

HORNSEY PENSIONERS

www.hornseypag.org.uk

Hornsey Pensioners Action Group serves pensioners within Hornsey & Wood Green and other neighbouring parliamentary constituencies

June 2020 – Bulletin 3

38 Degrees Petition



The National Pensioners Convention (NPC) are backing the petition below which calls on the Chancellor to ensure there is not a pay freeze for frontline workers - but a **pay rise**. **Please sign and tell friends.**

https://speakout.38degrees.org.uk/campaigns/7392?bucket=email-blast-14-5-2020-nhspayreactivepayfreeze_mopup&submit=true&utm_campaign=14-5-2020-nhspayreactivepayfreeze_mopup&utm_medium=blast&utm_source=email

WAR BABY

By Pearl

Pearl Diver writes her story 'War Baby' in response to the recent BBC2 series 'Britain's Greatest Generation'



When my father was killed on 16th of December 1943, he was only 35, but by wartime standards he was old. The other six crew members in the Lancaster were 21 and Australian. At that age, he was a volunteer, something my mother was very much against. He was in the Pathfinders—the section of Bomber Command who marked the targets for the bombers and he was shot down over Holland returning from a raid on Berlin.

When he died, I was 18 months and my little brother Terry was 6 months old. My parents had married in 1939 and so barely had four years of married life together. They had married late because they were both supporting their own families and couldn't afford to marry.

My mother finally decided to leave London when, while I was sitting in my high chair one lunchtime, the kitchen window blew in as a bomb exploded in the Thames nearby. The Germans were trying to hit the flats in Dolphin Square; they still exist today. We moved to a place called Selsey, on the coast, until the end of the war.

Unfortunately, after losing my father, my mother also experienced my brother's death, aged six. I was left alone with a mother who never mentioned my brother or father again.

My mother never remarried (not for want of offers) and lived, silently, on my father's memory for the remainder of her life. But she bravely tried to expand her horizons by emigrating to New Zealand in 1955 as a "£10 Pom" and I benefited greatly from a whole new world until I returned to London in 1965.

I still miss the father I never knew.

[Image: Pearl and her father]

The Pathfinders were target-marking squadrons in [RAF Bomber Command](#) during World War II. They were normally the first to receive new blind bombing aids like Gee, Oboe and the [H2S radar](#). See: [Pathfinder \(RAF\) - Wikipedia](#)

Bank Fraud - How one of our members was affected

I received a text message from Barclays Bank asking me to confirm that I had spent £179 pound in Boots that morning. I was asked to reply with a Y or N to confirm or deny. I 'N' and then received a telephone call from a man claiming to be from the bank, wanting to investigate a possible fraud on my account.

He then took me through a long conversation, (the details, I cannot recall). He put the call on hold so he could speak to his manager to see if the money could be refunded. He told me if I received any other calls or messages I should ignore them.

Eventually, after 20 minutes I ended the call. The next morning another man called with more offers to help me and repeated much of what was said previously. I was becoming suspicious, I said, "Why can't you people liaise?" He then asked for my 6 digit security code. Fortunately, I did not have one and the he tried to get me to open my banking app. Again, fortunately, I refused and hung-up.

I called the number on the back of my credit card and reported what had happened. I was told that it was a fraud attempt and that a lot of money had gone from my account. I reported the incident to **Action Fraud**.

Since then I have been very stressed, worrying about getting my money back and also feeling like a fool. I have learned to never talk to a caller who says that they are from the bank. **Always** put the phone down and call the number on the back of your bank card for reassurance and be careful with your credit card.

Latest news: Eventually, she has received a new credit card and will get all her money back - whew!

NB: Nearly a third of all fraud is committed over the telephone.

5 THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR ON A SCAM PHONE CALL

1. The caller doesn't give you time to think, tries to stop you speaking to family and friends or is insistent and makes you feel uncomfortable.
2. The caller asks you to transfer money to a new account.
3. They ask you to say or type in your 4-digit card PIN or your online banking password in the phone.
4. They ask you to withdraw money to handover to them for safe-keeping.
5. They claim you are a victim of fraud and offer to send a courier to your home to collect your cash, PIN, payment card or cheque book.

For more information please visit: <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/advice>

Download The Little Book of Phone Scams:

<https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/central/advice/fraud/met/little-booklet-of-phone-scams.pdf>

Thanks to workers

From the end of April, just over 7% of deaths recorded from COVID-19 are those of workers. Older people with underlying health issues are at greater risk from the virus, but while we can self-isolate and stay safe at home, others continue working, protecting themselves as well as they can.

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) cautiously reported that since April 20th 2020, **working** men are at more risk than women, and the rates of occupations such as security, leisure & retail, chauffeurs & taxi-drivers, show significantly more deaths from the virus. Male care workers also suffered a greater risk, but fatalities amongst all hospital workers, including doctors and nurses, did **not** show a greater risk than the overall population with similar ages etc. The analysis did not include factors such as deprivation, ethnicity etc. that will be examined in later reports.

See:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19roundup/2020-03-26>

The garden grows wild?

Haringey Circle is offering a gardening service that's ready to launch. The handy person service will follow as soon as it's safe to do so according to government COVID-19 regulations.

- **Joining fee - £35 per year** - **GARDENERS - £20 per hour** - **HANDY PEOPLE - £25 per hour**

Handy people are vetted and are available for jobs around the house plus recommended bespoke electricians, plumbers & roofers etc. all at our disposal (fees depending on job spec).

For more details: Email Hello@HaringeyCircle.com or ring **020 3196 1894 / 07308 966 886**. To join, please telephone first, leaving a contact phone number. Cheques (with name and address on back) to be made payable to '**Haringey Circle**' and posted to **Haringey Circle Room G12, Tottenham Town Hall, Town Hall Approach Road, N15 4RX**. Debit card payments possible from May 26th.

Lockdown rules as they affect us

- **Wash** hands regularly
- **Stay at home** as much as possible, but outings for medical appointments are allowed; avoid using public transport.
- Shielding to continue until end of June. (Workers may not enter home to do repairs.)
- **New**: Face coverings encouraged in enclosed spaces (e.g. shops, taxi).
- **New**: One person from outside your household may travel any distance to meet with you, not indoors but outside, maintaining the two metre distance.
- Meetings of more than 2 people prohibited

See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>

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