

# HORNSEY PENSIONERS

[www.hornseypag.org.uk](http://www.hornseypag.org.uk)

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

## February 2021 - Bulletin 2



*Doug Sager,  
who has died  
recently,  
asking Janet  
to dance at  
the HPAG  
party, 2015*

### Beware

You may have been vaccinated, but you still need to remember the 3 cautions:  
Stay apart, wear masks, wash hands.

**Stay at home.**

**NB** The vaccination does not protect until after a few weeks and does not have 100 % protection cover, so as always, take the usual extreme precautions, and tell younger people to do the same.

### Some 2021 Subscriptions for Hornsey Pensioners Action Group still due.

Many thanks to those many members who have paid their subscriptions so promptly, but there are still some outstanding. **Reminder** - we are keeping the annual subscription level the same as last year's at £8 for single and £12 for double households. All extra donations are most welcome, as when we do return to live meetings we will have many extra costs.

For those receiving hand delivered Bulletins whom I have not yet contacted please telephone me (020 8340 8335) if you would like me to come and collect your subscription.

For the rest of the members during the continued lock down, please send cheques payable to **Hornsey Pensioners Action Group** to my address:

**Ann Anderson Membership Secretary HPAG, 117 Redston Road, London N8 7HG**  
or put cash or a cheque through my letter box with your name!

Paying by Direct Bank transfer please make to **Lloyds Bank** Account name **Hornsey Pensioners Action Group**  
Sort code **30-99-86** Account number **01597043**

**Please put your name as the reference**

**Please then also email** the Treasurer **Clive Evers** at [clive.evers@phonecoop.coop](mailto:clive.evers@phonecoop.coop) when you have sent your transfer.

Many thanks in advance,  
Ann

### NHS Volunteer Responders

Help is available from NHS Volunteer Responders (<https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk>) during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Find out if you're eligible and how to get in touch. If you, or someone you know, or care for would like to register for support from the volunteers or have any questions about the NHS Volunteer Responder programme please call **0808 196 3646** (8am to 8pm, 7 days a week). Alternatively, please consider the following options if you have hearing loss: Our Support Team is set up to accept and utilise the **Relay UK** service **BSL Health Access**, which can connect a British Sign Language (BSL) user with the programme.

#### Our volunteer services include:

**Community Response Volunteers** on hand to help with shopping for food and essential items, and to collect and deliver prescriptions from the pharmacy.

**Check In and Chat Volunteers** available for regular talks over the phone, where you can have a chat with a friendly voice.

**Check In and Chat Plus Volunteers** provide a regular check-in by telephone to the same individual for a duration of 10 weeks, with typically 3 calls taking place each week. Patient Transport is available but will need to be requested by a **professional referrer** such as your GP or other medical practitioner.

- From Pamela Jefferys

If you need help, our Advice Line is open Monday - Friday  
10am - 4pm  
Free, independent,  
confidential advice, always  
**0300 330 1187**



Helpful sources of advice and support

- From Kathryn Dean

# Integrated Care Systems (ICS) Proposed Legislation Consultation 2021

## *Hornsey Pensioners Action Group Summary Response*

### **1. We strongly disagreed to the proposal that giving ICSs statutory recognition from 2022 would provide the right foundation for the NHS over the next decade.**

- It is clear to us that NHS England has issued instructions without engaging with those responsible for NHS management or with Local Authorities. This is not 'integration' but a very 'top-down' exercise which will allow tighter controls on spending.
- Claims that functioning ICSs have already demonstrated improvements in patient care are not evidenced based.
- The NHS needs re-integration by abolishing the 2012 Health and Social Care Act altogether and removing the competitive market and the purchaser/provider split.
- The proposals to remove Public Contracts Regulation safeguards will expand the scope for scandals like the PPE contracts awarded to firms with no relevant experience.

### **2. We strongly disagree with Option 2, whereby CCG's (Clinical Commissioning Groups) will be replaced by NHS bodies.**

- There is very little accountability built into the system and large organisations are inevitably far removed from the needs and concerns of local communities. CCG mergers reduce the opportunity for local public involvement.
- Any reorganisation of the NHS should be looking at increasing accountability and democratic control rather than weakening it.

### **3. We strongly disagree that membership of ICSs should be permissive to allow systems to shape their own governance arrangements.**

- Allowing management consultants and private sector representatives to sit on governing bodies undermines the public sector ethos which is key to the NHS.
- The NHSE Health Systems Support Framework (HSSF) strongly priorities financial savings over patient need.

### **4. We strongly disagree that services currently commissioned by NHSE should be either transferred or delegated to ICS bodies.**

- Specialist services require national commissioning in order to ensure consistent standards across the country.

Finally, we believe it is scandalous that such an important and wide-ranging proposal should be organised during a pandemic. Scrutiny, circulation and publicity for the proposals during this time is made extremely difficult. This is not how democracy should be practised.

*Janet Shapiro & Clive Evers*

## **SHARED READING GROUP**

Organised by Haringey Council Connected Communities

### **WHAT IS A SHARED READING GROUP?**

A group of people read a great novel, short story or poem aloud and then stop and talk about what was read. There is no need for group members to read aloud or speak – it's fine to just listen.

Shared reading groups are open to *ALL* and are *FREE* to attend through a telephone-landline, a mobile or the Internet.

Members of the group not on the Internet will receive a printed copy of the text to be discussed.

Groups take place weekly and are open for anyone:

**Tuesday from 2:00-3:30pm** (starting 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and lasting 6 weeks)

To find out more or to join a session contact - **Alice**, Email: [alice.hawken@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:alice.hawken@haringey.gov.uk) Phone: 07779 555193  
or **Emma**, Email: [Emma.Songeur@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:Emma.Songeur@haringey.gov.uk) Phone: 07816 112475



## We need to talk about toilets!



Older Voices Exchange protest on World Toilet Day, November 2020

Working its way through parliament right now is **The Non-Domestic Rating Public Lavatories Bill**. Once enacted, it will exempt 'public toilets' from business rates. The intention is to discourage public and private bodies from closing facilities (as they have been doing, particularly under austerity during the last decade) because of the cost (the National Association of Local Councils calculated the burden on local authorities to be around £8 million a year) and encourage better provision of a higher standard. The Toilet Manifesto for London Group (TMLG) – an alliance between Positive Ageing for London (PAiL) and Kilburn Older Voices Exchange (KOVE) – was set up to press for improvements in the run-up to the Mayoral election and to influence local authorities, like Hackney, Lewisham, Kilburn – See Photo - these loos off Kilburn High Road have been closed for years.

Southwark and Sutton (alongside the GLA) have committed to become age-friendly. TMLG wants older people to follow on the work of Jane Hopkins, who organised a comprehensive survey of provision in the Royal Borough of Greenwich in 2019. She argues that, although local authorities are not required by law to provide public toilets, decent access is a public health responsibility and failure to do so discriminates against groups with 'protected characteristics' under the Equalities Act. Given the evidence that some of us stop going out or behave dangerously (by risking dehydration or suspending medication) it's clear that older people, alongside disabled people and nursing mothers, for example, need to campaign more vigorously on this issue. Greenwich Council has already taken note. PAiL and Age UK London are giving the issue prominence in their manifestos for May. You can find out more here: <https://pailondon.org.uk/toilets/>. TMLG is keen (see point 5) to hear from those who want to find out more and bring pressure to bear change in their neighbourhood.

*John Miles, research associate, Kilburn Older Voices Exchange, 26/01/2021*

### The 5 point Toilet Manifesto for London

In the Plan, the Greater London Authority (GLA) should make explicit the need to provide and maintain free accessible public and community toilet facilities and support the obligations specified below:

1. Community toilet provision is a public health responsibility which all London councils must acknowledge, and engage with, those protected under the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#).
2. Boroughs should produce an annual toilet strategy to cover all community-based provision and identify a named lead officer to develop and monitor all aspects of provision.
3. There should be coordinated provision of information about toilets in digital, hard-copy and accessible formats – GLA should research how the older public use such information, paying particular attention to minority views & experience.
4. The GLA should make the provision of community toilets a planning condition for all new developments of more than 500 dwellings and audit the provision of public and community toilets in all London town centres.
5. London's older citizens and campaigners should monitor and scrutinise toilet provision where they live and identify neighbourhoods in need of investment and improvement.

### Update from our MP

#### Catherine West



Catherine and 3 local councillors Adam Jogee, Elin Weston and Dana Carlin met Royal Mail due to major concerns about the lack of deliveries in N8, N4 and N10.

#### Action plan to resolve the ongoing issues

The representatives for Royal Mail provided assurances that the North London Delivery Centre (NLDC) is now recovering from the peak in staff absence levels, and the increase in resource capacity will mean that the backlog of post generated during the November-December period is aimed to be cleared by the end of this month (e.g. Ann Anderson had 12 Christmas cards and 2 presents delivered long after Christmas Day).

Drop-off points for parcel collection have also been reinstated in the area, after a brief period in which the collection service was suspended due to resourcing issues. With the backlog to be cleared imminently, staff will resume the service standard that has been implemented to last for the duration of the pandemic: constituents can expect alternate day delivery services to resume shortly.

**Prioritisation of vaccine letters -** These will be prioritised **and the need for a sorting office to be reinstated in Hornsey** - This request will be passed onto the Royal Mail CEO.



## War Story 6

### From the Young Perspective of Pamela Jefferys



**Pamela aged 16/17**

In August 1939, I was on holiday with my parents in Penmaenmawr, a small village in North Wales. I was 12 and had just finished my first year at grammar school.

Then 2 or 3 days into the holiday, my father was suddenly recalled to his office in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, he was asked to help set up the new Ministry of Food and to devise the very complicated system of food rationing. Officially, we were not at war, but the powers that be were better informed.

My father returned to London alone, and later phoned to tell us to stay where we were - it was safer - there were rumours of air raids. Terror began to take over. My mother and I wandered aimlessly about the pretty village. Fortunately, it was gorgeous weather.

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of September, our landlady invited us into her sitting room to listen to Neville Chamberlain make his famous broadcast. We sat nervously around the large wireless set, me in my Sunday best frock waiting for the official declaration of War at 11 am. That was it, we were at last at War! The next day, our landlady was devastated when a coach-load of children from Liverpool drew up outside and she was told that they were to be billeted on her. We kept well out of the way! Afterwards, there were tales of how dirty the children were - that most of them had never had a bath and most of them had lice.

Back to London at last. Then the war began in earnest, with the Battle of Britain and the London bombing. My father's office was evacuated to Colwyn Bay in North Wales. Meanwhile, my mother and I slept every night in the Anderson shelter in my aunt's nearby garden. We usually found incendiary bombs in the garden when we staggered out in the morning.

Eventually, my evacuated school returned and was housed with the boys' school. Classes and exams continued as normal. There were no concessions for missing schooling or having sleepless nights. Miraculously I passed matriculation. I left school aged 17 and enrolled at a secretarial college, so I could avoid being called up to the Women's Army or the Ordnance Factory.

In the meantime, my father phoned from Wales to say he had found a cottage for us, but my mother refused to go. Later we heard that he had moved into the cottage with the woman who would eventually become my stepmother.

The last months of the War were the most frightening because of the V1s and V2 flying bombs which could land anywhere without warning. I was travelling to Central London by Tube every day to my secretarial college.

By April 1945 I had started my first job with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Association. The World Expert on Seeds, a Mrs Pattison, gave our department a wonderful party in Claridges Hotel, where we ate the most delicious food that I had never heard of before. Unfortunately, I couldn't move to Europe with the experts after the War as I was under 21.

On VE Day the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, all I wanted to do was sleep in my own bed with clean sheets and without being woken up by the sound of anti-aircraft guns from our nearby Northolt aerodrome.

Edited by Janet Shapiro and Ann Anderson and produced by Mia Anderson

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