

Wandsworth

**Older People's
Forum**



Registered Charity No. 1096332

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Doreen Brading
Deputy Editor: Philomena Menton
September 2008

FREE

16th National Pensioners Parliament Winter Gardens, Blackpool

On the 3rd of June, more than 2000 pensioners marched from the sea front to Blackpool's Writer Gardens for the opening of the sixteenth annual Pensioners Parliament. Frank Cooper welcomed them and asked Mary Smith, Mayor of Blackpool, to address the gathering and declare the Conference open. After the Mayors address, the Treasurer of the National Pensioners Convention, our own Cyrill Marshall, thanked her and presented a cheque as token appreciation.

To mark the centenary of the first state pension, the opening session was given over to paying tribute to the original pension pioneers and reaffirming the need to continue the campaign for today's pensioners. Bloomsbury Voices, a theatrical group dressed in Victorian costume, described how life was like for elderly in the early 1900's and explained how the struggle for the first state pension (5 shillings at 70) was only obtained after a ten year campaign led by the trade union movement of the day.

Frances O'Grady, the TUC's Deputy General Secretary spoke in the following terms, "It seems to me that the least you deserve in return for a lifetime of work and contributions to society is decency and dignity and security in retirement. Don't let anybody tell us that in this ageing society this is somehow a luxury that our economy can't afford."

As with the campaign a hundred years ago, the Liberal Democrats have added their support to the demand for a decent state pension. Their spokesperson, Danny Alexander MP: "We have a pension system designed to the detriment of women, a system that is disgraceful and discriminatory as it was all those years ago and whilst the government has introduced some welcome reforms, any reforms that retain such an inequitable system and continue to disadvantage far too many female pensioners cannot be considered a success."

The MP for Vauxhall, Kate Hoey, drew warm applause from the delegates when she explained the need to improve the state pension now, rather than in 2012: "I think the lessons for today can be learned from those lessons of hundred years ago. They probably felt the same anger and the same cynicism and same frustrations we are doing today and that's because we can't get what we want. For instance, the link with earnings - we have to campaign."

In closing the opening session, NPC general secretary Joe Harris characterised as a myth that the country could not afford to improve the state pension

During the second day, delegates discussed six separate health issues, including social and residential care, hospital care, mental health care, primary care and the role of carers. There were also expert guest speakers on hand to outline and debate some of the issues, from a range of organisations including the RCN, Commission for Social Care Inspection, Carers UK, Alzheimer's Society, Age Concern, Help the Aged and Keep Our NHS Public, It was noted by those attending from outside that the level of debate and contributions from the floor were very well informed.

On the last morning, sessions were held to discuss the latest campaigns on post offices, concessionary travel, council tax and age discrimination, with speakers from the CWU, Local Government Association and Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Delegates then returned to the Empress Ballroom to hear reports from five regional parliaments held earlier in the year and a keynote speech from the NPC's patron, Professor Alan Walker from Sheffield University.



The March from the Sea

Policing in the Borough

Last May 13, WOPF had the pleasure to receive a visit from the police, in the persons of PCs John Fogg and Maxine McMurdie, talking to the members on crime and prevention in Wandsworth.

The latest overall crime figures in the borough show a drop of 5.5%, knife crime being the main issue at the moment, usually occurring among undereighteen teenagers- As a preventive strategy, the police are engaging them in order to divert their attention to sport getting into schools and trying to talk to each class- Further attention is directed to bad behaviour on busses, and politeness is being encouraged (such as giving up seats to older people). Nevertheless, it goes without saying that mainstream crime has never stopped being focussed, and figures show that society is safer today than a year ago.

How can ordinary citizens help in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour? In the first place, they should be more informative, alerting the police regarding suspicious circumstances.

Officer Fogg has been a policeman for twenty years, the first ten years in Lambeth then transferring to Wandsworth, where he has spent six years in Earlsfield alone and he provided a view of policing from the grassroots. One serious problem he mentioned that we should not be indifferent to is the problem with pickpockets, mainly operating around Tooting and Clapham Junction. Preventive measures should be adopted with regard to handbags and personal property and people should stay in well-lit areas. A highly effective deterrent to this sort of crime has been CCTV coverage.

Asked about cycling on the pavement always a major concern to the elderly, Officer Fogg mentioned the issue of penalty notices, restricted to over eighteens, at an estimated rate of 10/week, but remarked that the matter is not as simple as it may seem: many people from abroad (South Africans, Australians, etc) do not realise that pavement cycling is illegal and the police do not penalise them, preferring to explain the rules - an approach that works well.

Officer McMurdie is about to transfer to school related activities. She mentioned the several methods of reducing disturbance by school children that are currently being studied, such as special busses and passes- She concluded the presentation by describing and showing personal issue standard police equipment: baton, citric acid spray (a short-lived deterrent which affects the eyes), handcuffs, flack jacket (of mandatory use in Wandsworth) and radio, an essential item for an officer's safety.

Victim Support and FLASH

On July 8th, Marian Kleist of Victim Support described to our member the purpose of her organisation and how it could help in making peoples' lives safer. Victim Support is a charity for people affected by crime, now moving into becoming an independent national organisation. Staff and volunteers offer free and confidential information, practical help and emotional support for victims of any crime, whether or not it has been reported and regardless of when it happened. The organisation operates via a network of affiliated local charities.

People react to crime in many ways. Although most victims don't suffer long-term harm, both children and adults can be seriously affected. Victim Support provides information, practical help and emotional support to those who have experienced crime, their friends and families. R is independent of the police and other justice agencies, offering a free and confidential service.

Victim support runs a variety of services to help reduce crime and personal risk. Some schemes, such as FLASH (Fire, Locks and Safer Homes), can offer lock-fitting services and smoke alarm fitting, as well as checking your home free of charge to make it safer and providing advice on personal safety. In Wandsworth, for free lock and smoke alarm fitting, plus advice on home security and improvements, please contacted FLASH at 020 7223 1234 or flash@vswandsworth.org.uk.



Usual line up at Anchor Church

The Probation Service

At our June 10th member's meeting, Judy McKnight, the former General Secretary of NAPO (the bade union for probation officers) told us about the difficult and challenging job of probation officers. Last year, the UK's probation services celebrated a century and is considered a world benchmark and used as a model for developing such services in many countries (e.g., Estonia).

Crime is a complex issue and it demands comprehensive and complex solutions and the Probation Service is a major component in reducing it. Its staff and their colleagues in other organisations who support their work are committed to minimising the impact of crime on communities and especially on victims who have been touched by serious violent or sexually violent crimes. They are actively committed to rehabilitate offenders given community sentences and those released from prison; to enforce the conditions of their court orders and release licences and to take whatever steps in their power to protect the public. At the end of 2006, the services caseload was 237,270 individuals under supervision for offenses such as dangerous driving, burglary, theft, etc.

The NPS works closely with other criminal justice agencies, including the police and prisons. For the most dangerous offenders, including sexual and violent offenders, these three agencies are required by law to work together to manage their supervision in the community- Probation staff based in prisons assist with sentence planning and liaise with the NPS in the area into which the prisoner will be released. Prisoners sentenced to a year or more are supervised by the service on licensed release and must stick to certain conditions as pad of their license. Otherwise they may be recalled to prism.

Furthermore, probation staff working with the victims of violent or sexual crime where the offender has been sentenced to a year or more in prison. They keep the victim informed about the progress of the sentence and may consult the victim about conditions of release

To protect the public from offenders who pose a significant risk of harm to others, approved premises are used, in which the majority of bed

spaces are occupied by offenders released from custody, some of whom have been convicted of very serious offenses- The enhanced supervision typically includes security measures such as CCTV and alarm systems, a standard curfew from 11pm-6am and a core regime which addresses offending behaviour.

The probation service had its roots in the common law practice of releasing offenders on condition that they kept the peace and would come for judgement if called. During the late nineteenth century voluntary societies, led by the Church of England Temperance Society, appointed missionaries to the London Police Courts. Their initial function to reclaim drunkards was later extended to other offenders. From this developed the system of releasing offenders on the condition that they kept in touch with the missionary and accepted guidance.

In 1907, supervision was given a statutory basis which allowed courts to appoint and employ probation officers. Probation officers were then formally empowered to work with offenders and to advise, assist and befriend offenders placed under supervision by the courts. Major developments followed including the beginning of work with prisoners before and after release, civil court work and reparation in the form of community service.

In the 1970s and 1980s partnerships with other agencies resulted in cautioning schemes, alternatives to custody. and crime reduction while changes in sentencing resulted in day centres, special programme conditions, the probation order as a sentence and risk of custody and risk of reconviction assessment tools. The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 re-named the probation service as The National Probation Service for England and Wales and carried out several core modifications.

Judy concluded her presentation with a brief history of the Service and stressed the fact the majority of offenders have three basic problems: a low level of literacy, alcoholism and drug addiction and no proper access to employment. She also pointed out the low reconviction rate among people handled by the Probation Service.

Penderels Direct Payment

Yvonne Beadle of the Penderels Trust explained to the July 8th WOPF members' meeting the aims and range of services of her organisation. The Trust is a registered charity and a limited company, originally set up in 1988 to assist people in Coventry with physical disabilities to lead more independent lives.

Over time, the range of services offered has increased and enabled the Trust to tailor services according to the changing needs of its users and in addition to people with physical disabilities. it currently offers services; to:

- People with physical disabilities
- People who have sensory impairment
- People with learning difficulties
- People affected by HIV/AIDS
- Children and young people with disabilities
- Users of mental health services
- Older people
- Carers

The Trust's mission is to enable anyone who requires personal care in order to live independently to achieve their goal, assisting service-users with all aspects of independent living. This includes preparation for an assessment, providing annual cost of care, accessing funding sources, assisting people to recruit and train their own staff and liaising with other services and professionals.

Penderels Trust also advises and supports a variety of other professionals to ensure they have the necessary skills and information to advise people on developing their own independent living skills. It also offers financial and administrative advice related to the running of independent living schemes, including an administration service of local authority monies and a computerised PAYE service.

In November 2006, Penderels Trust became responsible for supporting people who are using or wish to use Wandsworth Social Services Direct Payments Scheme. To this end, Penderels Trust provides a service comprising of three main components, Information Advice & Support, Payroll/Finance Service and Training.

Wandsworth Direct Payment Service users do not have to pay for information, advice, support or training. Recruitment is charged on a cost-only basis (advert, postage, etc) and is covered by the Direct Payment. A small administration charge is made to cover costs if service users wish Penderels Trust to manage their payroll. In these cases, funding to meet the payroll charge will be included in the Direct Payment.

Penderels Trust
Earlsfield Business Centre, 9 Lydden Road,
London, SW18 4LT
Phone: 020 30319155 Fax: 0870 863 2586
e-mail: wandsworth@penderelstrust.org
Website: www.penderelstrust.org.uk

NEW ADVICE SERVICE and SUPPORT SERVICE

AGE
Concern

Wandsworth

We are delighted to announce that our Advice and Support service at 549 Old York Road will open for one day a week. The service will be available on Tuesday each week and you will need to book an appointment in advance. We will offer advice and support on the following areas: housing, health, and social care consumer issues, travel, money and benefits.

We will continue to run our Information and Signposting Service from Monday to Tuesday 10am to 4pm on a drop in basis. On Thursday we will continue to hold a pension service advice session.

AGE CONCERN WANDSWORTH 020 8877 8940

Help at Home

Age Concern Wandsworth offers a help at home service for the over 60's . We carry out minor repairs around the house and basic gardening work.

We aim to ensure that you remain safe and secure within your own home and carry out repairs to prevent falls. We charge £10 per hour for this service plus the cost of materials. We also offer a free home safety assessment and free fitting of a smoke detector where necessary. Phone Norma Spence on 020 8877 8949

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

JOHNSON - OLD AGE IS THE NEW MIDDLE AGE

A new approach to old age - greater power for older people to live healthier more independent lives

HHealth Secretary Alan Johnson today called **H**on the NHS to rise to the challenge of providing more and better preventative care for older people.

Outlining a package of measures to empower older people to live longer, healthier and more independent lives, Mr Johnson said local health and social care providers needed to work more closely to build on services already provided and ensure people know to what they are entitled.

The Health Secretary acknowledged the provision of health and social care services for older people was patchy with some areas already ahead of the game while others had a long way to go.

Mr Johnson said:

"People are living longer and that is to be celebrated. But I want to ensure, where possible, those extra years are quality years where people have and are aware of basic entitlements to help them lead healthy, independent lives. Our aim must be to make quality of life stretch right to the end of life.

Many of those entitlements already exist, but people may not be aware of them. In other areas, there is more work to be done. Over the coming months, I will be talking to local health and care providers about ways to provide more and better preventative care for older people.

We are not starting from a low base. Much has already been done. But I want today's announcement to be the first step on the next stage of our journey towards better, more personalised care. We want to ensure that older people see their local services improve, and that it becomes easier for them to access and use these services.

Improving services for older people should be a priority for the NHS."

Along with the new measures announced above, the prevention package will bring together a set of the existing core prevention services for older people - including flu vaccination, cancer screening, eye checks and integrated care planning - and services that are currently being rolled out, such as vascular checks, AAA screening and MidLife LifeChecks.

Telecare

The continuous, automatic and remote monitoring of real-time emergencies and lifestyle changes over time in order to manage the risks associated with independent living. Examples of sensors include bed/chair occupancy sensors, falls monitors, door exit alarms, medication dispensers, automatic lights and smoke/flood detectors.

Telehealth

The delivery of healthcare at a distance using electronic means of communication - usually from service user to clinician e.g. a service user measuring their vital signs at home and this data being transmitted via a telehealth monitor to a clinician. Typical peripherals might include a blood pressure cuff, scales, and a pulseoximeter.

Podiatry

NHS podiatry services are provided free of charge on the basis of assessed clinical need, regardless of the patient's age. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders including practice based commissioners, local government and the public to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of podiatry services

The number of chiropodists/podiatrists in the NHS in England has increased by 513 (15.6%) since 1997 to 3,799 in 2007

The numbers of chiropodists/podiatrists in training has increased by 37 (9%) since 1998-99, when training figures on this staff group were first collected

Audiology

In 2005 milestones were set to reduce waits for audiology assessments to a maximum of 13 weeks (by March 2007) and to 6 weeks (by March 2008).

Data for March 08 show that the vast majority of patients receive their audiology assessment within six weeks. In the two years since we started collecting this data, there has been a 97% reduction in the number of patients waiting longer than six weeks.



WANDSWORTH INTERPRETING SERVICE

Bedford House, 215 Balham High Road, SW17 7BQ

Tel: 020 8672 1043 / 3649

Email: wis@wandsworth.gov.uk

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**

**AGE
Concern**
Wandsworth



**Battersea Labour Club
& Institute Ltd.**

81 Falcon Road, Battersea SW 11 2PF

**Thursday afternoon Bingo
Starts at 2pm
All Welcome
Entrance 20p**

**Snowball prize
played weekly**

**Enquiries to The Secretary,
on 0207 223 3805**

Why Do We Say That?

The English language has many phrases in daily usage the origins of which have been lost in the mists of time. Many coming from our seafaring tradition.

WALLOP

After the French fleet had raised and burnt the town of Brighton on the Sussex coast in the reign of Henry VIII, Sir John Wallop was ordered by the king to carry out a reprisal raid. Sir John sailed with his fleet to Normandy where he burnt twenty one towns and villages and demolished several harbours. Ever since the name has been synonymous with a good beating or good hiding.

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

My Favourite Things

To commemorate her birthday, actress/vocalist Julie Andrews, made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. One of the musical numbers she performed was 'My Favourite Things' from the legendary movie "Sound Of Music". Here are the lyrics she used (Sing it!) - If you sing it, its especially hysterical !!!

*Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and row dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favourite things.*

*Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favourite things.*

*When the pipes leak, when the bones creak, when
the knees go bad,
I simply remember my Favourite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.*

*Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they
bring,
These are a few of my favourite things.*

*Back pain, confused brains and no need for
sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favourite things.*

*When the joints ache, when the hips break, when
the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had, And then I
don't feel so bad.*

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Garden Party

Peabody Trust, St. Johns' Hill, held their annual Garden Fete in July. Entertainment was provided by the Kausary Peruvian Band, the St. Johns' Hill Line Dancers and Jef Sutherland, Tai Chi Master.

The young people from Deloitte were again on hand to serve an excellent cream tea and generally help out. WOPF members who attended not only enjoyed the afternoon, but also won several raffle prizes!



OVER 50 AND ACTIVE?

WHY NOT TRY LINE DANCING?

**LINE DANCE CLASSES ARE HELD BY AN
EXPERIENCED TEACHER AT
PEABODY ESTATE
ST JOHNS HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**WEDNESDAYS 10.00 - 11.00 A.M. EASY
INTERMEDIATE CLASS**

**THURSDAYS FROM 10.30 - 11.30 A.M.
BEGINNERS CLASS**

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



MEMBERS MEETINGS

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

Tuesday 14th October

Disability & Advice Service
Wandsworth Trading Standards

Tuesday 11th November

Good Companions - Live-in Carers
Battersea Dogs Home

Tuesday 9th December

To be confirmed

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

WANDSWORTH OLDER PEOPLES NETWORK

Steering Group Meeting
Will be Thursday 11th September 2pm

Anchor Church Centre Garratt Lane

Discussions on Older Peoples Strategy
And Action Plans produced by the Council
(WBC Paper 08-580)



NEWSLETTER

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