



Registered Charity No. 1096332

NEWSLETTER

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September 2006



User Involvement in Social Care

User Involvement in Social Care
Wandsworth Social Services wish to involve users more in making sure the services provided meet the needs of users adequately. There will be representatives of older people on the Strategy Group for Older people's Services reporting through the Older People's Network.

Also it is hoped that a number of older and/or physically disabled users of social care will be

recruited to help monitor and suggest modifications to services. It is likely that the team of „community partners“ as these volunteers will be called will be supported through Wandsworth Care Alliance.

There would be the option of receiving payment for work done. From a questionnaire last year there is already a number of volunteer's but any other user interested in helping should get in touch with Careline (8875 0500) who are registering names of those interested

Access to Art

Access to Art, formerly the Arts interest Group, held their AGM at Tate Modern at the end of July. Some 35 members and 18 volunteers gathered to hear the report on activities during the past year. The organisation has a new logo and a new orange image with identity badges for volunteers on orange ribbons. The new look was emphasised, even down to orange jelly babies in an orange bowl. A new web site was launched with good information for potential users or donors.

The charity works on a shoe-string but has managed another successful year with 120 trips to museums and galleries, two of which were for Wandsworth people. People are picked up from home, taken to the gallery and escorted round, with a supportive arm or a wheelchair, by volunteers. There are 120 volunteers as escorts in the gallery on the vehicles and helping in the office. New fundraising initiatives are a weather lottery and Christmas cards. If you would like to join as member, volunteer or donor phone 87614875.

NETWORK STEERING GROUP

will meet with Refugee and
Asylum Seekers Groups.

Thursday 14 September, 2pm at
Anchor Church Centre
Garratt Lane SW1 8

Network Conference on Health
Thursday 28 September 1.30 to 4.00 at
Anchor Church Centre

Details on back page.
Report of NPC South East
Regional Council

Report of NPC South East Regional Council

Lillas Gillies and Carmen Angibault attended the first meeting of a Regional Council of the National Pensioners Convention for the South East. It is intended to have three meetings a year plus the Annual Meeting. It was agreed that each meeting would have some business and a speaker.

In the business section the Hon Secretary, Dot Gibson, reported on activities past and future. There is always a tight budget but a number of the union branches have Joined as well as their Retired Member branches and this has helped to make ends meet. Each monthly mail-out has Executive Committee minutes and a number of information sheets and this costs £750 per year so with an income of £1190 there is not a lot left to pay for meetings, etc.

There were a number of questions, mostly at length, about the lack of response of ministers to NPC campaigns about pensions, mostly seeming to blame the committee for not trying hard enough. Dot Gibson answered clearly and it seemed the committee had been very active. We all know the stance of Government on pensions and they are unlikely to change.

There is a Lobby of Parliament on Tuesday 27 June and on Wednesday 28 June a number of the committee will attend the TU Congress with a letter asking for support from working members on the Pensions White Paper which is out for consultation at present until 13 September.

In the afternoon Shirley McGrath spoke about the Save the NHS campaign. She said the NHS is complicated and people are not as well informed as they should be. She feels we are walking into the destruction of the NHS by continued moves to privatisation., Foundation hospitals freedom and GPs freedom under Practice-based Commissioning to use private hospitals rather than the NHS. She recommends attending and talking to Health Scrutiny Committees (of the local council) as well as the PCT.

A non-executive member of Guys and Thomas' Trust then spoke. She said GPs had always been private businesses. The problem now was that under the new contract they were being paid more for doing less, eg not doing out-of-hours calls or Saturday mornings. Some practices in Lambeth were not providing many extra services in the surgery and were sending people to hospital for blood tests and other tests which are done in many practices. However all GPs must set up a Patient Focus Group, in many cases rather against their will. She urged people to ask about this and to go to meetings and. ask questions, such as where contracts are placed and even how much the GP earns. She also urged people to watch out for the formation of Foundation Trusts at their local hospital and to register as members which entitles people to vote for a General Council which selects non-executive members of the Trust Board and is a way to some influence.

Lillas Gillies
23 June 2006

Locality Groups

A new project has taken birth in Wandsworth that promises great benefits for older people in the borough. 60+ Active Days is based at Age Concern Wandsworth and funded by the Council.

We all know that ageing can be difficult and it is easy to become isolated or inactive. Research has shown the mental and physical benefits of staying active and socially connected. This project aims to promote the health and happiness of those over 60 in Wandsworth by supporting them to stay active, make new friends, build self-confidence and rediscover talents and hobbies. It is connecting older people to activities of interest to them, supporting people in the community to start new activity, interest or friendship groups and bringing many different agencies and organisations in the borough to work together.

The project is made up of three Development Groups and one paid co-ordinator. The Groups involve a wide-range of people and empower community organisations and older people to influence the planning and running of day activities.

In order to fulfil their aims, the Groups are carrying out some research in to what activities older people want. So far the 150 responses received have shown great demand for new and diverse activities such as gardening, dancing, cooking, pub lunches, film-watching, board games, reading, walking and many more. The project has already enabled the formation of new activities in Wandsworth including groups for Indian vegetarian cooking, massage, grandparent support, reading and computer skills.

If you would like to find out more about having a say in what activities you want or would simply like to get connected to activities or involved in starting new activities, please get in touch with co-ordinator Becca Jones at Age Concern Wandsworth (tel: 020 8870 2020, email: beccaj@acwandsworth.org.uk). We would love to know what you want!

Becca Jones
60+ Active Days Co-ordinator
Age Concern Wandsworth

CARE Information Centre
Line for Wandsworth
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

 **020 8875 0500**

Minicom: 020 8643 8985 Fax: 020 8643 8531

www.careline.org.uk

e-mail: careline@clara.net

Monday to Friday 10am-8pm
Saturday 10am-1pm

A Stronger Voice

A Framework for creating a stronger local voice in the development of health and local care services

A Government document for information and comment

The document is introduced by Rosie Winterton, Minister of State for Health Services, and Harry Cayton, National Director for User and Public Involvement.

It is proposed to change the format of local input to the NHS from Patient Forums in every Trust to Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) which will be linked to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees of Local Authorities, with one for each Local Authority. The remit will cover health and social care. In Wandsworth there will be two OSC to which the LINK will relate.

It is proposed to give Local Authorities the task of determining the membership and to tender for an organisation to set the LINK. Money will be given to the Local Authority to fund the organisation. There will be Government guidance as to how it is expected they will be constituted and work.

PALS, relating to individual Trusts, and the Independent Complaints Advisory Service (ICAS) will be unchanged. NHS Trusts will be urged to make greater efforts to inform and consult patients and the public.

Wandsworth Older People's Network submitted comments (due by 7 September) welcoming the proposed new organisations. Having one organisation scrutinising health and social care, from a public's viewpoint, in each local authority area will give a stronger voice than the three Patient Forums there are at present. There is some concern that views have to be transmitted through the Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSC). In Wandsworth this may work for healthcare where the OSC is not organising or paying for the service but it is less likely to work in the case of social care where the OSC is part of the providing authority. The Local Authority will also be responsible for making arrangements for the setting up of the LINK and for deciding on its composition and its funding. We are not sure that Wandsworth Council will do that intending to make a strong organisation. We recommend that Local Authorities are given „direction“ rather than „guidance“ in how this is to be done.

Lilias Gillies

Garden Party

The Peabody Estate in Clapham Junction was alive with music and dance as local pensioners celebrated the summer with a Monster Garden Party which was formally open by the Mayor of Wandsworth Councillor Jim Madden

The event in July was organised by staff and volunteers from Battersea Community Support Project and included a sit down lunch for over 120 older residents from the Battersea area. There were lots of information stalls including Western Recycling, Wandsworth Libraries, Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Digivan - a mobile computer Centre. In addition there was a number of displays and community information and fundraising stalls run by the project volunteers.

The highlight of the afternoon was a display of Line Dancing from the member of the St. Johns Hill Centre class which was followed by an open session for everyone to join in and try a few steps.

There was lots of music including a Latin American Band - Kausary and a display of traditional dancing from Peru and Colombia.

This was the first year for the Garden Party and everyone is hoping that it will be possible to organise it again next year.

Denis Kane

Photo - The St. John's Hill Line dancers putting on a display



Energetic Afternoon

Our 13th June meeting was devoted to energy efficiency matters, covered in presentations made by representatives from the Borough, the Eaga Partnership and Energy Watch, focusing themes that could assist users to reduce their power bills and be friendly to the environment

CLlr Malcolm Grimstone kicked off, pointing out the relationship between energy use in developed countries and healthy living styles (e. g., clean water, hygiene) and the need for cleaner energy sources in developing countries, noting that 7/8 of power requirements are covered by using fossil fuels.

Waste disposal is another factor, as we are running out of landfill space and waste should be considered as a potential source of energy. Recycling itself has considerable problems, since it also requires using energy. Common sense indicates that as more efficient and long term solution to this issue would be to produce less waste, such as reducing the excessive packaging used on many goods for mere promotional purposes, reusing containers - such as glass bottles - as far as possible and designing focusing recyclability criteria.

Another energy-related issue is water - a matter taking up plenty of headlines in the current drought. In London, most of the water comes from ground and small but significant scale savings are always feasible (even not running taps while brushing your teeth or shaving can be helpful).

Microgeneration of electricity is a promising prospect, as the state-of-the-art already allows setting up solar power installations in estate in Wandsworth.

Eaga's Stewart focused on his organisation's Warm Front Project, a social/technical initiative jointly with the Department of the Environment specifically aimed at household spending more than 10% of their income on energy (heating, domestic fuel consumption) and targeting people living in their own property or renting privately. Eaga provides grants in such cases based on eligibility criteria and the organisation is currently running a „Get It While It's Hot campaign, trying to get people to apply for grants during the hot weather, so as to be prepared when the cold season begins.

Stewart pointed out that many households that satisfy the eligibility criteria are not benefiting from the scheme, stating that Eaga has identified £12 million in unclaimed benefits throughout the country, so he recommended checking your status and consider applying for a grant from Eaga.

Roger from Energy Watch concluded this series of talks by giving a breakdown of the historical scenario of energy use and identifying areas in which the consumer can benefit.

When the power sector was privatized in 1996, power costs fell by around 60%, but are now creeping back to 1996 levels, so consumers should become more focused on using the help available to implement a more energy-efficient setup. This involves factors such as replacing obsolete heating systems and installing new insulation, on a 'do it now, get it in time' basis.

Other hints for reducing power consumption include using lower rated light bulbs whenever safety and health factors allow, avoiding running appliances in standby mode, turning off unnecessary lights, using washing machines at lower temperatures and defrosting fridges. These measures, amongst others, can result in substantial savings. Another critical factor when looking for savings on your energy bills is selecting suppliers according to their rates; in this aspect, it should be noted that some prepaid meters are more costly than others.

Another vital point is to always ensure that meter readings on your bill are correct: the supplier is only legally obliged to take a reading once a year, so you should always check your meter readings once a quarter and compare it with the billed figure. If they do not match, complain and demand a corrected bill. If you are unable to take readings on your own, you should register for a reading scheme, a Priority Service Register, covering special needs.

Freddie Roth

National Pensioners Convention Roll of Honour

The National Pensioners Convention (NPC) was founded 26 years ago and the Pensioners' Parliament has been meeting in Blackpool for 13 years. During that time many fine men and women have campaigned, taken responsibilities as officers and committee members and represented pensioners nationally and locally on a range of issues from pensions and health to transport, housing and security.

The NPC believes it is time we kept a record to celebrate and remember the lives of those who are no longer with us and are asking you to let us have the names of those you want to include in the Roll of Honour. We will publish names and simple details on our website, but also keep a more detailed hand-written book with photographs (where available). We will send you a copy of your entry and the whole book will be on display at the next year's Pensioners' Parliament.

Fill in the form below and hand it in at the NPC stall or send it to the office (details below) and we will contact you for further details.

Your name and address:

Tel:.....Email:.....

I would like the following person to be included in the NPC Roll of Honour:

Name:.....

Group:.....

Return to NPC 19-23 Ironmonger Row, London, EC1V 3QN

Government's intentions for Pensions

The Pensions Reform White Paper (comment due by 11th September) „is an attempt to -rebuild the pension's system for the future. It has little to say for present pensioners and the changes will only be implemented starting in 2012. However it is an important paper attempting to merge the proposals of the Pension Commission with what the Government considers affordable.

The linking of the state pension to earnings will take place at 2012, at the earliest by which time retiral age will have risen to 66, A National Pensions Saving Scheme will be instituted with recommended contributions from the employee of 5%, from tax relief 1% and from the employer 3%. The State Second Pension will become a flat-rate amount of £60 per week. From 2010 people will qualify for a full pension after 30 years contributions instead of today's 44 for men and 39 for women.

The result should be that the state pension will eventually amount to £20 above Pension Credit (in today's money)

A fuller summary 'is in Help the Aged's June Policy Update from Help the Aged, 207-221 Penton ville Rd, NI 9UZ.

Lilias Gillies

NHS DIRECT

**Use it or lose it
0845 46 47**

I first heard of this very valuable and helpful service - it is literally 'a lifeline' - in a Forum newsletter in 1999. But many people I speak- to haven't even today, heard of it. It's a 24 hour telephone advice line on health problems,, and it's confidential. I've used this fine service half a dozen times in the last 6 or so years, often in the middle of the night when the painkillers don't seem to be working When I'm worried about my disabilities(I'm registered disabled), or, and it's often a Friday night when I can't contact my GP till Monday morning) when I've had a fall or got a pain in the, chest or a bad nose bleed. What a boon if you are on your own.

The trained staff-nurses are brilliant, caring, helpful, encouraging, informative. Once they arranged an ambulance for me. They advice on whether to dial 999. go to a casualty department or ring your GP 'in the morning. They never rush you or make you feel your are wasting their time.

This admirable service is NHS PREVENTIVE work at it's best. I wrote to the Prime Minister to say that those who thought it up and operated it should feature in an Honours list. Now (July 2006) I learn it is to lose nearly 1000 staff - this is madness! Tell your GP, your MP, your fellow pensioners. Use NHS DIRECT- it could save your life

Laurie Green.



**Update on the review of the Bolingbroke Hospital
by
The Bolingbroke Friends'**

As many of you know The Trust have been reviewing the services at the Bolingbroke for some time now & intend to announce their plans. by November/December of this year - this will be followed by a three month public consultation. The Trust have, however, announced their commitment to continuing to provide out-patient & ambulatory services for those living in the area. Whether or not they remain where they are or are moved at some stage into a new building is all part of the ongoing review. The Trust are also looking at various options for using the space currently available at the Bolingbroke.

We have received many enquiries from patients and local residents wishing to express their feelings about the hospital & as a result we compiled the short questionnaire which you will find with this newsletter. Response has been excellent & shows overwhelming support for the Bolingbroke & the excellent & prompt services it provides which you do not get in the larger modern environment. Local people are very keen for the services to continue in the existing building which is in a very peaceful location well served by good public transport. The Bolingbroke is also seen as an important part of local history.

In July the first meeting of the 'Bolingbroke Friends' Patient & Local Residents forum was held at the hospital. The meeting was a huge success and enabled us to discuss the review and for comments & suggestions to be made about the future services. We will now be meeting at regular intervals.

Many hospitals benefit from the voluntary work carried out by Leagues of Friends & we are very proud of our own history. We have worked tirelessly for a great many years for the benefit of the hospital & it's patients & are dedicated that this will continue not only now but in the future.

**Jenny Edwards
Hon. Secretary
July 2006**

FLaSH

Fire, Locks and Safer Homes

FLaSH is a new service, created to provide home security and fire safety advice to residents in Wandsworth.

FLaSH invites you to request one or more of the following FREE services:

- If you are worried about crime or have been a victim of crime our home safety fitter can visit your property, offer security advice and where appropriate improve the security of your property.
- Fire safety check and the fitting of a Smoke Detector if required complete with a ten-year battery. Every home should have at least one.

This is a FREE service supported by Wandsworth Borough Council Partnership, London Fire Brigade and Help the Aged

For further information please contact:

Zainab Pathan
Victim Support Wandsworth
231a Lavender Hill
London
SW11 1JR

020 7223 1234
flash@vswandsworth.org.uk



Charity Number 1062284

Paupers' Progress charts the exclusion and degradation of older people over the last seven centuries and, in doing so, exposes the roots of the present paternalistic and demeaning attitudes towards older people and the inadequacies of public pensions. The case for public risk pooling for old age was made in Britain as early as the Thirteenth Century and periodically reiterated over the years. As Joe Harris shows, older people were identified as the deserving poor in the Nineteenth Century, partly due to the work of Charles Booth, and then ensured the long campaign for a decent pension. The campaign continued and, indeed, still does today.

Alan Walker
Professor of Social Policy and Social Gerontology
University of Sheffield

SPECIAL ORDER - **Paupers Progress** (Illustrated)

(ISBN 1-902245-20-2) Illustrated

To: NPC Publications
19-23 Ironmonger Row
London EC1V 3QP

Please deliver copies indicated below of the **Paupers Progress** to:

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Single Copy <input type="checkbox"/>	£3.50	Free	£3.50
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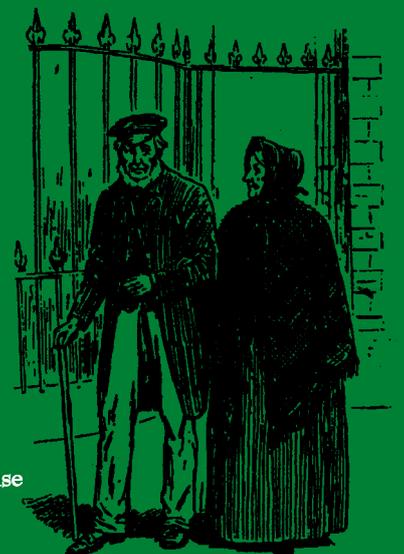
Enclosed: Cheque (made out to NPC) covering postage

PAUPERS PROGRESS

From Poor relief
to
Old Age Pension

by Joe Harris

Out from the Workhouse
Pensioners now, Not Paupers!



Pauper Dole and Workhouse are now giving place to State Pension
Picture-prophecy of January 1st 1911

LEIGHTON HOUSE THE SETTING FOR AN ENIGMA

On 11th July, Daniel Robbins, Senior Curator of Leighton House Museum, gave a talk to WPF members on his museum and the outstanding Victorian painter, Frederic Leighton, one of the most celebrated British artists of his day, President of the Royal Academy and the first artist to be ennobled as Baron Leighton of Streatham.

Lord Leighton, born in Yorkshire in 1830, lived on the Continent for most of his early life, and studied extensively in Germany and Italy. A result of his bringing up was his skill for languages, speaking five fluently. Leighton's grandfather James had been physician to the Emperor of Russia and through this and other positions had built up a tidy fortune that was inherited by his son, also a doctor.

After convincing his father to allow him to become a painter and not study medicine in the family tradition, Leighton studied art in Germany with the Nazarene School and then moved to Italy, where he would live in Rome and paint the picture that would be his first major success, the monumental (18-foot) Cimabue's Madonna Carded in Procession through the Streets of Florence (a slight abbreviation of the full title), sold to Queen Victoria after being on show at the Royal Academy.

This success transformed the hereto unknown Leighton into the great hope of British painting and in 1857 he would move definitively to London, despite the relative weak showing at a subsequent RA exhibition. He quickly became a well known society figure and soon came to feel the need for a permanent base in London. In 1864 he would begin to build a home in Kensington, then a small village outside London, on land sold by the Holland Estate, and soon other artists built homes in the neighbourhood.

The house, purpose-built for painting and expanded by Leighton over the years, was to become the current Leighton House Museum, and from the beginning was to be a cultured setting for Leighton's life. The House is a wealth of fascinating detail, from the Studio, designed to facilitate Leighton's painting, to the Arab Hall, especially built as a showcase for his collections of Oriental tiles and objects d'art, through the yearly concert that became so well established that Burne-Jones was to remark that it was a way of

measuring time. More than Leighton's dwelling, the house was one of the major props of his artistic activities, also used as a venue for show Sundays, when it was opened to a restricted public to show the pictures that were to be sent to the Royal Academy, some of them being sold before leaving the house.

For a man whose profession was producing visual art and who lived in a house open to many people, Leighton is a rather enigmatic figure. His home contained a single bedroom, thus proscribing that favourite social Victorian activity, receiving longstaying house guests, and he was never married. He comes down to us as a rather remote figure, untouched by scandal but no feeling of warmth. Although he was familiar to many, he seems to have had few close friends (amongst them the painters Wafts and Millais and the Italian Giovanni Costa) and one of rare insights into his personality we have is his Pygmalion-ike relationship with the model Dorothy Deanne.

Frederic Leighton was to be ennobled for a record twenty-one days before he died and was buried, with Queen Victoria's permission, in St Paul's Cathedral - where his tomb can be seen today - after a procession from Burlington House through streets lined with people.

Through the efforts of his sisters and friends, Leighton House would become a museum, transferred in 1926 to the Royal Borough of Kensington. Twice bombed (in 1940 and 1944), the house was restored to usability in the 50s, but well below its former splendour. From the 80s onwards, the house has been restored to its original state using descriptions found in the press of Leighton's days, amongst other sources. It can be found at 12 Holland Park Road (just off Kensington High Street), and is open every day except Tuesdays, charging a concessionary entrance fee of £1.00.

Finance Advice

People aged over 55 are to have their own debt and consumer advice service run by Wandsworth Money Advice Service, as part of the Citizen Advice Bureau. The service runs on Friday from Age Concern Office in Southside, Wandsworth, with drop in session from 10am. to noon

Home visits and interview can be arranged by going to the Age Concern Office, or CAB reception desk at 215 Balham. High Road or by simply ringing the Money Advice Service on 0208 355 6651.



MEMBERS MEETINGS

All at Anchor Church Centre,
273 Garratt Lane, SW18. 2pm-4pm
Buses 44 and 270 pass the door

Tuesday 12 September

Denise Haugh

Volunteering in Retirement

Denise volunteered to teach Catering management and spent a year in Tanzania and one in Botswana. On returning she has been an advisor with BESO, now part of VSO

Tuesday 10 October

Sue Flint

Sustainable Living in Wandsworth

Sue has been working on her own home attempting to make it more energy efficient

Tuesday 14 November

Robert Fromow

Don Quixote and his Spain

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (except August)

Wheelchair Access, Loop System, Refreshments
All are welcome - bring a friend

If you want to join the Wandsworth Pensioners' Forum, please fill in the subscription form below and return with your payment to:

Membership Secretary, Wandsworth Pensioners' Forum
25 Linstead Way, London SW18 5QA

I wish to join the Wandsworth Pensioners' Forum.

Individual Membership £5 per year

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Telephone:

Organisation Membership £5 per year

Organisation Title

Contact name

Address

..... Postcode

Telephone:

Cheques payable to 'Wandsworth Pensioners' Forum'

NETWORK

Thursday 14 September 2pm.
at Anchor Church Centre
Network Steering Group will meet with
Refugee and Asylum Seekers Groups

There are older people among refugees and asylum seekers. They are a hard-to-reach group. The Older People's Network will be meeting representatives of some of the groups to identify particular problems and discuss possible solutions

Network Conference on Health

Thursday 28 September
1.30 - 4 at Anchor Church Centre

Alison Benincasa, PCT
Asst Director for Older People's Services
Elisabeth Davies,
St George's Patient Forum
Barbara Willerton Wandsworth PCT Patient Forum

**Anchor Church Centre
Friday Drop-in for
Older People**

**Coffee and chat
followed by lunch**

**Every Friday from
12 - 1.30pm
(except school holidays)**

**273 Garratt Lane
SW18
Cost £2.50**



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