



# NEWSLETTER

Editor: Doreen Brading  
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June 2011



Registered Charity No. 1096322

## Forum AGM



Liliias Gillies

**At the AGM of Wandsworth Older People's Forum in April the Mayor Cllr Piers McAusland congratulated the Forum on a successful year representing older people's views to the authorities. The Forum's meetings throughout the year had discussed a number of important topics, personal budgets, day services, advocacy, the changes to the NHS and cuts to libraries. At the AGM speakers made the case for and against Alternative Vote on which the referendum was to be held in May. A vote was taken after the debate and a greater number were going to vote "No" but a large number were still undecided. The result of the referendum will be known by the time you read this and we shall see.**

The Forum, in 2010, had a small grant for outreach to small groups of older people helping them to constitute themselves and apply for grants. Twelve groups had been successful in gaining funds to assist their activities. The Forum has been successful in gaining further funding from Comic Relief to continue this work over the next three years and Mac Downes spoke about the work already done and where he would be working in the future helping groups to run local activities and to join in the Forum's voice for older people.

### **The following were appointed to the Committee for 2011-12:**

Chair Tony Tuck,  
ViceChair, Barbara Willerton,  
Hon Secretary Liliias Gillies  
Hon Treasurer Freddy Roth.

### **Voluntary organisation nominations:**

Age Activity Centre - Mabel Headley/Gloria Millington  
Asian Women's Assn - Clare Kakembo

Battersea Org for Retired People - Doreen Brading  
Furzedown Project - Jenny Weinstein  
Graveney Day Centre - Nathalie Gibson-Wilson

There were two vacancies.

Ordinary members:- Elaine Brumstead, Lionel Davis, Glenda Forde, Giovanna Iukkumberi, Cyril Marshall, Philomena Menton, Taj Qureshi.

Phylis Murray who had served on the Committee for many years had retired and was thanked.

**Any other business** The Chair invited Mac Downes to describe the work he was doing in reaching out to small groups of older people in the Borough. Mac said he had been working with small groups in sheltered housing, helping them to organise themselves and run activities to help combat loneliness among the residents. In the pilot project last year. He had enabled 12 groups to raise funds, totalling £30,000, to spend on activities and equipment. A grant had been obtained from Comic Relief to continue this work over the next three years. He would be working with groups in the sheltered housing run by Housing Associations and on residents groups in Council estates. Work included the development of a calendar for 2012 with photos around Roehampton, continued support for Putney Vale and Doddington residents and a "Holiday cruise at home" with Balham churches.

The meeting closed at 2.40pm.

After the business of the AGM Richard Davis on behalf of the Yes campaign and Cllr Leonie Cooper on behalf of the No campaign in the Alternative Vote referendum on 5 May spoke and answered questions. A vote was taken of how members thought they would vote with 6 for Yes, 16 for No and 13 undecided. The speakers were thanked and the proceedings ended with tea at 3.40pm

Liliias Gillies Hon Secretary  
13 April 2011

# Magistrates...

**Kit Burdess is a magistrate at Lavender Hill Court, serving in cases for adults and juveniles. He came to the March meeting of the Forum to talk about working as a magistrate. The Courts are so-called as they inherit dispensing of Justice from the mediaeval King at his court. Justices of the Peace were first appointed in 1361. In 1828 it was opened to people who were not landowners and in 1906 open also to women who now make up 56% of the magistracy.**

All criminal cases go first to the Magistrates Court and 95% are fully dealt with there. For the others which will go to the Crown Court the magistrates have to decide whether the person accused is safe to be allowed to be in the community and also to decide on the amount of bail. Lay magistrates sit in a bench of three. They are “lay” in the sense that they are not qualified lawyers. They are there to offer judgement and have a legal officer to advise.

Cases such as careless driving, shop-lifting and assault are dealt fully in the Magistrates Court. Murder and rape must go to Crown Court. There are cases in between where the accused has the right to have a trial at the County Court and may choose that as s/he thinks they will have a more sympathetic hearing by a jury. The outcome depends on the accused’s plea. If they plead guilty they will be sentenced. If they plead not guilty a trial will follow.

There is a tariff for the magistrates to follow in sentencing; the more serious the offence is considered the greater the sentence. The more serious are a vulnerable victim, using a weapon, group action, racially aggravated offences and breach of trust. The less serious would be where there was no damage or injury, of low value or an offence which was impulsive.

The intention of the sentence is for punishment, reduction of crime by deterrence, reform and rehabilitation of the offender, protection of the public and reparation. A sentence can be for some or all of these. It can be jail or a suspended sentence. It can be a community order to undertake a number of hours of unpaid work. It could be compulsory drug or alcohol treatment. Sentences are aimed at changing behaviour.

Magistrates must be under 70 years old. They must show good character, social awareness, maturity and sound judgement. They undergo a lot of training and for youth courts have special training.

A number of questions were raised. One was on the involvement of youths in gangs and some perhaps being involved unwittingly in criminal activities. Kit said the magistrates would consider whether s/he had been involved in the criminal enterprise, whether there was joint action. Valerie Moore, also a magistrate, said more than 80% of those appearing in youth courts never appear later in adult courts.

To another question on political bias in the appointment of magistrates, Kit said there were magistrates of all political persuasions and none.

Lilias Gillies

.....***in the  
Community***

# Writing Competition

## The Result !

1st prize: £50

Lily Harrison

“A Snapshot of Service Life”

3 runners up: £10 M&S vouchers to each

Ted Larkin: “I Married an Angel”

Mr. C.J.Kettle: “The Present”

Elizabeth Leicester: “Evacuation”

We are printing Lily and Ted’s in this newsletter, and The others will be printed in due course. Thanks to all of you who submitted work - the standard was extremely high so hence the 3 runners up.

### *I Married and Angel*

*One day in nineteen forty four,  
An angel came knocking on my door.  
It was a day to change my life,  
When sweetheart Hazel became my wife.*

*I said how’ great, just you and me,  
Let’s spend our honeymoon in Torquay.  
Yes she said if we must,  
Don’t spend too much or we’ll be bust.*

*We had the sunshine and the storm,  
Later two daughters and a son were born.  
We never had much time for strive,  
We were so happy enjoying life.*

*A loving wife I wanted no other,  
A very good mum, and a great grandmother.  
Now I’m alone and feeling sore.  
Because no angel knocks on my door.*

*How can I stop the flood of tears,  
After all those lovely golden years.  
Please God watch o’er my love,  
Untill I meet her up above.*

*By Edward Larkin.*



*This story is a tiny part of my service life that will stay in my memory forever*

I joined the W.A.A.F in 1941 and did my initial training in Morecombe for 6 weeks. Then posted to Shelgate, Birmingham, to be trained as a Barage Balloon Operator, then on to London.

My first base was at Telegraph Hill in New Cross where myself and a crew of 8 airwomen saw London burn. The sky was a great huge blaze of fire and smoke. As an active crew we were always on STAND BY, in the event of keeping enemy aircraft high. From there we were posted to Croxted Road near Brixton, even nearer to the action. Our poor old Blossom (as we called the balloon) was hit by shrapnel, ended up in Dulwich Park.

From there we were moved on to Sydenham Park just a short distance from Crystal Palace. Here again we were targeted, when on a very hot summer day, all the crew were busy doing maintenance, now as a Corporal on duty this day, my detailed duty was to service the small weather balloons that were stored in the site shed. All of a sudden screams from the crew telling me to get out of the shed as a German aircraft was diving down with machine guns blazing, You can imagine that I did not hang about. Poor old Blossom, the Barrage Balloon was hit several times and was deflated in minutes. Panic over, we all set about packing the now deflated balloon into the storage bag. Another balloon was delivered and before nightfall she was flying again at stand by height of 500 feet. Next morning the officer in charge came down and congratulated the crew for their hardwork. He then told us, that as a good crew we were to be posted to Dover for, as he called it a good break and a rest.

Within weeks the doodle bugs were crossing the Channel. Our Balloon site was on Shakespear Cliff, and on one occasion I saw 7 of the horrible things shot down by the ACK-ACK guns that were along the cliffs. What a sight and what an experience. The time went by with several incidents. Then one night, coming off guard duty, I said to my relief guard that I was very restless and would go to the top of the cliff for a short while. This was at 2am, the channel was calm, the night was clear and bright and far far out to sea were tiny shapes heading along the channel. I went back down the cliff to try and have a few hours sleep, and around 5.30/6am was woken by the sound of heavy gun fire. The invasion had started. The tiny shapes I saw were the huge Mulberries.

It was sad that no one was with me to experience that memorable time at the top of Shakespear Cliff at 2am on invasion day.

Lilian Harrison (the Cpl Parker)

# Things to do .. .. places to go

## Wandsworth Community Transport Active Days Outings

There will be a series of outings run between April and July. If you have not already received the information about the outings please contact WCT. A diverse programme of day trips for active older people has been arranged. Trips include stately homes, historic cities, seaside visits and country pubs.

To find out more and book a place please contact WCT on 020 8675 3812

### Line Dancing

Monday 2.30pm £2

### Lunch Club

Wed & Thurs 12pm £3

### Tai Chi

Thursday 10.30am £3

### Drama Group

Tuesday 1.30pm £5

Katherine Low Settlement,  
108 Battersea High Street.  
Tel: 020 7223 2845

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### 3 Course Lunch

3rd Wednesday of the month,  
12.30-2pm. £3.

### Full English Breakfast

2nd Tuesday of the month, 9-12pm, £2.50.  
Haven Lodge, 2 Wolfencroft Close, Battersea.  
Tel: 020 7350 1930

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### Wandsworth U3A

Wandsworth University of the Third Age (U3A). Organise various interest and study groups, most of which are held in members' homes. They hold meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month at Earlsfield Library Hall, Magdalen Road, SW18.  
2-4pm.

For more information call 020 8785 0949

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### Age Concern Coffee Mornings

Wednesdays 10.00-12.00pm

11th May, 8th June, 13th July and 10th August.  
Due to limited space we can only accommodate 10 people. If you would like to come along for a cup of coffee and a chat, please give us a call.  
Tel: 020 8877 8940

## home delivery library service

Do you find it difficult, for any reason, to visit the library? A selection of books or tapes of your choice can be delivered to your home, once a month, between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

Choose a variety of items from the wide range of stock available in Wandsworth Libraries including:

- Books in paperback and large print
- Talking books on cassette and CDs
- Books in Asian languages
- African and Caribbean literature
- Music CDs available on request
- Cassette and CD players to borrow
- Information service

You may request any item free of charge.

To make an appointment ring 020 8871 6350 and leave your name and telephone number on the answerphone.

### Library on the Internet:

[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries)

Access the library 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

- Reserve books free of charge
- Renew your books
- Consult the library catalogue
- Link to online information services

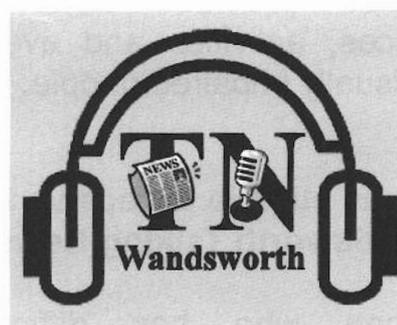


24 hour Renewal Hotline:  
01159 293388



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## Wandsworth Talking News Service



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**NHS** CALL 24 HOURS ON  
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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](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)

## **Anchor Church Centre**

**Friday Drop-in for Older People**

**Every Friday**

**Lunch from**

**12 - 1.30pm**

**(except school holidays)**

**273 Garratt Lane**

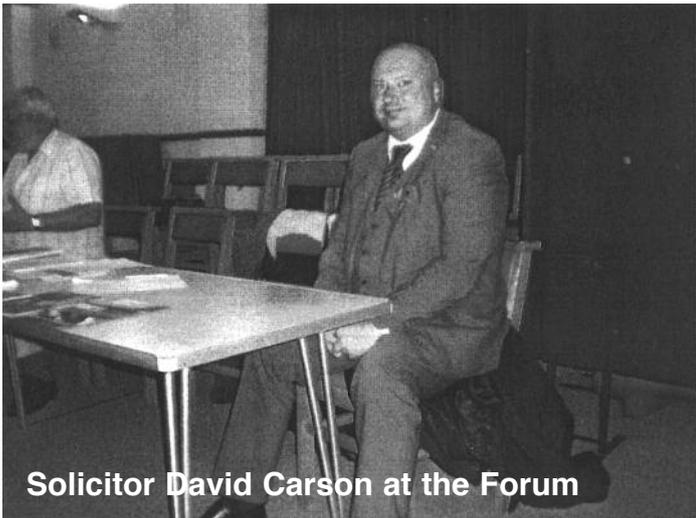
**SW18**

**Cost £3.00**

# Why Should I Make A Will?

**D**avid Carson, from Russell-Cooke Solicitors, gave a clear presentation on the reasons and advantages for making a will. The absence of a will can lead to problems with inheritance, often resulting in situations clearly unwished for, even leaving loved ones with no material support.

A major reason for people not making will derives from feeling that it is morbid, but lacking one can give rise to painful situations in the aftermath of death, causing more, avoidable suffering to loved ones. To quote from the will of the great Medieval musician, Guillaume Dufay, "to close this present life with a good end... [a man] takes thought for the disposal of his earthly goods...".



## Reasons Why You Should Make a Will

'Everything I own will pass automatically to my spouse or children' is a common misconception. The only certain way to ensure that your spouse, partner, children or relatives inherit what you intend is by making a Will.

Without a Will your estate will be distributed on your death under rules laid down in the Administration of Estates Act commonly known as the 'Intestacy Rules'. If you die leaving a surviving spouse and children then your estate (apart from jointly owned property which may be treated differently) will be distributed so that your surviving spouse becomes entitled to your belongings and the first £250,000 of your estate. Of

the balance, one half will be held for the children on attaining the age of 18, and your spouse will be entitled to the income from the other half for his or her life. On the surviving spouse's death that other half will be distributed to the children.

Without provision in a Will a cohabitee has no entitlement to the estate of the deceased (apart from jointly owned property which may be treated differently) and could be faced at a time of considerable distress with having to bring costly proceedings in Court to claim against the estate.

A Will can be used to incorporate tax planning measures to reduce the liability to inheritance tax.

Without a Will where there are no traceable living relatives the Crown becomes entitled to the estate.

If you own foreign property or assets these are likely to be subject to local succession laws which could disadvantage a surviving spouse.

By a Will you can choose who will administer your estate (your Executors).

If you have infant children you can appoint guardians in your Will to look after their affairs until they are adults.

In a Will you can make gifts to those dear to you who would not otherwise benefit under the Intestacy Rules. You can also make gifts to charities or to other organisations whom you may like to benefit.

Directions as to funeral wishes or donation of any part of the body for medical purposes can be included in a Will.

A properly drawn Will can make the administration of your estate much simpler at a time of considerable distress to those nearest to you.

If any of these circumstances apply to you then you should make a Will. Please remember that until the Will is made in a proper legal form your wishes however otherwise expressed by you in your lifetime are not binding.

For more information please contact  
David Carson  
Solicitor  
020 8394 6206  
David.Carson@russell-cooke.co.uk

# Make Sunday the highlight of your month

*Gladys is 90 and has been a member of Contact the Elderly for many years:*

**C**ontact still means a lot to me each month. It seems that some folk have never heard of Contact. If they ask me about it I try to explain that small Contact groups are all over the country in towns and villages. Every group has an organiser and she arranges friends and volunteers with cars. Next has to be arranged twelve venues (one for each month) and a hostess who is willing for the group to meet at her house for a simple tea twice a year.

A Contact group is kept small, 6 to 10 members, so that everyone can chat to everyone else. Each month on a Sunday afternoon, rain or shine, the drivers collect the members and take us for a little drive to where we are made welcome and have tea. There is a lot of talk and laughter during tea and somebody will tell us what they have been doing since our last meeting.

Always there is something to look forward to - friends to meet, ideas to be exchanged. Time goes all too quickly but when we say goodbye we all feel that the loneliness has been lifted, that we have plenty of friends and kind people that really care and we all have another get-together to look forward to in a month's time."



If you would like to join your local group please call Contact the Elderly on Freephone 0800 716 543.



## **Joannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart (spot the Amadeus) (January 27, 1756 - December 5, 1791).**

Perhaps the most revealing way of defining Mozart's music are the words of Gombrich: "[Mozart could] look straight into the human heart." The sheer beauty of his work almost defies definition, and its scope can be best seen when we remember that he composed music for every European instrument of his day.



## MEMBERS MEETINGS

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

### Tuesday 14th June

Vito Ward: Cycling in Cambodia  
to raise money for mine clearance

### Tuesday 12th July

Sarah Banham  
Battersea Power Station Group

### No Meetings in August

### Tuesday 13th September

Sue Osborne, Alzheimers Society  
Christine Kenyon, Wandsworth Art Officer

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

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Organisation Membership £5 per year

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Cheques payable to Wandsworth Older Peoples Forum



## Change of opening hours

Due to reduced funding, from Friday 1 April our office at Old York Road will be closed on a Friday.

The office and main telephone line will be open Monday to Thursday, 10am to 4pm.

The Advice and Support Service will continue to operate a drop-in service each morning, Monday to Thursday 10am to 1pm. Or you can book an appointment on 020 8877 8940.

• Also due to reductions in funding, our Handyperson Service will be charging for certain services from April.

For information and appointments, call 020 8877 8949.

• Age UK Enterprise Ltd will cease to trade from our office at the end of March. We will no longer be able to take renewals or payments for financial products in the office.



## NEWSLETTER

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Affiliated to National Pensioners Association



WOPF voice for older people in Wandsworth  
Funded by Wandsworth