



Registered Charity No. 1096332

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Doreen Brading
Deputy Editor: Philomena Menton
June 2008



Report of the 18th AGM

held on 8 April 2008



Lillias Gillies

The Chair. Tony Tuck, welcomed all to the meeting. The Mayor, Cllr Stuart Thom, spoke about the important role of the Forum in collecting and passing on to authorities the views of older people. He spoke about the charities he was supporting in this year, the Salvation Army and Alzheimers' Society. The Salvation Army had taken up the work which William Wilberforce, resident of Wandsworth, had started on people trafficking. Alzheimer's Society played a very valuable role in supporting people with Alzheimer's Disease and their carers.

The Chair introduced the Annual Review, included in the recent Newsletter- It had been an extremely busy year and much time had been spent of the Council's intention to prepare and Older People's Strategy. It was good that the Council had acknowledged the Forum as the voice of older people in the Borough.

The Treasurer Freddy Roth, introduced the Financial Report and summary of accounts for the year. He said the reserves were sufficient to cover expenditure for 18 months should the Forum have to make new applications for funding which he felt was satisfactory. The accounts were agreed and would be examined by Margaret Henderson CA and this was agreed.

Election of Committee For Chair Tony Tuck was nominated, for Vice-Chair Barbara Willerton, for Hon Secretary Lillias Gillies and for Hon Treasurer Freddy Roth. There were no other nominations and these were agreed. The voluntary organisation nominations were read out and as there were no further nominations these were agreed. The ordinary members proposed were, Lionel Davis, Cyril Marshall, Phyllis Murray, Philomena Menton, Taj Qureshi and Edith Ezekiel-Hart. These were agreed. The Chair said as there were still vacancies any others could be coopted during the year.

After the business the MPs, Martin Linton, Justine Greening and Sidiq Khan, addressed the meeting and answered questions. Then Leonie Cooper, Shas Sheehan, Richard Tracy and Roy Vickery, candidates for the Merton & Wandsworth seat on the Greater London Authority spoke and answered questions.

Lillias Gillies Hon Secretary

WANDSWORTH OLDER PEOPLE'S NETWORK

A conference for all older people's groups will be held on

Thursday 5 June. at 1.30pm • Anchor Church Centre, 273 Garratt Lane SW 18
There will be a sandwich lunch from 1 pm

Older People's Vision for Wandsworth

1.30 Ian Reynolds, Chair of Wandsworth Primary Care Trust

2.30 Reaching Isolated Older People

Representatives of a number of organisations will talk about their priorities

What is your priority for action ?

Come and have a say.

Local Strategic Partnership

The Local Strategic Partnership is a meeting which brings together representatives of Council, Primary Healthcare Trust Police, Learning and Skills Council and town centre partnerships and voluntary groups. I represent older people on the LSP. The following is a report of the March meeting. Meetings are open to the public and the next meeting is on 4 June

1. WLSP Faith Sub-group

The Multi-Faith Group reported and members were available before the meeting showing photos and documents about their activities. The Group met 5 times in 2007 and discussed extended schools, community cohesion, a Faith Directory (which is on-line), South Thames College, Interpreting Service and Racial Incidents. The Group is chaired by Cllr E Lister. In October 2007 it held a Faith Direct meeting at which young people from local schools attended and visited tables hosted by a representative of a faith and were able to ask questions for 15 minutes after which they moved on to the next table and so on round the room. It was voted a very successful event by all participants and by the teachers who were impressed by the amount of understanding generated in their pupils.

2. Wandsworth Community Fund (Paper C, 081274)

This has been modelled on the "Community Chest" funds which have been available under Single Regeneration Funds but are no longer available in Wandsworth- The new fund is proposed to draw on funds from: four education-related funds, totaling £33,000, transferring other obsolete funds with a Wandsworth locus, as identified through the Boost Initiative (due to be launched shortly between the Community Foundation Network and the Charity Commission) and funds from Government funding directed at Community Foundations;

The advantage to small charities would be the reduced cost when sharing the administration of their funds. It is proposed to ask Thames Community Foundation to administer the Community Fund and admin costs have already been agreed at 6%.

3. Local Area Agreements (LAA)

Liz Rees, WLSP coordinator, presented a paper (paper D) which describes the LAA targets as at present proposed for 2008/9. The proposal is to have 24 to send to the Government Office for London. Some of the previous year's LAAs will continue, including one on number of volunteers committing at least two hours per week and another on increasing the number of individuals supported to claim a statutory benefit. The LAAs for 2006/7 attracted a larger amount of money with both pump-priming and achievement funds but in the coming year the rewards for achievement are lower and there is no pump-priming. I had suggested a 100% target for older people entitled to benefit being enabled to claim it. It was not included because it is covered by the previous year's LAA on benefit claims. The full list is available on the Council's website or from the Committee Clerk. The GOL approved list will be available at the LSP in June.

4. Sustainable Community Strategy

(a) Updated Strategy Consultation on this is planned from March to May. A final version will be submitted to the LSP in June and thereafter to WBC Committees. The main themes are as before with some additions. The LAAs are part of the process of implementing the Community Strategy along with regular plans published by WLSP partners. There are some new proposals:

- (i) % of the Borough having combined deposits of litter and detritus that fall below an acceptable level, measured by BVPI 199a;
- (ii) Number of vulnerable people supported to maintain independent living;
- (iii) Increased physical activity in people >50;
- (iv) Providing full range of housing options to meet the needs of older residents.

(b) Healthcare in North Battersea There was a presentation on the proposals for healthcare in North Battersea prepared after the earlier consultation. These proposals were out for consultation to 12 May

(c) Wandsworth's Economy There was a report on the economy of Wandsworth and the parts which need attention. Wandsworth contains several wards which are among the most deprived in the country, Latchmere and Roehampton, with 46% and 51% of children in households on benefit. On the other hand Northcote and Thamesfield have 5% and 6% of children in households on benefit and 67% of the economically active population are in managerial and executive positions and the Borough is ranked I& in the country in prosperity- There were presentations on each of the town centre and the Roehampton Partnerships.

5. Post Office Closures The Council presented its proposals on post office closures to ensure the widest response to the proposals. The Council has worked to support subpostmasters in the past rounds of closures, including offering loans and grants worth £50,000 in total for 63/65 Trinity Rd and 31a Danebury Ave and providing swipe cards to enable payment of home and daycare at all POs, and rent from 1 April at some offices. The Council will tell the Government there have been enough PO closures in Wandsworth.

Lilias Gillies

Wandle Valley Festival

Saturday and Sunday
7th and 8th June 2008

Leaflets available in Libraries

Extra Care at Chestnut House



Freddie Roth

In her talk at the members' meeting on March 11, Wendy Moreton, Senior Planning and Review Officer at Wandsworth's Adult Social Services, jointly with Brima Cuamsa, the principal social worker at the scheme, described the concept of

extra care housing being implemented at the new development at Chestnut House.

Chestnut House, the borough's first purpose-built extra care housing scheme, is being built by Richmond-upon-Thames Churches Housing Trust at Arabella Drive, Roehampton SW15 and is due to open in 2008. All of the scheme's 34 single-bedroom and seven two-bedroom flats will be wheelchair accessible, with fully fitted kitchens (including cooker, fridge/freezer, washing machine and microwave) and walk-in showers. A guest room will be available, bookable in advance for visits from family and friends.

The concept underpinning sheltered housing is to offer the privacy of the resident's own front door, with the added security of an alarm service and a warden providing help and support. It also offers the choice of sharing a wider social life through a range of social events.

Although anyone aged 55 or over and able to live reasonably independently can apply for sheltered housing in Wandsworth, extra care housing may be the answer if a bit more care and support is called for. Extra care housing is similar to sheltered housing, but with flexible, individually tailored packages of

care and support provided on-site 24 hours a day, including the use of modern technology. The rent is to be at social housing level, with a charge for items such as lift maintenance, gardening and the like, plus a fee for care services.

If you are 55 or over, live in Wandsworth and might be interested in renting one of the flats (either for yourself or for you and a partner/carer), register your interest now by contacting the Special Needs Lettings section at:

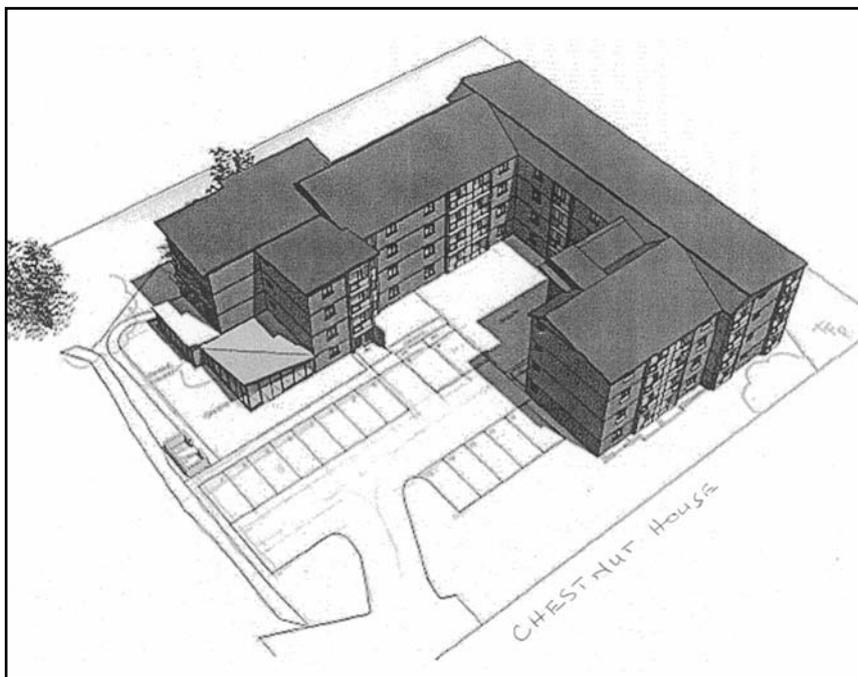
Tel: 020 8871 6808/6814

Minicom: 020 8871 7555

e-mail: housingapplications@wandsworth.gov.uk

POSTSCRIPT

Although the original requirement to qualify for extra care housing in Wandsworth called for eligibility for help from Adult Social Services - which would disqualify most house owners and people with savings of more than £55 thousand -



Wendy Moreton followed up issues raised at the meeting by e-mailing the Forum and informing us regarding a change to the eligibility around the Extra Care Scheme at Chestnut House. Richmond Churches Housing Trust, which will be the landlord for the scheme, has advised that the income and asset thresholds

identified by Wendy and Brima at the Forum meeting WILL NOT apply at Chestnut House, which means that owner-occupiers may be interested in the scheme.

Freddie Roth

At the 2008 AGM

After the Mayor of Wandsworth's, Cllr Stuart Thom, opening address and to conclusion of the business of our AGM, Chair Tony Tuck invited the local MPs and candidates for the Greater London Assembly to speak and answer questions from WOPF members

The initial addresses were given by our old friends Martin Linton, MP for Battersea, Sadiq Khan, MP for Tooting, and Justine Greening, MP for Putney, Roehampton and Southfields. They were followed by talks by the candidates for the London Assembly in the May 1st elections

It goes without saying that the AGM was running on a very tight timeframe and the time allocated to each speaker was very short and strictly controlled by the Chair, so it should be noted that the omission of issues by any of the speakers should not be construed as reflecting on their views on the subject.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



Martin Linton

Martin focused on matters of local interest he has defended in the House, such as keeping local shops open, Post Office closures, the 'new' Bolingbrooke and how it will be provided. He has also campaigned against more flights at Heathrow, and informed us on his intention to run the London Marathon.



Sadiq Khan

Sadiq talked about his first meeting with a Forum as a 23-year old councillor and the experience of his visit to Afghanistan and the positive affects from the UK presence and what they are developing them. He noted that the freedom and resources we are used to in the UK are highly prized in that country

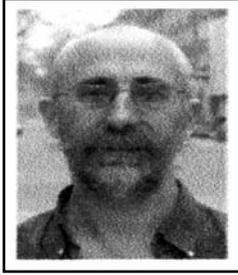


Justine Greening

Justine analysed the last twelve months since our 2007 AGM. She also discussed the campaign on Heathrow operations, important to avoid all-day flights, which would compromise the lifestyle of the borough's elderly residents, that Post Office closure is reaching a critical point, and the problem of dangerous dogs, and their owners should be entirely responsible for them

The major topic in the O&A session was Post Office closures, that must be stopped, with some time devoted to policing and health services.

GLA CANDIDATES



Roy Vickery - Green Party

Roy Vickery has lived in the constituency for over 30 years and has been a member of the Green Party for nearly 25 years. He discussed the Green Party's policies for older people and would like them to have more opportunities to work for the community and diminish generation-gap problems. Part of the Green measures for reducing pollution is the support of local shops, an issue that also affects older people's lifestyle.



Richard Tracey - Conservative Party

Previously an MP for 14 years, Richard was Environment Minister responsible at various times for Regeneration and Planning, Sport and Royal Parks and Palaces. He described the role of the GLA and the Conservative Manifesto on senior citizens' policies. His party has made a clear declaration to defend the Freedom Pass and intends to offer more safety in transport, as well as its intention to streamline local government to reduce costs.



Shas Sheenan - Liberal Democrat Party

councillor for Richmond, Shas has a Chemistry degree and a Masters in Environmental Technology from Imperial College. She pointed out the need for improvements on bus hydraulics, which currently are too sensitive and endanger people. The Freedom Pass should offer more flexibility, such as transport vouchers, and mentioned that pavements should be improved, as 25% of the country's pavements are unserviceable. Her party opposes Post Office closures, as they play a role as community supports.



Leonie Cooper - Labour Party

Leonie Cooper has lived in the borough for twenty years and represents Latchmere Ward on the Council, and is housing spokesperson. She believes that the Freedom Pass should be extended to 24 hours to cover eventual critical requirements. On the issue of schoolchildren behaving badly on buses she believes they should be more closely controlled by issuing children of up to 16 with cards, and serious misbehaviour should result in losing their privilege.

In the Q&A session, major focus was on affordable housing, buses, toilets (of special interest was Richmonds LibDern policy on making toilets available in supermarkets and other commercial premises and paying towards their cleaning) and the working conditions (hours and payment) of GLA members. Concluding, each candidate had sixty seconds to sum up their qualifications and the proposals to be adopted as GLA members

MINI BUS HIRE

Wandsworth. Community Transport have a pool of about 30 paid drivers that drive our mini buses, and who are available to drive minibuses operated by our member groups.

Our normal charge is £12.50 per hour with a 3 hour minimum. Our drivers are Police Checked, have excellent local knowledge, full Accessible MiDAS Training.

If you wish to find out more call Manuel Buttonon 020 8675 7460

Health Care in Battersea

Draft

Response on Consultation on Health care in North Battersea (Mar 2008) (following on from the pre-consultation in 2007)

Wandsworth Older People's Forum prefers the federal model which would maintain GP practices across the area which suits older people better with one more comprehensive Primary Care Centre/Polyclinic which would have some GPs and other services.

The development of a Primary Care Centre would be best at Grant Road which has excellent transport links by bus and train. Services could comprise several GPs with nurses, phlebotomy and some other services which would avoid long journeys to hospital for tests. It should also include a walk-in centre. The additional services would be available to patients of practices other than the ones in the new centre. The advantages of Grant Rd would be that it is likely to be more accessible to the working people who might be using Clapham Junction Station. There may be some disadvantage that it could attract more than those who live in the local area which may require managing.

The Forum accepts the proposals for the Bolingbroke services, ie moving podiatry, physiotherapy, Harmoni out-of-hours GP service, geriatric Outpatients and elderly day hospital to St John's. We have had reports of difficulties for disabled people accessing St John's, both for suitable parking and for manoeuvrability inside the building. We trust these difficulties can be addressed in the work to be done before the move.

Bolingbroke is a much loved hospital but we accept that its present form does not fit in with modern healthcare practice. We advocate the use of some of the site to house a modern GP practice centre which could house the local practices whose premises need development.

If the remainder of the Bolingbroke site is to be used for housing, the frontage could be used and flats developed behind.

Lillas Gillies

Committee 2008/9

CHAIRMAN	Tony Tuck
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Barbara Willerton
HON SECRETARY	Lillas Gillies
HON TREASURER	Frederick Roth



REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANISATIONS:

BATTERSEA ORG FOR RETIRED PEOPLE - Doreen Brading

FURZEDOWN PROJECT - (Vacant)

GRAVENEY DAY CENTRE - Nathalie Gibson-Wilson

ASIAN WOMEN'S ASSN - Clare Kakembo

TOOTING METHODIST SISTERHOOD - Jean Richards

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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

REPRESENTING PUTNEY & ROEHAMPTON - Elaine Brumstead

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER - Su Elliott

PRESS OFFICER - Freddie Roth

ENTERTAINMENT ORGANISER - (Vacant)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Doreen Brading assisted by Philomena Menton, Freddie Roth.

Lillas Gillies - Hon Secretary

Fourth National Falls Awareness Day to be held in June

Help the Aged is holding its fourth annual National Falls Awareness Day (NFAD) on the 24 June 2008. The event will promote the message to older people and those working with them that falls are not an inevitable part of ageing and the likelihood of falling can be reduced.

This year's theme is 'Stepping Out' and is concerned with how older people use the environment around them. This includes being aware of the opportunities to exercise in their immediate environment, as well as the hazards that may prevent us from being independent and mobile, in later life.

The day engages anyone working with or for older people, such as health professionals, care home staff, older people's forums and sheltered housing scheme wardens, who would like to promote falls prevention messages to other older people by holding an event or activity. This could be a falls prevention exercise class, a campaign on dangerous pavements, medicine checks or a stall in the local high street.

Falls represent the most serious type of accident for the over-65s in the UK, with one older person dying every five hours as a result of a fall. Yet falls are not an inevitable part of ageing and steps can be taken to reduce the likelihood of a fall.

The Charity has produced an action pack for anyone interested in taking part, which can be ordered by emailing falls@helptheaged.org.uk or downloaded from the new website at www.helptheaged.org.uk/fallsday.

Cheryl Blake

Free Choice

From 1 April 2008, patients in Wandsworth who are referred to hospital by their GP will be able to choose to go anywhere in England for their treatment.

As well as having more hospitals to choose from, making an informed choice has been made easier for patients as they can access clear, accurate and independent information from a number of sources. Patients can now

- Ask their GP who will guide them, or one of the practice staff at their local GP surgery to help provide them with information about the options available locally or elsewhere in England
- Compare information about hospitals on the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk
- Call the choose and book appointment line on 08456 088 888 and speak to an advisor who will be able to talk them through the options available to them as well as book the appointment for them
- Visit their local library which will have information. Some libraries will also have staff that have been trained to help people access the information they need.

Previously patients have been able to choose from their local hospitals but now this opportunity has been extended so they can choose to go to any hospital in England that is funded by the NHS, including many independent private hospitals. This greater choice means that patients can choose to be seen at a hospital that suits them and their personal circumstances - giving them greater convenience and peace of mind.

The increased choice is great news for patients in Wandsworth. Being referred to hospital can be a worrying time for all sorts of reasons. Being able to address some of their personal concerns or circumstances by giving them choice can only be beneficial. Of course many patients will still want their GP to choose for them and that won't change. GPs will be able to access all the information available to do that.

To find out more about free choice visit the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk

NHS CALL 24 HOURS ON
0 8 4 5
Direct 4 6 4 7

NHS Direct is a 24 hour nurse-led helpline providing confidential health advice and information. It is staffed by qualified nurses and health information advisors. Calls are charged at local rate and for patients' safety, all calls are recorded.

NHS Direct is also available on the internet, providing healthcare information and advice at - www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

New Cafe in Roehampton

Following on from the success of the Poppy Cafe in Balham, which has been running for five years now, a new cafe for people with dementia called the Sunflower cafe, has opened in Roehampton. This will be convenient for people living on the west side of the borough.



The new cafe is funded by Wandsworth Health Improvement Partnership and will be run by the South-west London branch of the Alzheimer's Society, Wandsworth Carers' Centre, Age Concern Wandsworth, Wandsworth Crossroads and the Furzedown Project. It will follow similar principles to the Poppy Cafe, providing a welcoming environment for people with dementia and carers or friends to spend an afternoon having lunch and chatting, with support workers on hand for advice or information

The cafe will be held initially on a monthly basis, usually on the first Saturday of the month, at Minstead Gardens Senior Citizens' Club. The venue is well served by bus numbers 170 and 430- Future cafe dates are May 31st, July 5th, August 27th September 6th.

If you are interested in coming along to the cafe or volunteering, please contact the Cafe Co-ordinator on 020 8877 0282 or 020 8877 0033. Transport can be provided.

CAN'T WAIT !!

With public toilets now closed 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 RADA have come up with an innovative solution. 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.

Businesses are not asked to alter their toilets in anyway but simply to permit a person in need to use them

Individuals can request the card from InContact on 0870 770 3246 or visit www.incontact.org.uk



Help the Aged



**WANDSWORTH
INTERPRETING
SERVICE**

*Bedford House, 215 Balham High Road, SW17 7BQ
Tel: 020 8672 8672 1043 / 3649
Email: wis@wandsworth.gov.uk*



MEMBERS MEETINGS

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

Tuesday 13th May

Chief Inspector Clive Sutton, Deputy to the
Borough Commander

Tuesday 19th June

Judy McKnight - Probation Service

Tuesday 8th July

Pendrels Direct Payment

Tuesday 9th September

Sue Roscoe Watts
Chair Wandsworth Town Centre Partnership

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 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 Older Peoples 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

Find a Dentist/Doctor

1. Find a Dentist 020 8335 1339

For out of hours emergency dental service contact HARMONI 0845 602 6292

2. Find a Doctor 020 8335 1330

Please note more information on direct links WPCT website - Home Page

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



NEWSLETTER

Editorial Team

Editor: Doreen Brading
email: doreen.brading@tesco.net Tel: 020 7223 9728
Deputy Editor: Philomena Menton
Press Officer: Freddie Roth
www.wandpensforum.org.uk

Correspondence to Hon Secretary

Lilias Gillies, 6 Fircroft Rd, London SW17 7PS
Tel 020 8672 5592 (and FAX)
e-mail lilias.gillies@btinternet.com