

HORNSEY PENSIONERS

www.hornseypag.org.uk

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

January 2021 - Bulletin 1

Happy New Year!

**COVID-19 is still with us in 2021. London is in Tier 4. Stay Home.
Continue to Take Care!**

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:

Wash hands - keep washing your hands regularly - **Cover face** - wear a face covering in enclosed spaces

Make space - stay at least 2 metres apart, or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions.



Member
Hilary
Farnworth
making
Christmas
Day
deliveries at
Jackson's
Lane
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2021 Subscriptions for Hornsey Pensioners Action Group Now Due

Because we have been unable to meet physically and so have not needed to pay for the church hall, the annual subscription level will be the same as last year's at £8 for single and £12 for double households.

NB. We still need to pay for printing, envelopes and stamps for our non-email members. All extra donations are most welcome, as when we do return to live meetings we will have many extra costs.

For those receiving Bulletins I hand deliver, I shall knock on your door for payment please after hopefully giving you warning beforehand!

For the rest of the members during the continued lockdown, 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 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 cliveevers@phonecoop.coop when you have sent your transfer.

Many thanks in advance, Ann

Consultation on the Future of the NHS

The government ignores the fact that during the pandemic, citizens cannot scrutinise consultations. We have until **Friday 8th January** to tell NHS England that we do not want their plan that is for **wholesale privatisation of the NHS**.

The deadline for organisations to respond to the NHSE consultation is **midnight 8th of January**. We must demand a big say in what happens. Press your friends, Councillors and MPs to campaign for:

- Full public ownership of health and care services, free at time of need
- Full public consultation on changes to health and care services
- A local Find, Test, Trace, Isolate, and Support system that works for everyone
- A COVID-19 vaccination programme that does not mean reductions to other NHS, GP or social care services

The links opposite provided by **Keep Our NHS Public (KONP)** and **Lowdown** from John Lister will help you to interpret the intentions of the NHS England plans.

Dangerous NHS restructuring to go ahead despite COVID
<https://keepournhspublic.com/covid-nhs-restructuring-ics/>
More about [accountable care organisations and what can be learned from the USA](#)

Longer read on [Integrated Care Systems](#)

The Lowdown has John Lister's latest article on ICSS: [NHS England pushes for "integration" ... but not as we know it](#)

To have your say, you will need the **NHS England call for Integrated Care**, which can be accessed at:

<https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/building-a-strong-integrated-care-system/>
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/261120-item-5-integrating-care-next-steps-for-integrated-care-systems.pdf>

A Bit of Volunteering

We have to keep battling the stereotype of older people as all being needy, service consumers who do not contribute to society while pointing out that we do need the Freedom Pass and other benefits. Female pensioners are particularly likely to be in poverty.

There's a lot many of us do via phone and video even in lockdown: I was able to take part in two projects, one ongoing and the other seasonal.

I mentor young people through the Prince's Trust, as an ex-business studies lecturer, I signed up to help young people on the Enterprise program with the Trust, I've been doing it for four years. This year, it's all been via Zoom. Times are getting tougher for young people, and this year I've helped them develop their confidence to help some of them deal with bad housing situations, difficult bureaucrats, and grab emergency part time jobs to pay the rent, having lost hospitality work. In spite of everything this year, two of my mentees have managed to set up online enterprises, but they've needed the part-time jobs too.

The other project was seasonal; for at least 10 years we've been cooking one of the massive donated turkeys for the Jacksons Lane Christmas dinner for isolated older people. We cook it in our house and then drive it up to Jacksons Lane at midday. This year it had to be very different, about 100 volunteers prepared and delivered hampers with dinners ready to be heated and presents to 250 people.

We were given rapid COVID tests on the 24th, these were donated along with a nurse to administer the swabs. It was a well-organised project, the co-ordinator Jennifer Oliver deserves a medal. We went out by car and delivered 4 hampers to people in Haringey sheltered flats, handing the goodies over at the doorstep.

I'm looking forward to being able to mentor my young people in a café again, Zoom isn't as good, but it's really useful for these meetings. And next year we hope to be up at 5am again getting an 18lb turkey out of the shed to cook.

<https://www.jacksonslane.org.uk> <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/>

Hilary Farnworth 30th Dec 2020

Pamela Jefferys has the results of **Maria's Christmas Quiz**. This was on how many words could be created from the word "prescription". Apologies, as we did not specify words of 4 letters or more. Pamela found 108, but the winner found 203!

Message from our Co-ordinator Janet Shapiro

Our column will be published on Thursday the 7th of January 2021 in the **Broadway Ham & High** and we announce our determination not to give up.

Our last AGM was on February 19th 2020. The March 18th meeting had to be cancelled and we have not met since. We did hold a demonstration at Alexandra Palace on July 30th to protest at the withdrawal of the concessionary TV licence for over 75's. Since March 2020 our membership secretary has ensured that all members, whether or not on email, receive a monthly bulletin.

Public meetings are unlikely to be allowed early in 2021. We will need someone who can launch a Zoom meeting for us as the committee plans a virtual meeting on **March 17th 2021**, with officer reports sent out in February. This gives members time to respond and make contributions before the AGM by post or email.

We could have a speaker. Suggestions are welcome. One idea is housing provision suitable for older people.

Hornsey Pensioners Action Group is affiliated to **London Region NPC**. Janet is currently an executive member; it would be good if others volunteered to be nominated for election to this committee.

The London Region AGM is on the **24th of March**. We must send nominations for the Executive committee and motions to the secretary **Barry Todman** by **Feb 25th**.

Save The Planet

[Haringey's Climate Change Action Plan \(commonplace.is\)](#) is open until January 4th. Our suggestions, as reported in November 2020, and other ideas recently gathered by Ann have been sent as a response before the deadline. A summary can be found on our website.

Update on COVID-19 Vaccinations for our Members and Friends up to Early January

So far several members have been invited for vaccination against the COVID-19 virus. These have mainly been people in their mid-to-late 80s with health problems. One member has also asked if her older husband, without health problems, could have a vaccination too, which was allowed.

For housebound people, surgeries are waiting to receive the Oxford /Astra Zeneca vaccine this week, which will be administered by district nurses. This was not possible to administer with the Pfizer BioNtech vaccine, which needs to be kept at -70°C.

The process lasts 15 mins and then a 15 min rest afterwards. A friend said how much better he felt psychologically after having his vaccine.

The vaccination centre for those living in Hornsey and Muswell Hill seems to be in Tottenham at the **Morris House Group Practice - 239 Lordship Lane - N17 6AA**. This is on the right-hand side coming from Wood Green past Lordship Recreation ground but before Bruce Castle Park. A friend living in Edmonton was booked into the **Staunton Group Practice - 2-5 Bounds Green Road - N22 8HE**. There is also a vaccination centre at **Stroud Green - 181 Stroud Green Road - GN4 3PZ**. NB. Your surgery will send you the appointment.

Is this what you think London Mayor candidates should be supporting?

Suggestions are welcome for the London Mayoral Manifesto, as produced last year on behalf of The London Region National Pensioner Convention

The London Region National Pensioners Convention is the largest Pensioner group in London and has members in nearly all the London Boroughs. We campaign to protect and enhance the interests of Older People in the Capital.

We therefore have a special interest in the forthcoming Mayoral election. Having examined the wide remit of the Mayor of London, we have produced this manifesto on what our members consider to be their priorities over the coming years. Below are the headings together with a small sample of the relevant related issues.

- ◆ **The appointment of a specific Deputy Mayor for Older People.**
- ◆ **Safety:** Adequate manning for policing and Fire Station services, safe travel and road crossing.
- ◆ **Transport:** Sufficient bus routes, accessible buses and underground/mainline stations, assisted transport, including 'dial a ride'
- ◆ **Housed in comfort:** Affordable, safe and warm homes, the option of sheltered accommodation. Mayor to promote adequate home services and home adaptations for independent healthy living.
- ◆ **Age-Friendly London:** Cultural Venues, accessible libraries, day centres, green spaces, places to sit, public toilets, and clean air.
- ◆ **Community and communications/ Equal life chances for all - (age, gender, ethnicity and disability equality):** No discrimination against those without IT expertise or accesses to broadband, inclusive publicity options for telephone access and paper bills without financial penalty.
- ◆ **Living Costs in London to be affordable for public sector workers:** Young people and all the workers we rely on need to be able to rent/live in London.
- ◆ *Finally, whilst the Mayor is not responsible for the provision of NHS services, we expect them to oppose any further changes which would reduce or dismantle Health Services in London.*

Candidates are invited to endorse these proposals, or should they disagree, to explain their reasons

War Story 5 - With a Difference



My father, Ted Warr, did not fight in World War 2. His father had been a Royal Navy able seaman and had returned to fight in World War 1. A few months before Ted was born, his father was lucky to survive when his ship, the Cressy, was attacked by a German submarine. It was one of the old ships unable to manoeuvre easily, so named the “live bait squadron”, which were allowed by Churchill at the Admiralty to patrol the English Channel. Nearly 1,400 men died on these ships within 1.5 hours.

In August 1939, aged 25, Ted in his political innocence planned to travel and work abroad, starting in the Black Forest, Germany. His mother had said, “Isn’t there going to be a war?” Fortunately, the trip was delayed but then he was in a dilemma; must he fight for his country or must he fight for mankind, refusing to kill another? When he received his call up, he went to the Labour Exchange, where he was asked whether he preferred the army, navy or air force. His answer was a loud “None. I am not fighting”. He was hurried out of the room. In the Clerkenwell 7 floor tenement buildings where he grew up, some of the tougher young men spat at him every time he passed.

He was a toolmaker and felt he had to leave his firm as they turned to military work. He did find another job making toothpaste tubes and wine bottle tops. There, he was on a mission to convert the 2 dozen engineers to pacifism. Yet 6 weeks later, he withdrew his papers as a conscientious objector. He had been persuaded that if you hide yourself away from your fellowmen, how can you change their ideas? He then became politically active and involved in the union and spoke for peace. When he first spoke for his union his same tough neighbours were attending the meeting.

In his work as an ARP warden during the bombing raids, helping the injured and carrying the dead, he still believed that doing the same to others was not the answer. Earlier, he had joined a Rambling Club following on from his youthful enjoyment of Scouts camping. There he met my Canadian mother, who later introduced him to the mountains. They were married within 6 months.

I don’t think he visited the Black Forest, but he certainly climbed and skied in Austria, Switzerland and France, ascending Mont Blanc in the 1950s. In 1958 he died leading an expedition in the Himalaya.

In 2010 I started writing his story, 3 years later I self-published “*Up Drainpipes to Diran*”. (NB. ‘Drainpipes’ refers to those of his tenement buildings and ‘Diran’ is the mountain he died on.)



Ann Anderson

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