

HORNSEY PENSIONERS

www.hornseypag.org.uk

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

May 2021 - Bulletin 5



Our 1st public meeting for 15 months will take place on **Wednesday 16th June**. Topics will be decided before our June Bulletin. Please send in your suggestions.

With many thanks to members for their continuing support. Our membership for this year has reached 139 with 4 more subscription promises.

London Mayoral Manifesto on Behalf of London Region National Pensioners' Convention

The appointment of a specific Deputy Mayor for Older People.

Safety: Adequate manning for Police and Fire Station services, safe travel and road crossing.

Transport: Sufficient bus routes, accessible buses and underground/main line stations, assisted transport, including 'dial a ride'.

Housing: Reverse the decline in truly affordable council housing association and sheltered housing. All homes to have suitable adaptations, be warm and fully accessible 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.

NHS: Finally, whilst the Mayor is not responsible for the provision of NHS services, we expect him/her to oppose any further changes which would reduce or dismantle Health Services in London.

General Election Quiz!



1

2

3

Source: Hornsey Journal

As it is GLC - Election month, see the 1945 General Election candidates for old Borough of Hornsey and try to answer these quiz questions. See Page 3 for the answers.

A) Who out of numbers 1 to 3 is:

- the Communist candidate G.J Jones, a London County Council teacher?
- the Labour candidate W.G Fiske, lecturer to the Forces and Cooperative Society?
- the Conservative candidate Capt. L.D. Gammans, formerly in the Colonial Service?

B) Which Crouch End shop now occupies the former Communist Party election HQ ?

C) Although the Communist Party candidate lost, what record did he achieve?

Mary Feilding Care Home Update – See our insert of letter from National Pensioners Convention

Within the reply of Cllr Sarah James, Haringey Cabinet member for Adults and Health. She states: *If the resident and/or family decide to stay in the home indefinitely, and the provider determines that it will continue with the stated closure date of 31st May, then it is the case that the provider will need to seek a court order directing that they move. The provider does not have powers to “evict” residents should the stated deadline for a move not be met or a resident refuse to move. Part of the decision for the courts would be whether a move is in the best interests of the individual concerned.*

Janet has sent a letter from Hornsey Pensioners (HPAG) to Haringey Council. She also summarised the press reports of the campaign against its closure as have many articles and letters in the Broadway Ham & High, in an article in The Express and a Guardian letter from our MP Catherine West. Catherine West’s letter to HPAG member John Miles: *I spoke with the owner yesterday and have requested that he review his decision to gain vacant possession of the Mary Feilding Guild and I will be handing in the petition to Parliament to request the same.*

See: <http://www.catherinewest.org.uk/save-mary-feilding-guild> What I find astounding is how this individual can have been awarded an OBE. **Press Coverage:** See our website for more details.

People’s Covid Inquiry

Islington KONP lost no time in setting up this invaluable inquiry. It takes the form of eight Zoom sessions chaired by Michael Mansfield QC, in which a barrister and distinguished panel members put questions to experts, representatives of the bereaved, NHS staff and patients.

The first sessions are available online at <https://www.peoplescovidinquiry.com/> where you can also register to watch future sessions. Here are the details of the sessions.

Session 1: How well prepared was the NHS? 24th February.

Session 2: How did the Government respond? 10th March.

Session 3: Did the Government adopt the right public health strategy? 24th March.

Session 4: Impact on the population (1 of 2) Family impacts, social care and disability 7th April .

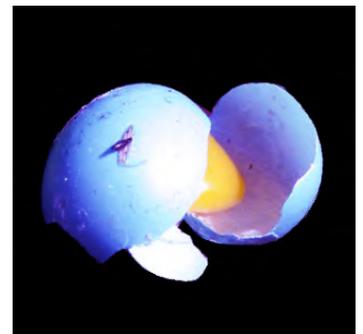
Session 5: Impact on frontline staff and key workers, 21st April.

Session 6: Inequalities and discrimination, 5th May

Session 7: Privatisation of the Public's Health 19th May

Session 8: Impact on mental health and on schools, children and young people (2 of 2) 2nd June.

NB, Session 7: Message from Defend the Whittington Hospital Coalition: *The (profitization) of these surgeries is already leading to cuts in GPs, who are being replaced by pharmacists and GP assistants in order for the company to make profits. Centene has an appalling record of health care in the USA with several law suits being carried out against them. Shockingly, the CEO of Operose the Centene subsidiary has been appointed on a full time advisory post to the Department of Health and Social Care. And why did Centene install former NHS England Director, Samantha Jones, as the boss of Operose Health and 3 MORE UK subsidiaries? Did this sway the NHS? Commissioners?*



NHS the Broken Egg

What is Taxicard?



The London Taxicard scheme provides subsidised door-to-door journeys in licensed taxis and private hire vehicles for London residents who have serious mobility or visual impairments. It is funded by the London boroughs and Transport for London and managed by London Councils on their behalf.

Taxicard details trips: £104 per annum (pro rata)
£8.50 maximum subsidy per trip.

Minimum fare: £2.50

Check www.londoncouncils.gov.uk or telephone the Taxicard team: **020 7934 9791** to see if you are eligible.

Libraries Opening



We will start to reopen our libraries from the **12th April 2021** and phase in the reintroduction of services as restrictions relax.

The opening hours from 12th April at **Wood Green, Marcus Garvey and Hornsey** will be **Monday - Saturday** between the hours of **10am and 4pm**. The branch libraries including **Muswell Hill** (with the exception of Stroud Green & Harringay where capital works are underway), will be open **Monday - Saturday 10am to 4pm** but will **close between 12noon and 1pm**. The Home Library Service remains open and active.

Here is a summary of what services will be on offer from 12th April:

Grab and Go: 20-minute stock browsing time. (This will not be available at Alexandra Park due to preparation for capital works). **Click and Collect:** services for collecting reservations, **Ready Reads:** returning library items and **Bookable computer sessions and study spaces** at our three main libraries.

Judith Walker, Head Of Library Services.

On **17th May**, Haringey Council intend to reopen their indoor spaces and meeting rooms for small groups. At this point, they will also look to extend opening hours and offer bookable meeting spaces and bookable events and activities.

Message from Member Jenny Wells RE Drug Side Effects - Yellow Card: Helping to Make Medicines Safer

For those that have had the Vaccines and may not be aware that if you report side effects to your GP, they just go on your medical records and are **not** automatically reported to the "Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency" (MHRA).

To get these side effects included in the MHRA Records and used as statistics and to help others, there is a "Yellow Card Reporting Scheme" but you have to fill in the "Yellow Card" yourself, now online.

This is the case for any drugs and healthcare products you take. A way of collating data.

<https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/iDAP> or Phone: **0800 731 6789** for a Yellow Card.

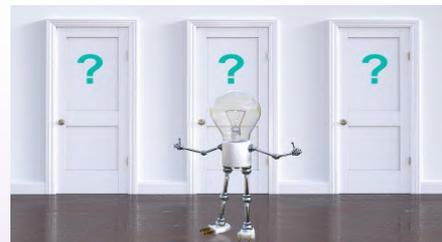
Request from Member Patrick Grant

The CQC (Care Quality Commission) is investigating Whittington Health Trust (WHT), UCLH and Queenswood (QMP) complaints on my behalf.

I would be grateful if HPAG could help identify what I believe could be up to 4,000 patients with similar problems in Haringey, Islington, Camden, Enfield and Barnet Areas.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has been treated for repeat UTIs, Urine Retention and has odd symptoms after treatments like lung, liver and kidney problems even if they appear to be unconnected. I would be even more interested to hear of patients who have made complaints which have been fobbed off or covered up. Replies should be sent to: AllPatientsMatter@BTInternet.com.

Election Quiz Answers!



Answers to the 1945 General Election Quiz on Page 1

- A)** Communist =3 , Labour =1 , Conservative =2
- B)** Foto Plus store, 3 Park Road.
- C)** At over 10,000 votes (Labour over 12,000, Conservative nearly 25,000) Jones "scored the biggest vote that any Communist has ever achieved in an English constituency, which Labour also contested".

With thanks to Andrew Whitehead, soon to publish *Curious Crouch End* and member, Vaughan Melzer.

The President, the Poet and the Eisteddfod Chair. By Our Treasurer, Clive Evers



Hetty and Clive at her 100th birthday party, 2015

Many of you will remember Hetty Bechler (1915 – 2016) who was Honorary President of Hornsey Pensioners Action Group for many years. She was an active campaigner and took part in the campaign about the widening of the Archway Road many years ago.

Some of you may recall our Christmas Party in 2013 which Hetty attended and read one of her favourite poems, *The Highwayman*!

Some years ago, my wife and I became friends with Hetty who was born and raised on a farm near Fishguard in Pembrokeshire. On every occasion, whether a phone call or a visit, she was always positive, amusing and entertaining. She had the wonderful facility at 99 years of age to relate colourful stories and respond to our questions.

On one visit to Hetty, we told her about our recent holidays in Swansea and Pembrokeshire and our visit to Pwllderi, a small bay near Fishguard which is a popular place for people who like long walks and great views.

Hetty then told us that Pwllderi was the most beloved place of her favourite Welsh Poet, Dewi Emrys, who wrote a poem of the same name, *Pwllderi*. (See Hetty's translation into English attached with more photographs). He entered the poem in a competition of the Welsh National Eisteddfod (Llanberis, 1930) and won the prize of a specially carved oak Eisteddfod Chair.



Looking down into Pwllderi, 2008



Dewi Emrys' Eisteddfod Chair

We later learned that the poet had actually won four such chairs for his poetry and sold one of them to Mr Bryniog Jones, the head porter of Cefn Coed.

So on a later visit to Swansea, we were able to visit the hospital to see and photograph the chair. We also learned from Hetty that Dewi Emrys has been a pastor at a church in Finsbury Park for a while. The National Eisteddfod rules were changed after Dewi Emrys won several chairs. Now nobody can compete after winning twice.

Edited by Janet Shapiro and Ann Anderson. Produced by Mia Anderson

Key Contacts: Ann Anderson 020 8340 8335 or awarr@btinternet.com

Pamela Jefferys 020 8444 0732

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