

ISSUE 51



September 2020

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QUIZ RESULTS * FEEDBACK

Supporting Learners

Welcome to PCS Course

We Deserve Fair Pay



Welcome to PCS

Your union and how to get involved



Public and Commercial Services Union | pcs.org.uk

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Paul's Pirate Quiz – the results

Shiver mi timbers. Pirate Paul back with the answers to mi quiz, mi hearties.

Here are the quiz answers.

Answer 1

Pirates sometimes raise the Skull and cross bones

Answer 2

Edward Teach, or Tatch was more commonly know as Black Beard.

Answer 3

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote the book Treasure Island.

Answer 4

The Curse of the Black Pearl was the name of the first of the Pirates of the Caribbean films.

Answer 5

Johnny Kidd and the were Pirates Shakin All Over according to their number 1 hit

Answer 6

The Bay of Biscay is off the Coast of Portugal.



The winner who received a mystery prize was Annastacia Lee Rm A314, Warbreck House. Well Done



Garry's Great Outdoors Quiz – the results

Garry back with answers to my quiz. People say I look a lot like Bear Grylls, but not sure that I do in this picture! Here are the answers.

Answer 1

Man vs. Wild, with Bear Grylls was first aired in 2006

Answer 2

The two main routes for ascending Mt. Everest are the southeast ridge and the north ridge

Answer 3

The Great Climb, which was aired for three nights in 1967, was at the Old Man of Hoy

Answer 4

In 1969 John Fairfax was the first man to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo, rowing

Answer 5

Loch Awe is the longest lake in the UK

Answer 6

In Wainwright's Coast to Coast. If you dip your toes in the sea at St Bees, you would dip your toes on the East Coast at Robin Hood's Bay



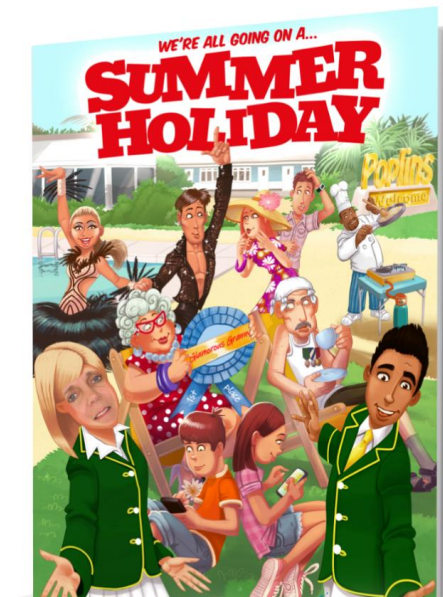
The winner who received a mystery prize was David Andrew A210, Warbreck Well done, Garry

Jacqui's Summer Holiday Quiz

"We're all going on a Summer Holiday"

Jacqui back with a quiz about Summer Holidays, and I have always loved my Summer getaways. Hopefully we will all be able to go somewhere nice this year, provided there isn't a Covid second spike of cases.

Here are the questions:



Question 1

Who along with Cliff Richard had a number 1 hit in 1963 with Summer Holiday. Was it ?

- A) The Shadows
- B) The Luvvers
- C) The Bruvvers
- D) The Merseybeats
- E) The Pirates

Question 2

What was Cliff Richard's character called in the Film Summer Holiday. Was it?

- A) Fred
- B) George
- C) Bert
- D) Don
- E) Bob

Question 3

Ayia Napa is a holiday resort on which Island. Is it?

- A) Ibiza
- B) Crete
- C) Cyprus
- D) Malta
- E) Majorca

Question 4

In which city is the Trevi Fountain. Is it?

- A) Paris
- B) Berlin
- C) Madrid
- D) Rome
- E) Vienna

Question 5

Mount Teidi is on which holiday island. Is it?

- A) Rhodes
- B) Crete
- C) Sicily
- D) Malta
- E) Tenerife

Question 3

In which County is the Giant's Causeway. Is it County?

- A) Antrim
- B) Down
- C) Armagh
- D) Clare
- E) Durham

Please send your answers to Jacqui Dunkerley, Room A208R Warbreck (or e-mail Jacqui Dunkerley - details in the GAL) to arrive no later than 15th Oct 2020

The winner will receive a mystery prize, please note that we cannot post prizes out to people working from home during Covid 19 period, so you may have to wait if you win!

Please remember that Branch Executive Committee members cannot enter/ win the quizzes

Supporting learners

unionlearn
from the TUC



Unionlearn Autumn Festival of Learning

This Autumn [unionlearn](https://www.unionlearn.org.uk) is running a Festival of Learning. The Festival will feature the Unionlearn 2020 Annual Conference, regional virtual supporting learners events, webinars on a range of learning topics, Create your own future briefing workshops and a number of interactive virtual learning sessions.

The Unionlearn Autumn Festival of Learning will run from September to November 2020 and will showcase many of the wide range of resources and publications available from unionlearn and our partners.

The festival will bring opportunities to learn new skills, get updated on key topic areas and to network and interact with others. All of the sessions will be completely free to attend and there will be something for everyone.

Union learning continues to make a huge difference in the workplace and beyond and the Unionlearn Autumn Festival of Learning will help show the value unionlearn brings in providing much needed support to unions, reps and learners.

Look out for more information and dates for sessions on the unionlearn website very soon!

www.unionlearn.org.uk/events

Two new Skillcheck Assessments: Green Skills and Environmental Awareness & Staying Safe Online

[Skillcheck](#) is a tool created by unionlearn for the use of unions to help deliver learning in the workplace. The tool contains a variety of initial assessments designed to help engage with learners and to encourage further learning.

Skillcheck modules include English, maths, apprenticeships and Everyday Finances. On completing an assessment the learner receives a digital badge as evidence of completion.

Unionlearn has recently introduced two new assessments one on Green Skills and Environmental Awareness and another on Staying Safe Online.

The new Green Skills and Environmental Awareness module includes questions around a number of green themes including Climate Change and Just Transition, Resources and recycling, Global Changes and Green Reps in the workplace.

The Staying Safe Online module allows you to test out your skills and knowledge on browsing the web, protecting yourself from scams and crime and judging the information you find online.

Once you've worked through the questions in the modules you'll be signposted to other useful support and information.

To access the free SkillCheck resource visit: www.unionlearn.org.uk/skillcheck



We will endeavour to keep our social media updated with the latest union news

<https://www.facebook.com/pcsfylde>

<https://pcsfylde.com/>

<https://www.pcs.org.uk/>

The situation regarding Coronavirus is fast moving and departmental advice is changing on a daily, sometimes hourly basis.

For the latest DWP Departmental information call

0800 783 6617

For Branch issues

Due to COVID 19 and the fact that several Branch Officers are Social Distancing and therefore not in work; and don't yet have access directly to their DWP e-mails, please send all general enquiries to the following e-mail address

PCS.FYLDECENTRALBENEFITSANDSERVICESBRANCH@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK



Public and Commercial Services Union

This is a reminder that PCS North West are offering an online version of our 1 day “Welcome to PCS Course” and there are still a limited number of places available for our October session.

This course is open to all PCS members who are interested in getting Involved in union activity. This introductory course will give a flavour of what trade unions do, the role of trade unions in society and what it means to be an active member of PCS.

The course will run via 3 x 2 hour sessions on 13th, 14th and 21st October. Each session will start at 11am and last until 1pm.

If you are interested in attending, please contact me via e-mail at NWTUED@pcs.org.uk

The deadline for applications is **Friday 2nd October.**

Kind Regards

Jenny Kenny

PCS North West Trade Union Education

Cutting carbon,
growing skills –
green skills for
a just transition



Climate change is the greatest challenge of our time. The TUC Congress motion 'Climate crisis and a just transition' passed in 2019 recognised that "The Earth's temperature has already risen by one degree above pre-industrial levels. The autumn IPCC report warned that we only have 12 years to keep global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees. Net-zero cannot be achieved without urgent investment in new, low-carbon energy generation. Congress believes climate change is a trade union issue. The future of our planet is at risk if we don't organise now to force Governments to cut emissions in line with the IPCC report."

Climate change and environmental issues at work are increasingly moving up the trade union agenda. Unions are working together and forming partnerships to tackle what is seen by many as the biggest issue of the twenty first century.

The TUC is calling for a just transition for workers and this new publication from unionlearn explains the facts around what just transition is and what unions are doing to ensure their members are not left behind.

The guide includes sections on the background to the climate crisis, the role of the green or environmental rep and what skills workers will need for a low-carbon economy. The guide also includes lots of sources of information to find out more about this topic.

To download the booklet, visit:

www.unionlearn.org.uk/publications/cutting-carbon-growing-skills-green-skills-just-transition



The views expressed by our columnists do not necessarily reflect those of the PCS Union. If you agree or disagree with any of the content of Fylde PCS News then exercise your right of reply by emailing:

j.bamborough@btinternet.com

This is *YOUR* Newsletter
Have Your Say!

Metal Mickey's Metal Quiz

Crank the amps up to 11, Metal Mickey here with a very Metal based quiz.

I have spent lockdown practising on my flying V air guitar.

Here are the questions.



Question 1

Who was the lead singer of Twisted Sister, was it Dee?

- a) Saddler
- b) Sandler
- c) Saunders
- d) Snider
- e) Sapphire

Question 2

What sort of gun did Kiss sing about in 1977. Was it?

- a) Tommy
- b) Starting
- c) Love
- d) Deadly
- e) Loaded

Question 3

Which band were Back in Black in 1980. Was it.

- a) ABC
- b) MC5
- c) Metallica
- d) Rainbow
- e) AC/DC

Question 4

And which band released the Black album in 1991. Was it?

- a) Metallica
- b) Berlin
- c) Megadeath
- d) Judas Priest
- e) Bon Jovi

Question 5

Which of the following did Aerosmith release in 1973, was it?

- a) Bang On
- b) Vision On
- c) Dream On
- d) Go On
- e) Spot On

Question 6

Serj Tankian is the lead singer of which band. Is it, System of.....?

- a) Space
- b) Down
- c) County
- d) Life
- e) Order

Please send your answers to Jacqui Dunkerley, Room A208R Warbreck (or e-mail Jacqui Dunkerley - details in the GAL) to arrive no later than 15th Oct 2020

The winner will receive a mystery prize, please note that we cannot post prizes out to people working from home during Covid 19 period, so you may have to wait if you win!

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PCS DWP North West Learning Letter

Issue: September 2020

Please find below details of upcoming courses /events available to all union members. If you would like further details of the event, please click on the hyperlink.
If the event is being run within your normal working day, you will need to get the permission of your team leader prior to applying to attend the course.

Welcome to PCS: North West

Event Date: 13 Oct 2020 to 21 Oct 2020

Location: Online

Who is this event for: All members

Racism and Intolerance – Changing attitudes in the workplace – N.W.

Event Date: 14 Oct 2020

Location: Online/hosted by Warrington & Vale Royal College

Who is this event for: All members

England Literacy Event and Competition Launch

Event Date: 28 Oct 2020

Who is this event for: PCS members including ARMs from any English region

Green Reps and Climate Justice - North West

Event Date: 11 Nov 2020

Location: Online/hosted by Warrington & Vale Royal College

Who is this event for: PCS reps and members who wish to become a Green rep or 'champion'

Combatting Domestic Abuse/North West

Event Date: 02 Dec 2020 to 09 Dec 2020

Location: Online/hosted by Manchester College

Who is this event for: All members

- [Read more about Combatting Domestic Abuse/North West](#)

Women's Course: Pathways for Women Workers/North West

Event Date: 07 Dec 2020 to 14 Dec 2020

Location: Online/hosted by Manchester College

Who is this event for: All PCS women members are welcome.



**Have your say
on public sector
pensions**
**Deadline midnight
11 October**



Public Sector Pensions

As the **11 October deadline** approaches to respond to the government's public consultation on changes to public sector pension schemes we are encouraging you and all PCS members and branches to submit your comments.

[The consultation](#) is in advance of new legislation to amend the rules of pension schemes in the public services and published the consultation document public service pension schemes: changes to the transitional arrangements to the 2015 schemes.

Many thousands of PCS members are potentially affected by this change, so it is important to [read the Q&As on the PCS website](#) which are being regularly updated. Please also [read about](#) or download and read the [latest branch briefing](#) (BB-52-20) about how to respond to the consultation.

The consultation document sets out the government proposals to remove the age discrimination found by the [Court of Appeal in rulings on the McCloud and Sargent](#) cases by:

1. Closing the legacy pension schemes so that all active scheme members will be accruing pension under the same rules from 1 April 2022; and
2. Giving members in the 'Remedy' group the choice between having their service and pensionable pay during the 'Remedy' period from 1 April, 2015 to 31 March, 2022 calculated either under their legacy pension rules or under Alpha rules.

Consultation questions and model letter

There are 24 questions embedded in [the consultation document](#). There is no requirement to address these in your response, but we have produced a [model letter](#) to help you to draft your reply.

We will continue to engage with Civil Service Pensions through the scheme advisory board to influence preparations and processes for the application of the remedy and will make a formal response to the consultation which closes at **midnight** on **11 October**.

Please give views both directly to the address given in the consultation document – PensionsRemedyProjectConsultation@hmtreasury.gov.uk and via campaigns@pcs.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mark Serwotka
PCS General Secretary

Despite lockdown
we delivered.

**We deserve
fair pay.**



**Sign our
online
petition**

www.pcs.org.uk/paypetition

Give Government workers a fair pay rise

During the pandemic government workers have delivered vital public services and kept our country safe and secure. After ten years in which the real value of civil service pay has fallen, many face hardships. The Government must start to restore the real value of their pay with a 10% increase in 2020.

Whilst appreciating that some people may think we are paid enough the fact is that in real terms we have suffered a pay cut as the cost of living has risen exponentially compared to our pay.

Many of our members are desperate to get a foot on the housing ladder and this pay increase could make the difference between them being able to do that. Other people would like to buy a new car and help the environment by going green with a hybrid or electric car, this increase could make that dream affordable. The added bonus is by paying us more it also helps the environment!

Many of our members simply want to spend more time with their families and loved ones and a reasonable pay increase would enable them to make the most of their annual leave.

It is worth noting how important everyone is to the economy, especially at the moment.

So many people are relying on us so much, and with that comes additional pressure and stress to try and maintain a good standard of work. As such, we all deserve to be paid more – we should feel like the often difficult and stressful work we do should allow us to feel financially stable and secure.

Please sign our petition if you haven't already done so...

www.pc.org.uk/paypetition

Public and Commercial Services Union

There will be a PCS Black Members virtual seminar on Saturday 3 October - 10am - 3.30pm via Zoom. This interactive seminar's theme is 'Challenging the legacy of Colonialism and Enslavement'.

[Please find further information on this event and how to register to attend.](#)

Kind regards,

PCS Equality department

*Black: PCS uses the term black in the political context to apply to people from African and Asian diasporas, including people of dual heritage.

