

# 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

## March 2021 - Bulletin 3



Patsy Pillay, the Joint President of Hornsey Pensioners Action Group, died in February aged 96. Here she is on the left enjoying a party with Pamela Jefferys about 4 years ago. John Boshier, the Joint President gives his condolences. Please see p.2 for our obituary of her.



We were also sorry to hear that our member Marva Prince passed away last July. (Image: right).

### Some 2021 Subscriptions for Hornsey Pensioners Action Group Still Due

Many thanks to those many members, now nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the expected total who have paid their subscriptions, 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.

Anyone self-isolating can ask for me to come and collect their subscription—**020 8340 8335** It will help with my daily exercise!

For the rest of the members during the continued lockdown please send cheques payable to **Hornsey Pensioners Action Group** to my address below, or put cash or a cheque through my letter box with your name!

Ann Anderson Membership Secretary HPAG  
117 Redston Road London N8 7HG.

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

### Update on action for the Toilet Manifesto

1. Extract from John Miles' letter to Haringey Council  
" I trust that Haringey will recognise the importance of public toilets - access to which is very unevenly and unfairly distributed across the borough - and note the way that it arises within many of the domains on which you are currently consulting for the new Local Plan.

I would be very interested to hear from you to discuss ways in which the Council might collaborate with our Group to identify common ground and pursue the important objectives set out in the Manifesto."

2. At Janet's suggestion, the issue was raised at the London Regional National Pensioners Convention (LR NPC) executive meeting.

The LR NPC discussed the 'toilet' document meeting, and supported the points as detailed. Some delegates reported what had been progressed in their Boroughs. It was also agreed that it should be sent in for information purposes to the NPC Nationally.

### Beware!

Under cover of COVID, the white paper, if passed, would legalise **Integrated Care Systems**. <https://keepournhspublic.com/government-used-crisis-to-increase-privatisation-nhs-white-paper-will-endorse/>

How is your relationship with your GP? At the Patient Participation Group Network organised by HealthWatch on Monday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, it was admitted that e-consult will be preferred to face-to-face (F2F) meetings, even when the pandemic ends. This contradicts widespread recognition of the importance of F2F for diagnosis and treatment. Linked with concern over the privatisation of the NHS -Islington Tribune reports that Companies House documents show how AT Medics is owned by parent company Centene Corporation a large rich US corporation. Islington GP practices are affected. **NB** Five of the practices run by AT Medics now are in North Central London

**Janet for Haringey Keep Our NHS Public**

## *Patsy Pillay*

Patsy was born 96 years ago in Gibeon, South West Africa (now known as Namibia). After her schooling she moved to Johannesburg, where she became a stenographer, working in the courts. Patsy joined the Communist Party—the only political group that all ethnic groups could belong to. She met and married her husband Vella Pillay, who was of Indian descent, just before mixed marriages were banned by law. They could not live together, so in 1948 they travelled to the UK, as her husband had won a part-time scholarship to the London School of Economics. In London, Vella became an Economist and Patsy worked at the Indian High Commission, where she was Secretary to the High Commissioner, Krishna Menon. Patsy later became a Secretarial Teacher. They were founding members of the Anti-Apartheid movement, helping boycott South African goods and then pushing for political sanctions. In response to this, and the sacrifices of the freedom fighters, the Chase Manhattan Bank refused to lend money to South Africa. They opened up their house to South African friends and comrades who passed through London. Following Vella's death in 2004, she continued with her varied interests and became active in the Labour party.

**Sources:** Patsy Pillay talking to Ann Anderson and her son Anans Pillay from The Guardian Online. The film, originally shown at our HPAG meeting in September 2019, is her story and can be viewed at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W\\_r8geQJ2-4&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_r8geQJ2-4&feature=youtu.be)

The last 19 minutes of her activity here in Muswell Hill was shown at the HPAG meeting.

## COVID-19 Scams

### *Vaccine Scam*

Apologies for repeating this warning (sent out in my last email); many people are still falling for this highly plausible scam. This scam is being received via phone calls and text messages offering the COVID-19 vaccination.

Please be aware of the following points:

- The vaccine is **only** available from the NHS and is being offered to people in priority groups.
- Vaccinations are **free** and the NHS will contact you when it is your turn. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, or a GP surgery local to you, to receive your vaccine.
- Anyone offering a **paid-for vaccine is committing a crime.**



Image by Gerd Altmann: Pixabay

The NHS will **never**:

- Ask you to press a button on your keypad or send a text to confirm you want the vaccine.
- Never ask for **payment**, for your **bank account** or **card details**, or to confirm your eligibility for the vaccine.
- Ask you for your PIN or banking **password**.
- **Arrive unannounced** at your home to administer or discuss the vaccine.
- Ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of **personal documents** such as your passport, driving licence, bills, bank account details or pay slips.

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft you should report this directly to **Action Fraud** on **0300 123 2040**. Where the victim is vulnerable, and particularly if you are worried that someone has or might come to your house, report it to the Police online or by calling **101**.

**PLEASE REMEMBER: If you are asked to pay for the vaccine or for your bank account details, it is a scam.**

### *Home Testing Scam*

There have already been reports to Action Fraud of suspicious callers knocking on doors of elderly and vulnerable residents in various parts of the UK offering home testing, of course after you have taken the bogus test, you will be asked for payment. On the back of the recent publicity of door to door testing in **defined areas** for the South African variants, this scam could become more prevalent.

Unless you are in one of the defined areas you will **not** receive a home visit offering a COVID-19 test.

## COVID-19 Vaccinations

Protect yourself and your loved ones against COVID-19 and get the vaccine when it is your turn.



People aged 65-69, and those who are clinically vulnerable, have begun to receive invitations for COVID-19 vaccinations from the NHS. This priority group will be able to book an appointment for their vaccination online once they receive their letter from the NHS. Those aged 70 and over, who have yet to receive their invitation letter, can also continue to use the [online national booking service](#) to make an appointment. Anyone unable to book online can call 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm, 7 days a week.

## Cold Weather Payment

Haringey residents on certain benefits may be entitled to a [£25 Cold Weather Payment](#).

The payment is awarded when the average temperature in your area is recorded as 0 degrees Celsius or below over 7 consecutive days, which was the case in Haringey from 7-13<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

If you are already eligible for the Cold Weather Payment, you do not need to apply – you'll receive it automatically.

[Find out more about the Cold Weather Payment](#) and [check if you are eligible](#).

## Feeling Good

Feeling Good is Jacksons Lane's project to bring the arts to older adults across North London, based on companionship, creativity and communication. Their vital work with the most vulnerable people in our communities is needed more than ever, with the COVID-19 pandemic stopping or discouraging older adults from socialising and leaving their homes.

Through conversation and activities, the Feeling Good beneficiaries gain confidence and stay connected to their community.



"As you get older, it's harder to talk to yourself all the time."

**Audrey, beneficiary**

We match-make isolated and vulnerable older adults with a volunteer through personality, preference and postcode. Feeling Good consists of weekly contact within your pairs, which is currently taking the form of phone calls, outside walks and activities and online creative workshops.

**Do you know someone that would benefit from a Feeling Good Companion?**

Please download and fill out the Feeling Good Referral Form on their website: [Jacksons Lane - Feeling Good](#) and send it to [jennifer.oliver@jacksonslane.org.uk](mailto:jennifer.oliver@jacksonslane.org.uk).

General enquiries number, manned by Executive Asst: **07761 104 937**

## 10 REASONS to Explore Homesharing WITH TWO GENERATIONS

Help us spread the word by sharing why our householders and homesharers love our intergenerational homeshares.

Live better. Together.

- 1 PEACE OF MIND**  
Having someone to share their home, makes householders feel safer and helps retain their independence.
- 2 SAFEGUARDING**  
Established safeguarding and Covid-19 protocols. We also work with the family members and professionals.
- 3 COMPANIONSHIP**  
Companionship for both the householder and homesharer.
- 4 PRACTICAL HELP**  
It means practical help at home for the householder.
- 5 BESPOKE MATCHES**  
Matching based on culture, hobbies & life experience.
- 6 COMPLEMENTS HAVING A CARER**  
Provides additional support and respite for family and unpaid carers
- 7 AWARD-WINNING MATCHING TECH**  
Both people are expertly matched using award-winning technology and by our dedicated team.
- 8 POSITIVE INFLUENCE**  
The younger generation offer energy, new perspectives, and positive influences.
- 9 LIFE EXPERIENCE**  
The older generation offer wisdom, perspective, and life experience for the homesharer.
- 10 HOMESHARER'S BENEFITS**  
Homesharers gain real-life experience, grow in confidence and enjoy affordable accommodation as a result.

www.twogenerations.co.uk  
03333 44 77 38  
contact@twogenerations.co.uk



## Generation Exchange Projects bring generations together during lockdown

The local intergenerational charity, Generation Exchange, has launched 2 new exciting projects.

**IT Exchange - the virtual edit.** In weekly sessions via Zoom or Teams, the new virtual edit sees over 30 young volunteers presenting to 30 local older people on a variety of IT topics. So far the groups have covered the basics of Zoom, how to set up a Zoom account and installing apps. A session on online safety and a quiz are also in the pipeline for this 9 week programme, which completes at the end of March. For more information about the project please contact **Leonie** on **07713 937 811**.

Generation Exchange is also currently running a **Letter Writing Project**, with older people and children and young people exchanging letters via the charity. This is a chance to safely bring the generations together, through the old-fashioned form of letter writing, and help a child or young person to improve their vital writing skills. Generation Exchange will run a short course helping older people learn how to frame letters to younger learners and will undertake the exchange of letters to keep everyone safe. If you are interested in thinking about becoming a **pen pal** to a child from a more disadvantaged part of Haringey, please call **Claire** on **07484 182 087** for more information.

## War Story 7

### Dolly Shepherd or Elizabeth Shepherd (1886-1983) Local Woman Parachutist



Source: Bruce Castle Museum & Archives

When she was 16 and working as a waitress at Alexandra Palace, Dolly's curiosity was sparked by a discussion she overheard. The famous American showman and performer [Samuel Franklin Cody](#) (also known as 'Buffalo Bill') was in need of a stand-in for his target-shot variety act. Dolly dared to volunteer herself.

Dolly became one of the parachutists in the balloon aerial descents at Alexandra Palace. Dolly was part of Auguste Gaudron's aeronautical display team from 1904-1912. Dolly would ascend in a hot-air balloon all by herself, just holding onto a trapeze hanging below the balloon, much to the amazement of the crowds. When the balloon reached a height of 2,000 - 4,000 feet, she would pull a ripcord to begin the balloon's deflation and jump off the trapeze bar, allowing the parachute to open for the descent.

Needless to say, such a role in the aeronautical team was extremely risky, facing danger every time they jumped. Dolly experienced some terrifying incidents. One occasion in 1905 saw the balloon continue to rise to 15,000 feet. At that height, it was far too cold and there was an alarming decrease in oxygen levels. All by herself, with no one to help her, Dolly could have lost her grip and fallen. Thankfully, the balloon suddenly began to descend again before it was too late and Dolly took back control, landing safely to fly another day.

More seriously, in July 1908, Dolly was on a double-parachute descent with her fellow female parachutist, Louie May. When Louie's parachute failed to open, Dolly got Louie to hang onto her so that they could descend together on one parachute. But the 'chute could not take both their weights and they descended too quickly. On impact, Louie was able to walk away, but horrifyingly Dolly was left paralysed. Unable to move, doctors prescribed Dolly a course of electrical shock treatment which, allegedly, was so powerful that she was ejected from her bed. It is said, too, that "such a jolt realigned the vertebrae in Dolly's back and healed her."

Over the years, tragically there were a number of fatalities in these aeronautical displays. Dolly chose to end her career in parachute displays in 1912. At the outbreak of World War One, Dolly and her sister volunteered to join the Women's Volunteer Reserve, where she became a Munitions Truck Driver. By 1917 she was volunteering as a driver and mechanic and went over to France.

Wanting to 'do her bit', Dolly also contributed to the war effort on the home front during the Second World War.

At 90 Dolly returned to the skies, flying with the Red Devils in one of their air shows. With her daughter, she also co-authored the biography of her extraordinary life and career in *When the 'Chute Went Up'* (1996).

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