

HORNSEY PENSIONERS

www.hornseypag.org.uk

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

December 2020 – Bulletin 9



Seasonal Greetings to all our Hornsey Pensioners Action Group members in this difficult year.



We are offering you 2 seasonal gifts

See page 4 which is a Greetings card. It can be folded so that the photos appear on one side of page 4 and the Greetings on the other side of page 4. The other pages of the bulletin will help it to stand up. If you have not got a printer, send an email to someone who can do it for you!

The second gift is from member **Terry Anderson**, who is a T-shirt message specialist.

Terry has a limited number of these T-shirts to give away, as long as the person receiving them donates at least £5 to Hornsey Pensioners.

Contact:

eltelanderson@aol.com



Lockdown Part 2

On October 30th the Prime Minister announced that England would be placed under a second lockdown, meaning non-essential businesses would be forced to close their doors and people told to stay at home except for specific purposes, such as to exercise or shop for necessities.

The lockdown is expected to run until Wednesday, December 2nd – although some ministers have suggested it could be extended if the virus is not brought under control. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

Haringey Leader, Cllr. Ejiófor, encourages residents to act together and comply with the new regulations to stop the spread of Coronavirus.

Haringey Council will support those needing help. You can contact the council's **Connected Communities** line on **020 8489 4431**. It is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Information on how to sign up for Haringey People Extra – a weekly e-newsletter with all the latest updates and support – can be found here: www.haringey.gov.uk/news-and-events/haringey-people-magazine#hpx

Haringey Council's Covid-19 updates page is here: www.haringey.gov.uk/coronavirus

I am sure that members join our call for local authorities to receive adequate funding to back this extra support.

Meanwhile:

TAKE CARE!

**WASH HANDS WEAR MASKS
MAINTAIN DISTANCE**

Are you living alone?

Solitary isolation is not good for one's health. But one can join a **household support bubble**. A bubble is defined as a group of people with whom you have close physical contact.

In England, single adults living alone can form a support bubble with one other household. The second household can be of any size and can include "at risk" people **who were previously shielding**.

The government recommends that a support bubble should be with a **local** household to avoid unnecessary travel. These are allowed to continue during the current lockdown.

Rules: Bubbles must be "exclusive". Once in one, you can't switch and start another with a different household. Belonging to a bubble allows social distancing rules to be relaxed but carries with it the obligation to 'self-isolate' if any other member of the bubble tests positive for the virus.

Janet

Fuel Poverty Action
with TUC London East and Southeast Pensioners Network

FUEL POVERTY ACTION

Making GREEN Come True
a half-day conference

1:00-4:30 pm

Saturday 5th December

The government is talking about making homes more energy efficient - to cut down carbon emissions and to save on heating bills. But what does that mean in practice? And are there trained workers to install it?

It isn't **GREEN** if it doesn't work!
It isn't **TRUE** if it isn't affordable!

The "energy efficiency" we get in practice, as retrofits or new build homes, is often nothing like what we are promised - if we get any at all. Too often residents are disregarded, even when they're fighting to be safe from fire.

Come share experience with others who are fighting to Make GREEN Come TRUE!

Join us to:

- Discuss insulation, retrofit & the standard of homes in the future
- Hear stories from tenants, residents & researchers
- Connect with housing & climate movements fighting for safe homes that don't destroy the planet
- Demand better!

Please register online at: www.fuelpovertyaction.org.uk/mgct

You are invited to a pathbreaking half-day conference on the afternoon of **Saturday the 5th of December** "**Making Green Come True**"
Please visit www.fuelpovertyaction.org.uk/mgct for further information about speakers, sessions and to register.

Government Green Homes Grant Scheme provides funding for home upgrades

Some pointers from Muswell Hill Sustainability Group

- The Government's Green Homes Grant Scheme part funds building works so that householders can improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
- The scheme is available between now until March 2021, and is part of plans to stimulate the economy following the Coronavirus lockdown.
- Households can receive up to £5,000 or £10,000 in grants (depending on your income), as long as they also contribute one-third of the total cost of the project.
- The kind of measures you can get installed include insulation, low carbon heating sources, window and door upgrades, and heating controls.

Only specially accredited tradespeople can complete these projects, and their details are available via simpleenergyadvice.org.uk or you can call: **0800 444202** for more information.

It is always advisable to get three quotes for building works before signing a contract, and try and seek a recommendation from a family member or friend.

Muswell Hill Sustainability Group: www.mhsgroup.org

Pledging to Save the Planet

Please let us know your pledges. These could be about, for instance: Energy consumption, boycotting companies that harm the planet, destroying habitats for endangered species (e.g. palm oil), reducing waste, improving recycling or reducing transport emissions. You can remain anonymous, or we will just use your initials if you prefer.

Email Ann: awarr@btinternet.com or **Telephone:** 02083408335.

See our column published in Ham & High Broadway Nov. 5th

Take up the hints produced by Muswell Hill Sustainability Group: www.mhsgroup.org

Important Virtual Meetings

For more information contact Janet or visit:

www.hornseypag.org.uk

Past meetings:

Amnesty International - **As If Expendable** - Nov. 13th - notes produced by Joan Smith.

NPC Housing - Oct. 22nd

Green Home Technologies - Nov. 9th

Online home energy-saving workshop: Hot Tips for Warm Homes - Nov. 16th, 7.30pm. Make your home warmer and cut bills and carbon emissions this winter, without spending too much money. Muswell Hill Sustainability Group, slides available.

You may receive the bulletin too late to attend:

Undercover of COVID - Nov. 24th, 9pm. Important changes being made by NHS England without consultation that will lead to privatisation of the NHS.

Contact Rod Wells at the HKNOP:

rodwells1@hotmail.co.uk for meeting details.

MHSG Green Book Club Online discussion: There Is No Planet B, by Mike Berners Lee - Thursday Nov. 26th, 7.30pm

LESE Pensioners' Network Zoom Online Meeting: Brexit Update with Guest Speaker Professor Anand Menon - Thursday Dec. 17th 11am-Midday.

Please register: dlewis@tuc.org.uk / **020 7467 1220**

Campaigning Continues under lockdown - Like other local groups, HPAG is non-party political. We are in regular contact with Cllr James and Cllr Connor who are both very helpful. Recently, HPAG and Haringey Keep Our NHS (HKONP) posted copies of 'Goodbye Cinderella' to selected local Labour and LibDem councillors. At the suggestion of Cllr Nick Da Costa, a copy was posted to Baroness Sal Brinton, LibDem Social Care Spokesperson. Note that one of the virtual meetings to be reported was organised jointly by HKONP and the local Labour Party.

Royal Mail Scam E-Mail Warning

A neighbour reported receiving an email from royalmail@osmnow.com telling him that a postman couldn't deliver a large package from HMRC at 09:45 am, so please click on the 'Reschedule Box' below.

It looks good except for the fact that Royal Mail had just delivered a package at 09:55 am, and there was no 'we missed you' type card left. **Royal Mail Security** 020 7239 6655, option 2 tells him that it was one of several scams going on at the moment.

So **DO NOT CLICK ON THE RESCHEDULE BOX.**

Please forward emails to

securityhelpdesk@royalmail.com for their information/action.

Good News about Muswell Hill Library

After a campaign run by the Friends Of Muswell Hill Library over the past four years, we have finally persuaded Haringey Council to make firm plans to improve the accessibility of Muswell Hill Library, including installing a lift.

Pamela has sent a challenge from Maria, our former Quiz leader: *How many words can you create out of the word "prescription"?*

Travel Information

1. From Monday the 23rd of November, we will resume the **Turn Up and Go service** on the **London Underground**. This means we will provide physical assistance on request.

Staff will be able to:

- offer their arm to guide a visually impaired customers
- push a wheelchair
- accompany you in lifts, if required, and they are able to do so
- remove face coverings to speak with you at a 2-metre distance

To help protect you and our staff, we ask that you both:

- wash or sanitise you hands before and after contact
- where possible, wear a face covering
- socially distance as much as possible
- avoid standing face-to-face where possible

We have also provided staff with disposable sleeves to wear on their arms when guiding you, giving them and you additional protection. We really want to be as helpful as possible and appreciate any feedback you can provide to help us understand your needs better. There may be some circumstances where we are not able to offer physical assistance, for example, if you are unable to wear a face covering. In this case, we would offer a free taxi service to the most convenient station so you can continue your journey.

2. Re-issue of **Closure of local bus stops**. For information: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/buses/> or free telephone **0343 222 1234**

A Pleasing Tale

The old woman handed her bank card to a bank teller and said, "I would like to withdraw £10."

The teller told her, "For withdrawals less than £100, please use the ATM."

The old woman wanted to know why ...

The teller returned her bank card and irritably told her, "These are the rules. Please leave if there is no other matter. There is a queue behind you."

The old woman remained silent for a few seconds, then handed the card back to the teller and said, "Please help me withdraw all the money I have."

The teller was astonished when she checked the account balance. She nodded her head, leaned down and respectfully told her, "you have £30,000 in your account and the bank doesn't have that much cash currently. Could you make an appointment and come again tomorrow?"

The old woman then asked how much she could withdraw immediately.

The teller told her any amount up to £3,000.

"Well, please let me have £3,000 now," she said.

The teller, very friendly and respectfully, handed it to her. The old woman put £10 in her bag and asked the teller to deposit £2,990 back into her account.

The moral of this tale –

Don't be difficult with old people, they spent a lifetime learning the skills.

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Janet Shapiro 07804 936 139 (text) or janet.rmshapiro@gmail.com

-Photographer, Ann Anderson

Late winter - The pond next to
Redston field at the end of Park
Avenue North.

Spring - Cherry blossom in Avenue
Gardens opposite Alexandra Palace
station.

Summer - Horse chestnut trees on the
south-west slope of Alexandra
Palace Park.

Autumn - Virginia creeper on a Park
Avenue North fence.



*Seasons Greetings to Hornsey
Pensioners after 4 seasons of
Lockdown.*

Keep On Keeping On into 2021!