

## AGM

This years Annual General Meeting will be held in Tunbridge Wells at the Royal Wells Hotel, along Mount Ephraim Road on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

So if you haven't got a romantic meal planned, come along to our meeting where we will be pleased to see you and food and drink will be made available.



There will be elections for, Branch Chair, Financial Secretary and other committee roles (see Dave Kauffman for more information).

Also, look out for the branch annual report, which should hit your doormats a week before the AGM. Dates of all meetings will be in there.



## Out With The Old And In With The New



If you didn't know, Andy Kerr has been responsible for all things telecom at the CWU head office and he has decided that as from April this year, he is going to stop tub-thumping as his chosen profession and retire. So Karen Rose will take over the reins from Andy as the lead Telecoms negotiator. From a Scottish leader to a new Welsh leader, I'm certain she will do well.

## CARM - Safety

The accident incident level has seen a decrease, with exception of near misses increasing from a quarterly low, mainly input by managers and patch leads. However, due to some disciplines, very few reports are from normal members, as they are apprehensive to submit the reports for fear of reprisals. We have expressed our objections with this methodology to the company as every near miss not reported, is an unnecessary accident waiting to happen. Lets hope the message remains clear "the CARM system is not there to catch people out". It's a learning tool, so let's keep it that way!



# Rumour-Ville

So what have you heard rumours of....?

## Spy in the cab.

There are discussions ongoing about fitting cameras into vehicles. Whilst the company and the union agree on certain points about the usefulness of them, especially to prove the innocence of you, the driver of false claims etc. However, the company have proposed having cameras also pointing at the driver and this is where there is a disconnect between us. The company have said the cameras would be linked to AI and could tell if the driver is falling asleep etc. I don't know how many times you have fallen asleep on the way to your next job, but I suspect it might be near the zero figure.

Also it will record conversations in the cab, so discussions with the customer, talking sweet nothings to you loved one and the odd swear word when someone pulls out in front of you will all be there. Where is this information going to be stored is it against GDPR etc? Still plenty to discuss.



## Alcohol & drug policy...

The company has always had a policy on drugs and alcohol, i.e. you can't be under the influence of either whilst on duty, but they are considering bringing in testing. Testing, will it be random, who decides



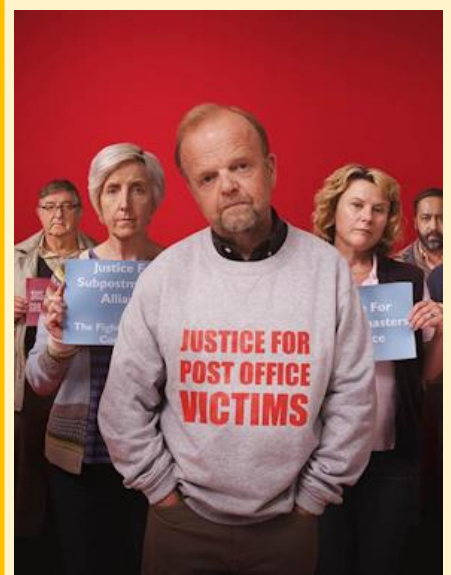
how random it is, does a manager just pick one person? What happens to the information before and after testing, is there a GDPR issue? Why does there need to be a change in policy, if there is currently no issues? The debate goes on!

# Political Corner

The recent ITV drama, "Mr Bates vs The Post Office", highlighted the plight of sub-postmasters who had fallen foul of their new IT system, "HORIZON". The CWU being linked with it's Royal Mail members have been following this case for many years now, so it's not new to us.

Both the Post Office and Fujitsu should be ashamed of themselves for their part in this travesty of justice. The CEO Paula Vennell's was even given a CBE (since been given back) for her services to the organisation.

Thanks to ITV and the public's reaction to the drama, the corporate lies and self interest are now being held to account. Strange that the government have instantly reacted to the public demand with lots of promises to sort it all out, in this election year. Cynical.... I think not!



Email: [southeastcentral@cwusec.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:southeastcentral@cwusec.onmicrosoft.com)

Website: [www.cwusec.org.uk](http://www.cwusec.org.uk)