



# NEWSLETTER

Editor: Doreen Brading  
Deputy Editor: Philomena Menton  
June 2007



Registered Charity No. 1096332

## Perhaps there really is a fairy godmother.?

### Wandsworth Museum update



Tony Tuck

**We reported earlier that Wandsworth Council were proposing to close the Wandsworth Museum. Petitions opposing closure attracted over 20,000 signatures.**

At the last minute there was the very good news that there has been a major breakthrough in the three-month-long campaign to save Wandsworth Museum. The Hintze Family Charitable Foundation has

offered £2.0m, spread over a five year period, to enable the Museum to be relocated from its present home in Garratt Lane to West Hill, alongside the De Morgan Centre, once West Hill Library is closed. This hugely generous offer by the Hintze Foundation has been made through a love for the Museum and comes with only very simple conditions.

The Council has been asked firstly to set up a charitable Trust to receive the money and manage the Museum and secondly to produce a 5-year business plan.

At a council committee meeting on the 30th of April the Council agreed to accept the offer in principle and asked the Director of Leisure and Amenities to prepare a detailed report for the June cycle of council meetings.

The Museum has won plaudits from every quarter and its most valuable assets are its staff. The Forum hopes that they will be valued properly in the uncertain months ahead

At a recent public meeting of the Forum, a show of hands revealed that over half of our pensioners present had visited the Museum in the past twelve months. It is a highly valued local service and the Forum has every hope that Wandsworth Council will now understand this and put every effort into sorting out the current confused muddle.

In particular it is hoped that the Council will take a long hard look at its proposals and will recognise that the former plans and timetable, which were predicated on the irreversible closure of the Museum, are no longer appropriate now that it is seeking to preserve it and its collection as an active, coherent organisation. There is an urgent need to revisit the timetable and the plans to close the Museum so that full account is taken of how its most important attributes might be best preserved. Failure to do so could seriously damage the value and the benefits of the very substantial help offered by the Hintze Foundation.

The golden opportunity to save the Museum offered by the Hintze Foundation requires an openminded, flexible, approach by all parties including the Council, which now has a central role in facilitating the establishment of the new museum.

## OUR 17th AGM IN BRIEF

**F**ollowing a short speech by the Mayor of Wandsworth, in which he stressed his concern for the safety and wellbeing of the borough's elderly population - he has visited all sheltered housing in Wandsworth - our Chair, Tony Tuck presented an overview of the progress since our 16th AGM.

He spoke on matters such as the grants we have obtained, the new offices we have got (finally), the development and assimilation of the Older People's Network and the advantages deriving from altering the Forum's name. His proposal to change the name to **WANDSWORTH OLDER PEOPLE'S FORUM** was submitted to the members and accepted by 37 votes in favour, with 6 votes against and a few abstentions.

Tony then presented the Treasurer's report for the period, which substantiated the Forum's very favourable financial situation, and concluded with the motion of reconfirming Margaret Penderson as independent Auditor, duly approved.

We then had the pleasure of hearing two of our favourite MPs, Justine Greening and Sadiq Khan, on their experiences of Members of Parliament. Justine talked about the learning curve of acquiring parliamentary procedures and lore, such as the role of the whips in shaping the flock of new MPs into functioning members of the House, and a maiden speech as a prerequisite to join in a debate - In her case, she gave her maiden speech after three weeks, and pointed out that the Speaker should always be addressed in Parliament. Also mentioned were the difficulties in adapting to some of the peculiar customs prevailing at Westminster - even offices and equipment are obtained in their own ways - and the need to get used to some seemingly strange customs.

Sadiq Khan begun by remembering and thanking his friends present in the audience, with whom he had served his political apprenticeship, and mentioned the Forum's achievements over the past year- His experience as a lawyer gave him a slightly different perspective with regard to his initial experiences as a MP, and the slightly different results of his maiden speech, which came to include a mention of his family in Hansard. His difficulties in obtaining office facilities mirrored Justines, plus those deriving from maintaining an office in constituency (Tooting).



Freddie Roth

# Pensioners meet Minister

About 50 pensioners attended a meeting arranged by Tooting MP Sadiq Khan at the much improved premises of the Furzedown Project on January 23rd to here a speech given by Mr John Hutton Minister for Works and Pensions.

He told us that in only 3 years since the war have pensions increased by more than the cost of living index. But he said, far from being a problem peculiar to the UK, most European Countries are now reviewing future pension provision because of the problems being caused by an ageing population and a diminishing work force which could not have been foreseen when the National Insurance scheme was introduced.

As an illustration of the problems ahead as a result of increasing longevity he said it is now accepted that the first British subject who will survive to the age of 150 has already been born,

Asked when something will be done about the „national joke“ of the 25p a week age allowance, not now enough to buy a postage stamp, he agreed that the amount has never been increased and a review is long overdue, a point which was forcibly made to him on his Mother's 80th birthday but, he said steps are being taken to alleviate the wrong including the additional £100 a year heating allowance paid to households including any person over 80, and he said pressure is being put on providers of utilities to reduce retail prices during 2007.

He also told us that contributions for pensions are NOT TAXED.

*Joe Moisey,*

## **DRAKE HOUSE CLUB**

**RUN BY The Wimblon Guild,  
30/32 Worple Road SW 19 4EF**

**Thursdays in Drake House,  
St George's Road  
2.00 - 3.30pm.**

**£2 entrance includes refreshments  
and raffle**

**For more information ring Derek or Nigel  
On 020 8946 0735**

# Climate Change Offer

## FREE Home insulation for people on benefits

Some information about a new home insulation scheme, delivered by a working partnership with British Gas.

It will give Londoners who are on benefits such as Pension Credit, Disability Living Allowance or Council Tax Benefit the opportunity to insulate their homes FREE of charge and save £200 or more each year in the process. Loft and cavity wall insulations can reduce the amount of heat lost through walls and lofts by up to 60 per cent, meaning cheaper fuel bills as well as helping to save over 7,000,000 tonnes of CO2

This initiative is part of London's Climate Change Action Plan - Action Today to Protect Tomorrow which outlines how Londoners can help save CO2 and fight climate change by making small changes in the way they live.

For more information about this campaign please contact Jayne Whitton Head of Marketing on 020 7983 4715.

## Just can't wait !!

**With public toilets closing in many of our towns and cities, it is becoming more difficult for older people to use the Loo when they need to.**

Charities InContact and RADAR have come up with an innovative solution. They've Launched the just Can't Wait Card, a small pass that shoppers with particular needs can show to use a store's Loo or to jump the toilet queue.

The scheme is part of the Healthy Bladder Campaign, organised by InContact, which says the card has been very successful since its Launch.

Businesses are not asked to alter their toilets in anyway but simply to permit a person in need to use them. High street stores including John Lewis and Boots have agreed to recognise the card.

InContact says it will contact any shops that refuse, when the card is shown.

Individuals can request the card from InContact on 0870 770 3246, or visit [www.incontact.org.uk](http://www.incontact.org.uk) ■



**Help the Aged**

# David Ward & Friends

Always welcome, David Ward gave a repeat performance at our members' meeting of 2 February, talking about five of his greatest friends, some of greatest of Western composers, and playing their music to accompany his talk. He started with Bach, said to be the greatest composer in Classical music, with an enormous musical output, as he had to write a piece lasting up to 45 minutes at least once a week for church services. Bach was an extremely religious man whom believed that all derived from God (Sole Die Gloia), even considering his non religious works in this fashion

The composer lived and worked in the Baroque period, and David played two pieces of Bach, an Allemande, a stately German dance, and a gigue, a lively piece, played crossing hands.

The second masterly friend of David was Haydn, called by some the „Father of the Modern Symphony“ and „Father of the String Quartet“. A very gentle man, a good friend of the younger Mozart, often humorous, known as Papa Haydn to musicians. Haydn could be quite mischievous, organising a musical party and then providing each player with a different score, resulting in a cacophony that could lead to people calling the police

David's third friend, Mozart, had a temperamental personality, given over to practical jokes, and was renowned for his keyboard skills, having played all over Europe while still a child. David played his Rondo alla Turca, a piece copied from Viennese street bands, from memory, giving a due about that main best friend is.

He then went on to Beethoven, the third in the great triad of the Classical period composers, an outstanding instance of the common idea people have of geniuses. He was an extrovert, dressed idiosyncratically, lived in squalid surroundings and frequently changed his address. Due to his outstanding genius, however people put up with his eccentric ways. David played the famous piece of music for solo piano, Fur Elise, an a piece from the sonata Pathetique.

The last of the five friends was Schubert, who lived in Vienna at the same time as Beethoven, but the pair never met. Although Schubert died very young, he wrote an amazing amount of music, including over 600 lieder - he was one of the first to write German songs. Shy, a retiring personality, he lived under the shadow of Beethoven, who remarked, upon being shown some of his lieder 'Surely there is a divine spark in this man'.

# WANDSWORTH CONTINENCE SERVICE USER GROUP

The user group is made up of both individual users and representative from support groups. The group plays an important role in the development of continence promotion services. Continence service is subjects relating to bowel and bladder dysfunction.

Please come and join us

We are a friendly support group. Come along and see what we are about if nothing you will get a cup of tea and biscuits. Anyone is welcome to join (male & female) young and old alike.

Group meets on Tuesday from 10.30am to 12.30pm six times a year.

Dates and place for 2007 are as follow

**Tuesday 12th June 2007**  
**10.30am to 12.30pm**  
**St Christopher Clinic**

**Tuesday 11th Sept 2007**  
**10.30am to 12.30pm**  
**St Christopher Clinic**

**Tuesday 27th Nov 2007**  
**10.30am to 12.30pm**  
**St Christopher Clinic**

**CONTACT:**  
**020 8785 7140**

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## Wandsworth Museum

The Courthouse, 11 Garratt Lane, SW18 4AQ  
Tel: 020 8871 7074

E-mail: [wandsworth\\_museum@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:wandsworth_museum@wandsworth.gov.uk) • Website: [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/museum](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/museum)

Open: Tuesday - Friday, 10-5 • Saturday - Sunday, 2-5

**Admission FREE**

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# PARLIAMENTARY CEREMONY TO HONOUR VETERANS

Although it was introduced by the Government in 2005, the first many of us had heard about the new Veterans Lapel Badge was when Sadiq Khan, the Tooting MP printed an invitation in his 'Totally Tooting' newsletter for veterans who had served in the armed forces during the second world war or until 1969 to send him details of their services so that he could forward the details to the Veterans Agency of Great Britain for their consideration.

We then received a letter in early February telling us of this Parliamentary ceremony, saying The event is to be held in the Palace of Westminster and will be attended by Derek Twigg MP Minister at Ministry of Defence who wishes personally to express his thanks for your service. The event is to be held in the Thatcher Room in Portcullis House. (opposite Big Ben on the waterfront by Westminster Bridge!)

This is a very large and impressive building next to Scotland Yard and the security is very strict, I think some of us were pleased to discover that the venue had been changed from the Thatcher room to the Boothroyd Room. This too was a very large chamber. At one end was a large circular table set out with 25 named places for participating veterans and the other half for their families. Of the 25 only one was female; Mrs Elizabeth Solly, well known to many of us for many years.

After an introduction by Sadiq Khan who said he felt privileged to be able to pay tribute to the veterans whose service had helped to secure our future freedom, he introduced the Rev. Hugh Grear, who, also spoke of the gratitude felt by so many for the sacrifices and dedication of the veterans.

The Minister then moved round the table and spoke a few words to each of the veterans. He presented each of them with the lapel badge and a letter which said „With the compliments of the Under Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans“. This HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge is presented to you in recognition of your service to your country. You may wish to wear it on suitable occasions when dressed in civilian attire.

There was a reunion of some of the veterans at the Territorial Army Centre in Tooting the following morning where the photograph was taken.

*Joe Moisey*



# Wandsworth Older Peoples' Forum



*Formerly Wandsworth Pensioners Forum*

## Committee 2007/8

Chairman - Tony Tuck  
Vice Chairman - Doreen Brading  
Hon. Secretary - Liliias Gillies

### Representatives of affiliated bodies

Battersea Assn of Retired People	Doreen Brading
Furzedown Project	Roland Kitching
Asian Womens Assn	Clare Kakembo
Elmwood Court	Carmen Angibault
Graveney Day Centre	Nathalie Gibson-Wilson
Tooting Methodist Sisterhood	Jean Richards

### Individual members

Lionel Davis, Cyril Marshall, Philomena Menton, Phyllis Murray, Edith Ezekial-Hart, Taj Qureshi, Wendy Saunders-Jacobs, Edna Gray.

Representing Putney/Roehampton Barbara Willerton

Membership Officer	Su Elliott
Press Officer	Freddy Roth
Hon Accountant	Bill Harper
Newsletter editor	Doreen Brading assisted by Philomena Menton, Freddie Roth

*Liliias Gillies, Hon Secretary*

March 2007

## ArriveAlive

Driving safely for longer

Tuesday 26th June at 2pm in  
Anchor Centre

This is a course offered by  
Driver Safety Agency and is  
being run jointly with  
Wandsworth U3A

**WANDSWORTH OLDER PEOPLES' FORUM**  
(formerly WANDSWORTH PENSIONERS' FORUM)

**Income & Expenditure (both unrestricted & restricted)**

	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2006/07
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
1. Members' subscriptions	578	718
2. Organisation's subscriptions	134	145
3. Donations	525	248
4. Income from AGM	138	-
5. Bank interest	551	610
Sub-total	1,926	1,721
6. Grant income	6,099	10,935
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,025</b>	<b>12,656</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
7. Meetings (rental)	461	421
8. Transport to members meetings	0	653
9. Newsletter (print)	0	1,212
10. Office expenses	173	
a) Stationery		34
b) Postage		210
11. Advertising & publicity	228	4
12. Network meetings & admin	-	1,279
13. Subscriptions	-	33
14. Miscellaneous	229	250
15. Audit	100	100
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>4,196</b>
<b>Income minus expenditure</b>	<b>6,834</b>	<b>8,460</b>
<b>RESERVES: Bank balance at 31/12/05</b>		<b>11,002</b>
Of which restricted elements comprise: -		
a) 'Development' Fund		2,000
b) Balance of Wandsworth South grant		811
<b>Total restricted</b>		<b>2,811</b>
<b>Total unrestricted reserve</b>		<b>8,191</b>

11<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Tony Tuck: Chairman



**Committee members: Cyril Marshall, Lional Davis, Phyllis Murray, Freddie Roth and Ted Larkin**

# Care Fee Costs

**Don't let care fee costs decimate cherished family assets**

**F**or self funded placement, the problems will manifest themselves in the manner of financing. With care home accommodation costs alone running up to £900 per week family assets and potential legacies can be wiped out in just a few years. Indeed it is an alarming fact that 70,000 homes are sold each year to pay for care yet only some 3,000 applications are made to insurers for care fee payment plans. Assuredly, wealth is now cascading down the generations!

Care Directions works with NHFA whose expert advice and guidance is available to all regardless of means. Thousands of families have been helped. So be prepared by reading the comprehensive NHFA article now at [www.caredirections.co.uk](http://www.caredirections.co.uk)

A definitive information resource.

Fortunately, there are many responsible ways that the better informed can preplan, both to realise the most suitable long term accommodation preferences for loved ones - and to mitigate potential financial heartaches. At may also surprise many „50 something“ children that a rush to a care home may not be the best option for their parents. Staying in one's own home with appropriate domiciliary care support is preferred and now indeed, most viable choice for well over 2 million people in the UK.

in all these matters empowering knowledge is king. That's why the definitive website, [www.caredirections.co.uk](http://www.caredirections.co.uk) is such a vital and immediate information resource for middle aged 'children' needing to come to terms with a parent's care requirement. This site is packed with essential, user-friendly information on issues such as choosing a care home, choosing a care agency, funding your choice, domiciliary care, sheltered housing, nutrition and hydration, financial planning, telecare, enduring power of attorney - and so very much more.

**AGE** Wandsworth  
*Concern*

*Nizam Chowdhury*

*Agency Information Services Co-ordinator*

*4 Arndale Walk, Southside,  
Wandsworth, London  
SW18 4BX*

**Tel:** 020 8870 2020 **Fax:** 020 8870 2123

**Email:** [nizamc@acwandsworth.org.uk](mailto:nizamc@acwandsworth.org.uk)

*Registered Charity No. 1069406*

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## Wanless Report

**D**erek Wanless, author of the **Wanless Report on Community Care**, writing in **The Guardian** on 25 April said:

'The Government cannot afford to ignore the urgent challenges of how we pay for, and provide, personal social care.

Little has changed, one year on from the publication of my review for King's Fund of social care for older people... except perhaps a greater awareness of the problem.

Budget increases have squeezed care services and people with moderate needs have suffered most. Those assessed as needing care and support are told only months later that help is withdrawn because eligibility criteria have changed.

Poor people with assets of less than £21,000 are left with £19.60 a week personal allowance after care costs.

The Audit and Healthcare Commissions and the Commission for Social Care Inspection found that there was a lack of respect and dignity in the way older patients were treated in hospital. They had their meals removed before they had time to eat them and many people were discharged with insufficient planning.

Changes in population over the next 20 years will demand significant increases in spending. Over that period the very old population will increase by two-thirds and levels of disability and need will rise sharply

Social care is a major challenge left, essentially, untouched by this government. The new leader must recognise that he will not be able to ignore it.'

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# New Shopping Bus for Wandsworth Community Transport

Thanks to generous funding from the City Bridge Trust, Wandsworth Community Transport is pleased to announce the arrival of its brand new Mercedes Sprinter Minibus.

It's a fantastic fully accessible vehicle", said Managing Director Manuel Button, "which will be used for taking our elderly and disabled people on regular shopping trips and on outings to the coast and other places of interest. Over 1000 Wandsworth residents use our services, and thanks to some additional funding from Social Services, we still have room for more! The service is door-to-door and if necessary, we can loan you a wheelchair or scooter and a volunteer to help you around the shops."

Regular passenger Mrs Bennett (pictured) was delighted to be one of the first to try the new vehicle (which cost over £50,000) and was impressed by the comfort and style. "The shopping shuttle is a great service!" she said "and I am really glad they have got this new minibus - they deserve all the success they can get!"

For further information and a membership pack, call Manuel on 020 8675 3812



## Age Concern Wandsworth **Active Days**

art•craft•photography•cooking•reading•dancing•games

do you want to stay active  
and healthy?

do you want to make  
new friends?

Join the Active Days Programme  
to receive information about  
interest groups near you

Call Careline to sign-up  
**020 8875 0500**  
[www.wow50plus.org.uk](http://www.wow50plus.org.uk)



## **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](http://www.careline.org.uk)

e-mail: [careline@clara.net](mailto:careline@clara.net)

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



**W**andsworth Care Alliance is alive and thriving with a new Director, Jason Edgington, and a new project worker, Susan Wheeler-Kiley, who is looking after groups for older people and for physically or sensorily disabled people. Susan came to Wandsworth Forum to tell members about her work.

The group for older people meets every two months and has meetings about housing, direct payments and with Technical Services about uneven pavements and rubbish. Wandsworth Council is seeking to recruit Community Partners who will, after some training, help maintain quality services by 'mystery shopping' at various services. Susan is assisting and will tell you about it at Wandsworth Care Alliance on **020 8682 3004**

**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**



*Obituary*

*Forum has learned  
of the death of Edna  
Gray (late April)*

*Edna was for many  
years a loyal committee  
member, she will be*

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

**Membership Secretary, Wandsworth Older Peoples' Forum  
WCEN inc. DRCA, Charlotte Despard Ave. London SW11 5HD**

I wish to join the Wandsworth Older Peoples' 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'*



**MEMBERS MEETINGS**

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

**Tuesday 12th June**

Polkington Centre for people with Visual Impairment and  
Help the Aged campaign on 'Just Equal Treatment'

**Tuesday 10th July**

Primary Care Centres for Battersea and Putney

**August**

No Meetings

**Tuesday 11th September**

Mrs Elizabeth Howlett GLA member

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

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

**Wandsworth Older  
People's Network**

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

**Tuesday 26th June**

Driving Safely for Longer  
This is being run jointly with U3A

**Tuesday 12th July**

All Wandsworth Community Groups  
for Older People are welcome



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