

# 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

## July 2021 - Bulletin 7

### Live Meetings News for Hornsey Pensioners

The Hornsey Pensioners Action Group Committee has decided to leave our next public live meeting until **Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**. After speaking with the new manager of the Church Hall, we have now been offered a fit church helper to set up and clear the hall so we do not need a volunteer for that now. Volunteers during the meeting are always needed though.

Alas, Clive Evers our treasurer is retiring at the end of the year so we do need a volunteer to be our treasurer. We will also need someone with a car to store our sound equipment and bring it to every meeting.

Thanks to the many people who have offered a family story for our next Bulletins.

### The Annual National Pensioners Conventions



*Early morning view of Blackpool beach 2013*

The conventions were traditionally held in Blackpool and 2 or 3 of our group used to make the trip. Even though held in June, the weather was always pot-luck, sometimes there was sunshine but occasionally, there'd be heavy rain or strong winds.

Each year the convention was launched by a march to the Winter Gardens; strong winds could make this hazardous, with pensioners clinging onto their local banners.

It was a train journey, then staying at B&B for 3 or 4 nights. Pensioners from all over the UK attended, some funded by their local groups.

It was an occasion to exchange ideas and have serious debates but also enjoy the social programme in the glorious setting of the Winter Gardens. Many took a trip on a Blackpool tram, some walked along the seafront.

Then Coronavirus struck and live meetings were banned. This year, the NPC has organised a series of Webinars. These are being broadcast; anyone can register to watch and ask questions, but you need to be online. If you have no access yourself, try to find someone nearby who is online - ask them if you can join them.

*Member Audrey Evers in the Winter Gardens, 2014 with Rosie MacGregor, chair of the NPC Women's Working Party. Spot Clive Evers lurking behind!*



### Do Observe COVID Distancing and Masks

See insert / 2<sup>nd</sup> attachment for details of webinars

NB. The first session of the 2021 NPC Annual Convention webinar (8<sup>th</sup> June) finished on a high with welcome news of a delay to NHS Digital's controversial plans to extract all files from GP's in England until the beginning of September.

**A Letter from Jean Scott to our  
Co-ordinator, Janet Shapiro.**

**A long-time member of Hornsey Pensioners  
and former resident of Mary Feilding Guild  
(MFG) care home**

I cannot deny the last three months have been traumatic, it is a terrible thing to rip up a community, especially one of such age and reputation as the MFG.

However, there has been such support and outrage from our MP and councillors, the national press and elsewhere, that I hope our situation has shone a light on the national conditions for the closure of care homes, especially in times of emergency, and that national regulations will be amended. Our plight was of course exacerbated by COVID, which made 'home hunting' very difficult. I fear, as with the NHS increasingly, money rules.

I am in touch with ex-residents and some are happy where they have gone but sadly some are not.

I found Henley Manor on the Net and came here because I have a long acquaintance and affection for Henley, I also have cousins nearby. Of course, I miss London and friends there and all the activities in which I was engaged but there are compensations. I suppose in an ironic way, being confined for so long because of COVID made the change easier.

The town and countryside are very beautiful and I am only a 10 min walk from the river. The home is excellently appointed, the staff very kind and the food good. It is rather more of a care home than MFG was but they let me do my own thing and they try hard to provide activities.

So, all in all, I am very comfortable and I think settling down. The MFG it is not, but that I think was unique, so under the circumstances I am lucky.

Please remember me to anyone who knew me.  
Keep up the good work.

**Issue of Carers of Receiving Zero-Hour Contracts  
with No Sick Pay Raised By Committee Member,  
Pamela Jefferys**

*See below the reply from Catherine West our MP after Ann raised the issue on behalf of Pamela Jefferys concerned about one of her carers having to take unpaid time off for major dental problems.*



"Firstly, I cannot overestimate how much carers have been at the heart of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. They do so much to make our health and social care services one to be proud of and I believe they deserve our upmost respect, admiration and full support. The very least they deserve is secure and well paid contracts.

I read a very interesting and eye opening blog post on the Fawcett website titled: [MY LIFE AS A CARER: ZERO HOURS CONTRACTS AND NO SICK PAY](#). It is a disgrace that many carers are left in the appalling position to choose between going to work and putting vulnerable people at risk or isolating at home and not be able to pay the bills. These carers have been completely failed by the Tory Government. The article highlighted to me how, despite the Government's weekly applause for key workers last year, the work that carers do is still undervalued and more must be done to increase workers' protection and fair pay, including full access to sick pay.

I am deeply concerned that carers, alongside other frontline staff, have been unprotected underpaid for too long and that our social care sector has lacked the priority and attention it deserves.

Last year, my colleague Angela Rayner MP, Labour's Deputy Leader, urged the Government to publish its long-awaited plan to fix the social care crisis and guarantee that all care workers are paid at least the real living wage and have the right to Statutory Sick Pay of £94.25 per week.

Beyond the pandemic, I believe long-term reform of the social care system is urgently needed to increase access to care, to help the 1.5 million people currently going without the support they need, and to protect people from high care costs. It is crucial that investment in the workforce and better employee protection are central to these reforms. As your MP, I will continue to work closely with my Labour colleagues to make sure that the Government's plan to fix social care is fit for purpose."

## Have Your Say On Proposed Boundary Changes

The independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is re-drawing the map of Parliamentary constituency boundaries.

The changes will make the number of electors in each constituency more equal, thus ensuring individual votes are of broadly equal weight, and in doing so increase the number of constituencies from 533 to 543.

Visit the [Boundary Commission for England website](#) to find out what this means for Haringey, and to view and comment on the proposals. Don't miss out – contribute your local knowledge and have your say on what the new constituencies should be by **2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021**.

**NB.** Many of our members to the west of the Hornsey and Wood Green present constituency could be part of a new Finchley and Muswell Hill constituency.

### Neighbours Fight Plan For 'Out Of Character' Flats Above Nursery in a Beautiful Community Garden



Image of monstrous three and a half storey building proposed for three single bedroom flats above a new nursery. It will demolish the old single-story nursery (alas, once a public toilet) and put the Priory Common Orchard and W3/144 bus stop out of action for a year during the building works, if not destroy the former.

Hornsey Pensioners member, Joyce Rosser has led the local residents' objections campaign against the planning application and reports that there are now nearly 180 individual objections many from wider afield. Objections are now closed.

See: <http://www.planningservices.haringey.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=406891>



Views of the nursery and Priory Common Orchard at the corner of Priory Road and Redston Road.

### Get Your Free Copies of Helpful Booklets from Independent Age

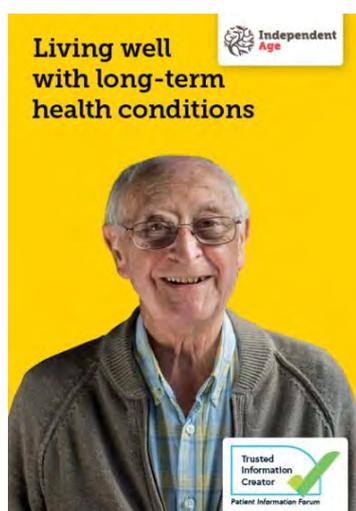
Go to: [Independentage.org](http://Independentage.org) or

Call the Independent Age Helpline: **0800 319 6789**

You can order **free copies** of their booklets on:

'Dealing with depression', 'Coping with bereavement' and 'Living well with long-term health conditions'.

Janet Shapiro has some copies of the pictured guides.



## My Gran

By Member, Vaughan Melzer



The bus stop for Northolt aerodrome was beside urban fields and today there were patches of un-melted snow. Hunching against a bitter wind, Gran and I walked a hundred yards to the entrance of the aerodrome. Suddenly she stops, “Ah, look at those flowers.” She is looking down at a small cluster of what I think are Dandelions. Like the rest of this unattractive green patch, they seem entirely forgettable, and I wonder at her excitement as she takes a trowel from her bag and starts to dig up a root with some of the flowers.

“Why are you digging up those Dandelions, Gran?”

“They’re not Dandelions, but one of the very first Spring flowers. It’s Coltsfoot.” Her excitement and pleasure are infectious. I notice that they have no leaves, and their stems are scaly. I feel a new respect for this determined little flower, growing on poor soil and sending up strong yellow heads, despite the cold, hard ground.

“Well, why are you digging some up, Gran?”

“When we get home, I shall make a Japanese garden.”

After tea, she puts some newspaper on the table in the sitting room, and then fetches a low circular pottery bowl with soil in it. On the newspaper she lays several small plants taken from her garden as well as the Coltsfoot. I sit on the table beside the bowl, watching.

“What are you going to do, Gran?”

“Well, I am going to make a little garden. Where should we put this Coltsfoot?”

While amiably discussing the possibilities, Gran gradually sets the plants down in the soil, giving them space and balance in relation to each other. She picks up a small box.

“Now open the box and see what is inside.”

Gran has a way of making the simplest things feel exciting. Inside are small painted China models: a bridge, an oriental-looking house and some figures with Japanese faces. They look like toys and yet, they belong to my Gran, and she is making a miniature garden.

She puts the house among some small green plants, but the Coltsfoot flowers stand taller.

“Gran, it’s like the yellow flowers are trees.” She smiles happily and produces a small mirror which she lays among the plants. Then she adds the bridge. Delighted, I say, “Let’s put the Japanese lady on the bridge” and Gran does, and we two feel a completeness, as we gaze at the miniature landscape.

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

Key Contacts: Ann Anderson 020 8340 8335 or [awarr@btinternet.com](mailto:awarr@btinternet.com)

Pamela Jefferys 020 8444 0732

Janet Shapiro 07804 936 139 (text) or [janet.rmshapiro@gmail.com](mailto:janet.rmshapiro@gmail.com)