said go out and contact your retired members and find out how many of them have memories of the strike, so that you can record their memories from your Region.

If you require information on how to obtain this book please contact:
westerncountiescwu@gmail.org. cwwesterncountiesbranch.org

Next to address to meeting was the SDGS Tony Kearns.

Tony welcomed all delegates for attending the meeting, and said he welcomed the publication of the book by the South Western counties Branch, which a history of society in 1971. Tony went on to welcome once again Neil Duncan Jordon from the NPC to address this meeting. The Union has been a strong supporter of the NPC for many years.

Under RE-Design he said we want your Branches to get you involved when they hold meetings on this important issue. Please make every effort to become involved. Tony apologised that he had to leave early as he was due to attend a NEC Meeting.

Neil Duncan Jordan told the meeting; the links between the NPC and the CWU have been very welcome. Brian Lee from the RMAC now sits on the NPC Committee on behalf of the CWU. Neil went on to speak about the state pension, saying that there are many that think the Triple Lock on pensions are too generous. However the latest increase on pensions is only £3.60 for men and £2.75 for women.

On the question of have pensioners avoided austerity the answer is no. If we had kept the link with earnings we would have received more than we have under the triple lock. When it comes to the question of universal benefits, if those who believe that the winter fuel allowance should be means tested, then the answer is simple, those on the higher Tax bracket should be taxed on the £200. We must defend the benefits of the Bus Pass, this helps pensioners to get out and socialise and keep active, and this means they contribute through the taxation that is imposed on many goods bought. We must never forget the unpaid work that is carried out by pensioners in the voluntary work sector and caring for family members.

Social care is not being addressed as it should be, it is crazy that if you have cancer you are given care free under the NHS, but if you develop dementia you will have to pay for your care which can cost as much as £1,000 per week.

The Chair thanked all the speakers for their contributions and also for all those who attending the meeting, and said it was unfortunate that we had to close the meeting due to commitments on the conference Floor.

If you have any questions relating to this report please contact me via my E mail Address on the main Retired Members web page.

Rod Downing

RMAC Member