

# 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

## August 2021 - Bulletin 8

*NB The September Public meeting is expected to go ahead on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September** and the speaker on Depression is still available.*

### HPAG Treasurer Vacancy

Description of Treasurer job needed to replace Clive Evers by December 2021 (see him pictured at our 2016 party):

- To receive membership subscriptions from the Membership Secretary, plus those made directly to the group's bank account.
- Pay back any expenditure by the Committee and pay any donations or membership which they decide upon.
- Deposit cash and cheques in the group's bank.
- Record all income and expenditure in a cashbook or online.
- Produce annual accounts for the AGM.
- Attend monthly committee meetings and report on income and expenditure.



### Why no TV coverage of the Health and Care Bill, that sets out to destroy our NHS as we know it?

The explanatory notes in the [NHS Bill July 2021](#) speak of integration but local authority councillors have not been engaged in its formulation. In addition, it is not made clear that Integrated Care Boards, not yet legal, are already set up, operating through the Clinical Commissioning Boards, created in 2012. The Bill will increase privatisation while reducing accountability and gives the Health Secretary greater powers.

In her letter to Catherine West, Janet said that the Bill would lead to; an increase in the rationing of healthcare, a postcode lottery, big business at the heart of NHS decision-making and the delivery of services, NHS bodies simply being allowed to award contracts for clinical care to private healthcare providers without considering other bids, vulnerable patients being put at risk and the deregulation of NHS professions. Her letter and Catherine's reply will be posted on our website, with additional information.

**The Bill passed its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.** Please write to your MP to oppose the bill and encourage friends and relatives to do the same. NPC General Secretary, Jan Shortt, has written to every MP asking that they oppose the Health and Care Bill.

We must all do our best to make sure this bill does not become law when it returns to parliament after the recess. **Help keep the public properly informed.**

The NPC has posted useful information. See: [Health and Care Bill - letter to MPs \(npcuk.org\)](#)

### Department of Health and Social Care

*Published 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021- Consultation to last 2 months.*

The consultation seeks views from the public, healthcare organisations and staff on [options for implementing a change in the age at which people in England become eligible for free prescriptions](#) from the current age of 60 to 66 years of age.

The upper age exemption for free prescriptions used to align with the State Pension age, but that link has been lost over the years.

Prescription charges are an important source of income for the NHS, and the costs of providing free prescriptions continue to increase with our ageing population.

Anyone with views on the proposals can share them through the consultation response form, available online on [GOV.UK](#).

Currently, people receive free prescriptions when they turn 60 in England. This has not changed since 1974 for women, and 1995 for men. The State Pension age in England is currently 66 and is planned to increase further for men and women to 68 between 2037 and 2039.

As increasing numbers of people live longer, more people are claiming free prescriptions. By 2066, there will be a further 8.6 million projected UK residents aged 65 years and over, which will be 26% of the total population.

Out of 1.1 billion items dispensed in 2018 in England, almost 90% of prescription items dispensed in the community were free of charge thanks to a range of exemptions which are in place.

See our Committee's consultation response on p.2

## Watch the 'We Own It' Video About The Health & Care Bill

Find further information on: <https://www.npcuk.org/post/health-and-care-bill-where-is-the-resistance>

Prof Allyson M Pollock and Peter Roderick have produced a key points summary of the Health and Care Bill. Read and download it on: <https://www.npcuk.org/post/health-and-care-bill-key-points>. See KONP website: <https://keepournhspublic.com/privatisation/health-and-care-bill-2021/>

### Hornsey Pensioners' Response

**Question:** Should the upper age exemption to prescription charges be aligned to the State Pension age?

• **Strongly disagree**

**Question:** If the prescription charge exemption age is raised to State Pension age should people in the age groups 60 to 65 at the date of change retain their existing exemption? • **Strongly agree**

**Question:** Do you think there will be any unintended consequences that a raise in the upper age exemption could have on people, pharmacies or other organisations?

• **Yes — Many pensioners cannot afford prescription charges. Not taking prescribed medications would lead to deteriorating health, creating in an even greater cost and burden to the NHS, a greater need for Social Care and associated costs, harm to local communities and society as a whole. Health inequalities would increase.**

**Question:** Do you think that aligning the upper age exemption with State Pension age could have a differential impact on particular groups of people or communities?

• **Yes — It would affect poorer pensioners, who are likely to suffer from ill-health. Despite life expectancy having risen during the 20th Century, recent statistics in the report by Prof. Michael Marmot indicate that this rise has stalled during the last 10 years and that poorer people in society suffer greater ill-health and their life expectancy is now in decline. Women in particular, would be badly affected, as they live longer and suffer greater long-term ill-health than men. Also those from Black and Ethnic Minority backgrounds suffer greater long-term ill-health, and need free prescriptions.**

**Some pensioners have lost jobs because of ill-health, and could be excluded by the proposed change. In addition, prospects of employment close to retirement are very poor, and people in this age group are at risk.**

**Question:** Do you think that aligning the upper age exemption with State Pension age could adversely impact people from deprived backgrounds or between disadvantaged geographical areas? • **Yes — The North-West has been hit the hardest by COVID and much of the reason for this is due to low incomes, social deprivation, poor diet, poor housing, etc. Areas of deprivation across the country would be further harmed by these proposals.**

This consultation is open for 8 weeks from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 and we welcome responses from members of the public, prescribers, pharmacists and other interested parties.

### Are You Using Dial-A-Ride or Used it in The Past?

Transport For All are planning a campaign celebrating the scheme. However, the scheme could be at risk. Would you like to be interviewed about your experience? Contact **Yragael - 0207 7737 2339**. The TFA phone line is available Monday, Tuesday and Friday 10am-1pm and 2-5pm or leave a message on Voicemail. [www.transportforall.org.uk](http://www.transportforall.org.uk)

### GOOD NEWS



110 Priory Road development (see our July Bulletin) has been **refused** as Haringey Council considered it inappropriate to the site and harmful to the Priory Common Orchard. But the developers can always appeal against the decision!

### Electronic Advertisement Boards for Muswell Hill?

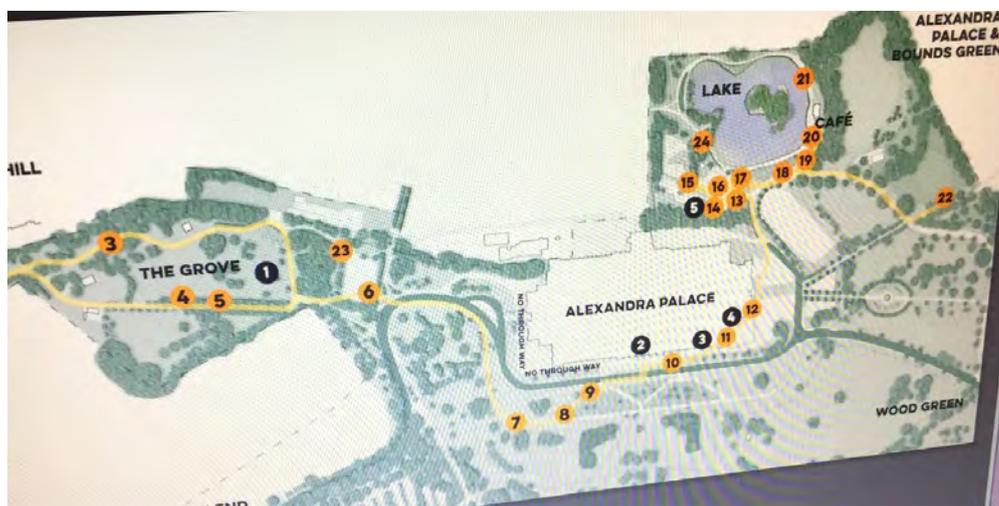
We wanted to make you aware of a planning application for a BT "Street Hub" outside the Everyman Cinema, to replace an existing phone box. Street Hubs are essentially large double-sided electronic advertising boards masquerading as phone boxes. They add further clutter to the street-scene and cause obstructions to pedestrians. The proposed location is a busy one with two bus stops nearby. There is also concern that the "Hub" would interfere with community events held in St James' Square. It is further questionable whether members of the public want to see unsolicited advertising on a large screen. Whilst the hubs provide some telecommunication facilities, these duplicate what can already be done with a smartphone. There have also been suggestions that the anonymous nature of phone calls made from the hubs means that they assist the organisation of criminal activity.

Haringey Council recently rejected a similar BT Street Hub application in Tottenham on the basis that it would have an adverse effect on the locality. If you would like to make a comment on this planning application, please visit:

<http://www.planningservices.haringey.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet?PKID=407166>

Comments must be received by 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Sent by Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association via Pamela Jefferys.



## Artists Walk 2021 Art Trail

1<sup>st</sup> July -30<sup>th</sup> September -

[www.artistswalk.org](http://www.artistswalk.org)

Enjoy the work of 28 Haringey Artists this summer on their Art Trail through the grounds of Alexandra Palace.

### Flooding After The "Tropical Storm" on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July in Park Road, Hornsey



*Audio Gold* lost much of their stock and has since given away damaged LPs, asking people for charity donations.

Nearby, *Coral Pharmacy's* Wi-Fi went down, so prescriptions could not be given out. Some people's basements in the area were also damaged.

Ann Anderson was walking through Alexandra Palace at the time and only 1 item of her clothing remained dry. (See the video below taken during the event.)

The hills of Alexandra Palace and Muswell Hill were helping to supply the water overload. At least we were not so badly affected as Germany & Belgium in the same week.



VIDEO-2021-07-12-17-56-42.mp4

### Zoom 101

Haringey resident, Ken Essex has set his sights on a formidable fundraising feat once again, as he bids to mark another momentous birthday in some style at the end of July.



Having raised more than £20k for Moorfields Eye Hospital to mark this 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this time last year, Ken now wants to raise at least £5k for Hospice Aid UK. He will complete a second 10k-in-10-day challenge for his 101<sup>st</sup> year.

Our local centurion has chosen to support this particular charity, as a number of his friends have benefited from the care and services of a local hospice at the end of their lives.

Ken will be walking two 500m circuits a day, starting Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and ending 10 days later on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday, having completed 10km overall.

For further information, or to donate, see Ken's fundraising page. Unfortunately, no telephone number was given.

### Live Classes Now Back



- West Haringey Seniors Exercise Class at Hornsey Vale Community Centre, 60 Mayfield Road N8 9LP, with trainer Jeff Hurrell. Tuesdays 2-3pm, price £3.50. Please contact our member **Lesley Chrysanthou** at **07967 089 078** for more details.

- Candy's Dance Class YMCA Crouch End, 184 Tottenham Lane N8 8SG, Thursdays 2-3pm, price £5. Please contact **Ann** for more details **020 8340 8335**

- **Peggy Sue**, who once danced the tango for our Christmas party, is available for hair cutting in your home. Please telephone on **07983 569 660**

## A Family Story From Member, Eugene Myerson

Born in Moscow, I grew up in South Africa, but have lived in the UK since 1958. In November 1999, when I was 66 years old, I got an unusual telephone call. The woman caller said, "You don't know me, but I've just returned from South Africa, where I met Albie Sachs (son of the late Trade Union Leader, Solly Sachs)." I confirmed that I knew Albie --- his father and my father were friends from boyhood. "Yes," she said, "and I went to South Africa to try to find out something about my father." "What was your father's name?" I asked her. "Julius Myerson" she replied. "That's funny" I responded. "My father's name was Julius Myerson." "Yes," she answered, "it is the same father!"



**Eugene and Lou, 2004**

I told her that there was another Julius Myerson who lived in Johannesburg at the same time as my Dad --- same spelling, but no relation. "Are you sure you have the right Julius Myerson?" I asked. "Yes," she replied. "I am sure." She told me her name was Louisa, and she lived in Havant in Hampshire. We agreed to meet for lunch at a London restaurant the following week. I asked her to bring with her any documents, such as letters or photographs, that could convince me that we shared a father. She said she would.

When we met, she said all her family called her Lou. After we ordered, she began to show me what she had brought, starting with a batch of air letters written during World War 2 to her mother. As soon as I saw the handwriting on the first letter, I knew she had the right Julius Myerson: it was my Dad's handwriting. Then she showed me two photographs, one of my father in uniform in Cairo, with which I was very familiar, and another of him in the Drakensberg Mountains on holiday --- apparently Lou's mother was there at the same time.

Lou also showed me a long letter her mother had written to her two years before she died, in which she set out how she met Julius, and how the affair progressed. And then she said "Oh, by the way, you should know that I have a brother, John, who is also your father's child. We went together to South Africa to look for you. Our mother knew your name. When we saw Albie Sachs, he told us 'Eugene has lived in London for years.' I got your telephone number from the Directory."

To say I was stunned was putting it mildly. Dad had a reputation of being a bit of a ladies man. He could be very charming, and I suspected he had had a number of affairs, but to father two children out of wedlock seemed out of character. I got the impression he would be careful to use contraception. Anyhow, after lunch, Lou and I went to a nearby print shop where I photocopied Dad's letters to her mother Alma, and also Alma's long letter to her children.

It seemed this was no 'casual fling'. They met in 1939, when Alma was a London County Council School Teacher on an exchange 12-month visit, but got trapped by the outbreak of war. Julius (Dad) joined the South African Air Force in 1942, the year my brother Ivor was born. Dad was sent 'up North' (of South Africa) as we called it in 1943, wrote alternately to Irene (my mother) and Alma that year; half-brother, John was born in October 1944, and after demobilisation, half-sister Lou was born in April 1946. Shortly after that, Alma gave up hope of Julius ever divorcing Irene and marrying her, and returned to England with her infant children. Julius had procured her a marriage of convenience "to give the children a name" and procured her a divorce when her 'bridegroom' wanted to marry for real. After returning to the UK, Alma never remarried. Julius had been the "love of her life."

It remains a mystery to this day how Dad's long-running affair, with two children born from it, was kept secret in the small social circles in which my parents moved.

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

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