

Looking ahead with confidence

Facing up to the challenges that retirement can bring is often a worrying time for many people. This is why the union's pre-retirement seminars continue to be extremely popular with members.

The latest two-day seminar, which was run for the union by the Retirement Counselling Service, was held at head office in September. A variety of topics relevant to those approaching retirement were covered by specialists in their field.

There were sessions on 'Adjusting to change', 'Your benefits from the state', 'Occupational pensions', 'Health matters', led by Dr Len Kader, 'Crime prevention', 'A look at tax', 'Savings and investments', and 'Using your retirement time'.

The two-day event ended with an open question and answer session led by the seminar co-ordinator, Colin Jeffries.

Here are some of the many highly positive comments made by those who took part in the seminar:

▲ It was very interesting. I would recommend it to anyone. *MLB*



▲ I have very much enjoyed the seminar. It has given me some very good information on my retirement, not only for me, but my husband too. *SE*

▲ I found all the information most useful. I'm glad I came. *JC*

▲ The seminar was interesting, informative and helpful and I'm glad I attended. I shall put into practice the advice that I have received.

▲ I thoroughly enjoyed it and learned a lot about retiring. The speakers were all very good and I now know a lot more than I did two days ago. *JG*

▲ I thought the whole two days were very interesting with lots of useful information, especially on pensions and tax. I would recommend it to anyone. *CB*

Said Unity general secretary Geoff



Bagnall: "Being able to come along to the pre-retirement seminars, at no cost, is just one of the many benefits of belonging to the union. I know from talking to many of those who have attended in the past, that they have found the seminars very useful in helping to prepare them for their new life in retirement."

If you are interested in attending a pre-retirement seminar in the future, please contact your works representative or head office.

Wedgwood workers gain first pay rise in five years

Unity has welcomed the news that Wedgwood is now back in profit two years after its dramatic collapse.

New York-based KPS set up WWRD Holdings to run the business when it bought the Wedgwood, Royal Doulton and Waterford Crystal names from administrators in March 2009. At the time the business had debts of £400 million.

Unity general secretary Geoff Bagnall said: "When Wedgwood

called in the administrators it was one of the blackest days in this union's history. Hundreds of our members, many with extremely long service with the company, were dismissed with just one day's notice.

"We are pleased that the new company has decided to continue with production in Stoke-on-Trent and is now back in profit.

"However, Unity takes the view that had Wedgwood been run more efficiently, it would still be a major player in the ceramics industry. Although we fully support the new company, if it had been correctly managed in the first place many hundreds of our members would still have a job."

Karen Dovey, Unity's works representative at Barlaston, a gilder with 33 years' service, said: "It's good news that Wedgwood is making money again, two years after falling into administration. The business is now back in profit and we have received pay rises, the first in five years."

There are now 500 employees at WWRD split across the Barlaston plant and a distribution centre in Stafford.

Unity works representative Karen Dovey (right) with colleague Yvonne Morrall, a lithographer with 34 years at the company.

A 'two years to go' mug, one of the pieces of commemorative ware being produced by Wedgwood to mark the London 2012 Olympic Games.

