



# NEWSLETTER

Registered Charity No. 1096322

Editor: Doreen Brading  
September 2012



## DON'T BLAME US FOR LIVING LONGER

**By Monty Meth**  
**Committee member of the Enfield Over 50s Forum**

It's about time that we hit back hard against that unholy alliance of politicians and economists who claim that older people are a burden on the country because we are part of an ageing population, pushing up the cost of pensions and health care to unaffordable limits.

This is the dangerous line trotted out by our Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) - a quango created to advise Chancellor George Osborne - and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which apparently takes no account of the economic benefits contributed to the economy by older people. It's dangerous because it places our generation against our younger families.

### CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY

David McCullough, the new head of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) which has some 48,000 social care volunteers, said: "When the NHS was founded half the population didn't reach 65. Now we are living much longer, this is something that is a triumph rather than a disaster".

The WRVS produced a powerful in-depth report - barely reported in the national press - which found that in 2010 the over 65s through their taxes, spending power, provision of social care and the value of their volunteering; made a contribution of at least £40 billion to the UK economy. We helped the country financially through our spending money, bequest to organisations, gifts and donations to worthy causes - and invested savings.

The WRVS estimates that by 2030 the positive net contribution of the over 65s will grow from the current £40 billion to £77 billion, because people will remain healthier for longer and thus creating more opportunities to work longer, pay taxes and increase volunteering.

Britain has some six million unpaid carers and Carers UK in a 2011 report said this was saving the government an average £18,473 a year for each of them - a total of £119 bn.

About 5.6 million people receiving the basic state pension pay income tax yet this is never mentioned. In fact, for them the recent £5.30 a week increase was reduced to £4.24 after tax was deducted. And well over one million pensioners are higher rate taxpayers - all putting money back into the Treasury coffers.

Dot Gibson, general secretary of the National Pensioners Convention, says that we all need to start appreciating the contribution older people make to society." The figures show that after the state has paid pensioners, for example, in pensions and bus passes, they are still making a net contribution of £40 billion. Many carry out voluntary and charity work of some kind, while others care for their grandchildren or their spouses, families and each other. The state does not do that. Old people are making a massive contribution to society that is too often hidden".

Every year more older people are getting involved in community organisations, taking on formal volunteering roles that are estimated to save the economy at least £10 billion a year.

Alan Walker professor of social policy at Sheffield University and director of the New Dynamics of Ageing says: "It is time that British society caught up with the remarkable changes taking place among the older population, by creating the possibility for active and healthy ageing to be the norm, Age is still invariably associated with decline. Look at the adjectives used to describe ageing - retired, dependant, redundant. That kind of term implies that older people are on the sidelines, somehow useless."

### CHANGING WORKFORCE

In fact more over 65s are working than ever before - and paying taxes. In the last ten years the number in work has shot up by 358,000 - from 418,000 to 776,000 - according to the

*continued on page 3*

# Wandsworth Health & Well-being Partnership

meeting of 30 May 2012

**The Partnership meetings are an opportunity to hear what the Health & Well-being Board is saying. It is more or less open to anyone interested but officially to representatives of groups in Wandsworth. The Board's deliberations are to be taken into account by Commissioners of health (GP Commissioners) and Social Care (Wandsworth Borough Council). The Partnership is chaired by Cllr Jim Madden, WBC Cabinet member for social care.**

The meeting heard of the Health and Well-being Board's work plan which shows the time table for decisions throughout the year. It also had a progress report on the Joint Health and Well-being Strategy noting their choice of three priorities for work this year. The eleven key messages in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment will have ongoing work during the year and there will be a report of progress on these in the Health and Well-being Strategy (available for consultation in the Autumn).

Priorities are:

1. Promoting community resilience (with a focus on how people in more deprived areas can be empowered to take greater control of their own health & well-being);
2. Developing prevention programmes, with alcohol misuse being the immediate priority;
3. Improving care and treatment outcomes, with focus on integration of health & social care.

The Board has decided to promote aspirations and achieve regeneration in the more deprived areas of the Boroughs and to pilot an asset-based approach to community resilience in Roehampton.

Houda al-Sharifi presented the Board's proposals:

- WBC paper on community engagement in early July;
- Intensive work with families (extending the work already being done with 30 families);
- Redevelopment of Elliott School as Ark Putney Academy;
- Better access to alcohol misuse treatment, engagement with street drinkers and involvement with Licensing;
- LINK's work with seldom heard groups;
- Roehampton Library life skills and literacy promotion;
- Showcasing the best of Roehampton through art and culture.

There was some concern from those present that this had all been heard before and not much progress had been made in Roehampton.

There was a presentation from Deborah Klee of Vintage Communities working in Northampton (?) at present and looking to spread. It was very much working in the community, finding those who might be leaders and encouraging them to lead. There was also talk of generating links between people needing help with others who might help eg older people with a garden linking with people who like to garden and have none and linking families with no or

distant grandparents with older people with no or distant grandchildren.

There was small group discussion on what we had heard, the accounts of which will be published in the minutes. Cllr Madden concluded the meeting thanking Deborah Klee and saying he looked forward to working with her. It looks like the Council have decided their approach.

Lilias Gillies 5 June 2012

## Thomas Pocklington Trust



Housing and support for people with sight loss

**Thomas Pocklington Trust is a charity which provides housing, care and support services to people with sight loss.**

We are currently looking for volunteers for our supported housing scheme in Roehampton, London. We have a variety of volunteering roles available:

Drivers (with a full, clean licence) to take partially sighted and blind people to local shops, pubs and places of interest as and when required.

Volunteers to organise and run various activities, varying from bingo and singing to exercise and cooking classes (relevant qualifications and experience required).

Full training is provided and agreed travel expenses reimbursed. If you are interested, please contact the Volunteer Co-ordinator on 0208 7891893 or check our website: [www.pocklington-trust.org.uk](http://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk)



Will hold its Annual General Meeting  
on

**Wednesday 7th November  
2pm to 4pm**

in the Civic Suite, Wandsworth High Street  
SW18 2PU

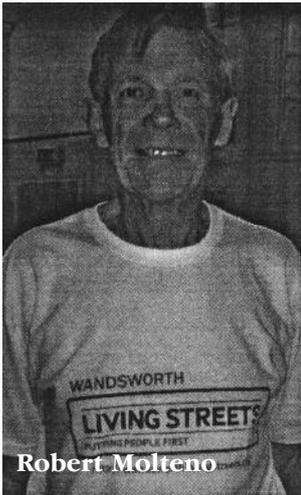
Join us to hear more about the charity's activities over the past year, followed by tea

## A New Initiative

### An Active Travel Champion for Wandsworth

**The majority group on Wandsworth Council has agreed to a suggestion made by the Wandsworth Environment Forum and Wandsworth Living Streets to appoint one of its number as the Active Travel Champion in Wandsworth. This person will be Councillor John Locker. He is the Chair of the Strategic Planning & Transportation Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council.**

What is active travel? And why could such a role be of active help to residents in the Borough? Active travel is the word used to describe those of us who move around actively using our own bodies -whether on foot, or on bicycles. This contrasts with just hopping on a bus or train or relying on the car. Active travel is good for us, health wise, as we all know - exercise keeps our heart, lungs and muscles busy. But active travel doesn't just happen. Each of us has to make a personal decision to get around in our daily lives as much as possible using our legs for short journeys. What is more, and this is where the idea of an Active Travel Champion comes in, the Council can play a positive role facilitating it - provided they approach our streets, bearing in mind the needs of pedestrians.



At a meeting of the Wandsworth Older People's Network in June, Wandsworth Living Street's secretary, Robert Molteno, talked about how our borough's Active Travel Champion could make a real difference. He could actively encourage Councillors to adopt policies that help us to use our streets more easily, more safely and with greater enjoyment. At the meeting, we all brainstormed about what issues the Champion could get action going on. Among the ideas suggested were: better pavement surfaces, wider

pavements on local shopping streets (instead of constantly prioritising more roadway space for vehicles), installing benches at appropriate locations where people can sit and rest and chat; vigorous action to get householders to trim back their hedges in summer where they bulge out over sections of the pavement; shorter waiting times for pedestrians to trigger the Green Man at some busy crossings; and cleaner, quieter TfL buses in order to reduce street noise and air pollution.

If you would like to be involved in making suggestions to the Active Travel Champion, get in touch with Robert Molteno, Secretary, Wandsworth Living Streets, a local body pressing for safer, more attractive, people-friendly streets, at: e-mail [Robert.molteno@googlemail.com](mailto:Robert.molteno@googlemail.com) or phone 020 7223 0408).

Any locations of overhanging hedges should be reported to Brenda Young on 0208 871 6708 or [byoung@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:byoung@wandsworth.gov.uk).

## DON'T BLAME US FOR LIVING LONGER

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Office of National Statistics. Commenting on the figures, the Spectator magazine said the idea that over-65s are a burden does not stand up to scrutiny. The changing nature of the British workforce has not just meant Polish plumbers, but also British pensioners behind the tills in Tesco. Indeed many employers prefer to hire pensioners because they can be relied upon to turn up on time and don't turn their noses up at work.

One in eight women now work past the age of 70 while one in ten men do the same. Despite these facts and figures we have the OBR issuing reports that produce press headlines of tough times ahead to pay for an ageing population and Britain faces an era of austerity as it grows old.

The Washington-based IMF tells its 180 plus member countries to act now to reduce the huge cost of ageing populations which for the UK would mean the public debt rising by £750 billion.

Our answer must be to show the positive contribution we are making every day. We are the first generation of older people to be healthier, more active, more independent, better educated and skilled than any previous over 50s generation. Without us Britain would be a lot poorer and it's time this was more widely recognised.

### WE'RE PUTTING MORE INTO BRITAIN THAN WE TAKE OUT!

Senior London -

The publication of the Greater London Forum for Older People

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## Get ready for winter

Warm Front can help with cavity wall insulation, draught proofing and even installing heating if yours is inadequate.

This is the last year. So apply now and be ready for this winter. call 0800 316 2814

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## Flu Immunisation

**Don't forget over 65's  
Get your flu Jabs !**

Either from your GP or Pharmacist

## WOPF Network Conference of 21st July

The first speaker at the Conference was Tony Blake, a retired DS and now at the Dedicated Cheque and Plastic Crime Unit (DCPCU), (who talked about keeping pin Numbers and cards safe) which is a specialist police unit that is responsible for investigating serious and organised card and cheque fraud. It has a national remit, is fully sponsored by the banking industry and has been operational since April 2002.

The Unit comprises officers from the City of London and Metropolitan police forces working alongside civilian payments fraud investigators. Tony talked convincingly about keeping pin numbers and cards safe and has four basic messages to keep S.A.F.E. The first be suspicious, remains the most critical.



Tony Blake

- Suspect anything and anyone, no matter who they say they are;
- Ask questions: stay in control;
- Find out for certain who you are speaking to ;
- End any situation in which you feel uncomfortable.

Further information on the DCPCU can be found at [www.ukpayments.org.uk](http://www.ukpayments.org.uk).

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## Wandsworth Council Adult Social Services Local Account

**O**n June 21st Dawn Warwick, Director of Adult Social Services, spoke at the Older People's Network conference about the Interim Wandsworth Local Account. The Local Account describes the progress that Adult Social Services has made from April 2011 and what is planned up to April 2013.

There is a new requirement for every adult social care department to produce a Local Account each year. They are intended to make councils more accountable to local people. Local Accounts should be put together involving a wide range of people, including people who are helped by the service and their families and people who work in the service.

The Wandsworth Local Account was planned with the help of a group of service users and carers and the LINK, and has been consulted on over the summer. It will be revised in the light of comments received and the final Account will be discussed by the council in September and launched at a conference in the Town Hall, Civic Suite on Thursday 11th October.

Dawn Warwick told the conference that the performance of Adult Social Care in Wandsworth has improved steadily over the last five years, when compared with other London boroughs. User feedback from the annual user survey shows that people using Wandsworth's services have a better experience than people in most other London boroughs. The Council is managing to achieve this within the current financial

context and has national recognition for its services. Highlights for 2011/12 included putting "personalised" services in place through personal budgets for most service users living in the community; supporting more unpaid carers, more self-contained supported accommodation for people with learning difficulties and mental health conditions; remodelling of day services with more of an outreach focus and remodelling of employment support for people with disabilities.

A copy of the Local Account can be obtained by leaving a message on 020 8871 8960 with your contact details or by downloading a copy from the council's website [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/localaccount](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/localaccount)



Adult Social Services' Wendy Moreton and Dawn Warwick

## Wandsworth Older People's Forum made the following comments re the interim local account:

1. 78% of service users reviewed in the year and a target of 80% seems too little. Even 50% leaves one-fifth of service users without an annual review. If people do not get a review in a year are they first to be done in the next year. This seems to need more explanation as to why the target is not 100%.
  2. The work to collect feedback about services using user and carer groups, community partners and mystery shoppers is good. The Forum welcomes the annual survey covering 100% of users.
  3. There are still difficulties in people getting clear information. The Forum welcomes the continuing work to improve access to information. Telephone information is of particular importance to older people and there should not be a concentration on web access. For instance the response to this document only suggests response should be by questionnaire from the website, which was said to be unfound to make this response, or by e-mail. This does not encourage response from older people, only about half use email and for many that will be once a week access in the library.
  4. The focus on enabling people to remain at home is welcomed. The Forum notes that Wandsworth is high compared to other boroughs in the number of people admitted to residential care. The Forum would like to see more development of extra care which seems to provide the advantages of maintaining their own accommodation with on-site care service available. On-site care service has the very great advantage of a smallish staff so that users are more likely to know all of them and to know a substitute carer when that has to happen. The Forum would like to see a target on this.
  5. The Forum has yet to see the advantages of the concentration of open access day-services to the few sites of the Hubs and the likely resultant diminution in the number of places where company and activities can be found. Balham, North and East Battersea and Roehampton are three places which seem to be likely to be deprived of access unless funds are found from other sources. The Forum regrets the congratulatory tone of the Local Account about the Day Centre Review. If people have to travel further to reach a day centre they may need help with transport and if they are only assessed as in moderate need they will not have a personal budget to help to pay for that.
- Although it is still early days the Hubs have got going and the Forum wishes them well.

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## Wandsworth Museum

### Wandsworth Museum invites you to our 1950's tea party at the Museum on Saturday 8th September

On September 8th, Wandsworth Museum will host 12 young people to organise our Special 1950s Tea Party.

It's not just an ordinary Tea Party! As you enjoy the tea and cakes some of the 1950s objects in the Museum Collection will be passed around to spark your memories. You can enjoy a chat about times past and share with the young people who are taking part in the event.

These young people have volunteered as part of Challenge Network, a youth and community programme that exists to 'inspire and connect young people to strengthen their community'.

We believe that sharing the memories which these 1950s objects will inspire is a wonderful way to connect these young people with their community.

So we invite you to come along and enjoy the tea party, the chat and the chance to handle objects from the 1950s - a little glimpse of the past!

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME AND THE EVENT IS TOTALLY FREE  
Places are limited so to book please telephone us at 0208 870 6060 or email [bookings@wandsworthmuseum.co.uk](mailto:bookings@wandsworthmuseum.co.uk)

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON SEPTEMBER 8th



## Wandsworth Strategy Group for Older People

**T**his group, set up by the Council, meets two-monthly to hear reports on, and to discuss, progress on the Older People's Strategy agreed in June 2008. It monitors work to develop services for older people and aims to create a Borough where older people can have a good quality of life.

The meeting in July discussed the interim Local Account which had been presented to the Older People's Network By the Director, Dawn Warwick, at the Network Conference in June. The Local Account is a report to the people of Wandsworth of what Adult Social Services have been doing over the past year and what they are proposing to do in the coming one.

At the Strategy Group, which has officers of health, social services and housing, up-to-date statistics were presented and some of the targets for priority work over the next year discussed. Progress on encouraging people to have personal budgets is a big target. Older people are less likely to be willing to take responsibility for managing a budget but the Council can organise that and give people the extra choice that a personal budget allows. Personal assessment for an increased number of carers is another priority. A third is integration of health and social services and particularly the integration of Intermediate Treatment, an NHS service designed to help people get home from hospital sooner or prevent them ever going in, and Reablement, provided by Adult Social Services to help people recover after an illness or accident and regain as much independence as possible. The Forum would agree that integration of services at the level of provision to the clients is important. People needing help from health and social services want to be assured that everyone working with them is working together for their best interest.

After discussion over the summer the Local Account will be launched at a conference in the Civic Centre on 11 October to which all are invited.

The meeting also heard of progress towards making a more seamless and more effective service to help older people with mental ill-health, both those developing dementia and those suffering from depression. Memory clinics are to be developed from the rather sparse provision at the moment. For the second group the mental health teams, dealing with younger patients and with the right area of expertise, are likely to be able to take on older patients.

**Lilias Gillies**

## A Call for Memory

At the WOPF 10th July Members' Meeting, Suzanne Simmons, a Masters Student at Kings College London, informed the members that she is presently researching the Wandsworth one-way system, how it came into existence and what impact it had on the High Street environment.

For her dissertation, she will be considering the following:

1. the rationale, significance and processes, intended and unintended, behind the decision to create a one-way traffic system in Wandsworth town centre;
2. how the town centre has physically changed since the one-way system was instigated;
3. how people respond to its presence today in their movements and everyday behaviour; and
4. the possibilities for change/reversion of the one-way system - if any?

In carrying out this research she is hoping to understand the processes behind decision making at Local Authority level and the impact of decisions taken the 1950s have had on subsequent High Street users up to the present day. She is also interested in how approaches to city planning have changed over the last 50 years and how priorities have shifted.

Would you be happy to share your memories of Wandsworth High Street with me, or do you know someone who would be willing to do so? If so, please contact Suzanne on: [suzanne.simmons@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:suzanne.simmons@kcl.ac.uk) or 07565964418.

## Music for the Members



A Natural Blusher:  
Julia Raeburn

At the 10th July Members' Meeting; WOPF welcomed back Natural Blush, and a trio of musicians regaled the audience with songs themed around the 50s, ranging from We'll Meet Again to Gilbert and Sullivan.

Natural Blush is part of Memorablemusic, which can provide music for most events, with styles ranging from Baroque to Classical to Jazz, from dreamy Elizabethan love songs to cabaret music and theatre, and most in between. For further information, look up [www.memorablemusic.co.uk](http://www.memorablemusic.co.uk).

## Wandsworth Talking News Service



Pocklington  
Resource Centre  
1C Yukon Rd  
Balham  
London SW12 9PZ  
0208 675 4246

# Thinking Partners Group

**This PCT group has representatives of a number of community organisations. At meetings they hear about what is happening in healthcare and can comment on it.**

Colin Smith, from the PCT, updated us on the Seldom-Heard Groups -there were 9 funded groups last year and the project has been renewed. There are about 13 applicants this year.

Richard Wiles (Health Policy Team Leader at the Council) talked about moving public health to local authorities. All 33 London boroughs have a life-expectancy gap of, on average, 12 years. We know that in the poorer areas of Wandsworth this is the case. It's a 12 year gap between people living in Latchmere and Roehampton and the wealthier wardss such as Northcote. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) will guide work to reduce the gap, paying particular attention to stopping smoking, alcoholism and falls prevention, which of course affects us older people directly. I said I'd been on the Dodd that morning and there was an old guy there singing and talking to himself with a ciggy in one hand and a can of Special Brew in the other, and do they have any ideas on how to reach people like him - who probably don't want to stop smoking and drinking in the first place. They admitted that is really difficult and there was talk of liaising more with GPs, and hoping that the new Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) will be able to address this.

A draft copy of the Joint Health Inequalities Strategy was shown to us. The group thought it was extremely well set out. The format is a series of questions: What is the issue? (examples; "Empowering individuals and communities" or "Diabetes"). What is the position in Wandsworth? What are we doing about it? What needs to happen? There are key measures at the end and it's all very clear. I think we'll all look forward to the proper Strategy when it's published in the autumn. There will be a Network conference in November when we can consider whether the published strategy is one we can agree with.

Jo Lofgren from Lifetimes said there is a new community directory website, [www.care4me.org.uk](http://www.care4me.org.uk), to which all organisations can put contact details.

## Happy and Healthy in the Capital

Su Elliott attended an AgeUK London/GLF conference which had various workshops and presentations. Supporting older people's contribution to London, presented by Sylvia Schehrer, consultant. Most of this was about the perception of older people being a burden and a drain on limited public resources. The contribution older people make to the social and economic life of the capital is neither acknowledged nor recognised. We need to re-balance public perceptions of us as contributors. She recommends an Annual Week to highlight this which would consist of 5 main strands: engagement of older people; development of an evidence base; a media campaign; cross-agency engagement and involvement; and support from public bodies, including the Mayor and the GLA, Transport for London, the Metropolitan police and NHS London. Gordon Deuchars from AgeUK talked about the differences and similarities between the 1948 and the 2012 Olympics. Personally I take a dim view of how Londoners will get about during that period, but just call me cynical. He hopes that the Olympic legacy will benefit older people with more green gyms, affordable access to sports facilities and fitness classes. Alice Westlake (AgeUK) talked about "Fit as a Fiddle in London", where a community approach had had excellent results. The 3 areas of emphasis were Healthy Eating, Tackling Obesity, and Community Health Engagement. They had involved over 150 local community groups and over 3000 older people. Nordic Walking had been a huge success. I might try it on my way to the next Forum meeting. That was a joke.

## Su Elliott

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## Do you have some spare time?

### Do you want to help children living in refuges to learn and have fun?

Hestia's Interconnect Project is aimed to people 60+ from a Black, Asian or Ethnic Community - BAME - who want to make a difference to the lives of families fleeing domestic violence. Volunteers in Interconnect will participate in activities with the children and mothers in Hestia refuges in Wandsworth and Kingston. Activities vary from storytelling, playing games, being homework heroes, playing dominoes, teaching cooking skills or some light gardening skills - to name a few - always jointly with Hestia staff.

We are looking for volunteers so, if you or someone you know are over 60 from a BAME community, have some spare time and want to:

- make a difference to the lives of families fleeing from domestic violence;

- help the families living in Hestia refuges to learn and have fun;
- gain mentoring skills by supporting them.

Contact the project co-ordinator, Nuria de Miguel on 020 8530 2967 / 07964 120099 or [nuria.miguel@hestia.org](mailto:nuria.miguel@hestia.org)





# MEMBERS MEETINGS

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

**Tuesday 11th September**  
Digging for Gold

**Tuesday 9th October**  
Travels in Texas  
Lilias Gillies

**Tuesday 13th November**  
Chief Executive St. Georges NHS Trust  
Miles Scott  
Changes in NHS

**Tuesday 11th December**  
Justine Greening MP

Music and Mincepies

**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'*

## Older Peoples Network Conference

### Wandsworth Health and Well-being Strategy

To discuss and provide a response from Older people

**Thursday 8th November**  
**12.45 for 1.30 - 3.45**  
**Anchor Church Centre**  
**273 Garratt Lane SW18**

## Updated website for the Forum

Work has been in hand for some time to update the Forum's website. The new site is now live at:  
[www.wandswortholderpersonsforum.org.uk](http://www.wandswortholderpersonsforum.org.uk) or (much quicker to write) [www.wandpensforum.org.uk](http://www.wandpensforum.org.uk).

We shall be working over the coming months to extend the site and include material which we hope will be useful for all who are interested in issues relating to Older People in Wandsworth. In particular we shall be incorporating material on the issues of current relevant and on which consultation is being carried out.

If you have a PC or tablet, then do bookmark our new site and check it out from time to time.



# NEWSLETTER

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Affiliated to National Pensioners Association



WOPF voice for older people in Wandsworth  
Funded by Wandsworth