



HORNSEY PENSIONERS



www.hornseypag.org.uk

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

December 2021 - Bulletin 12

For All Our Members



Free raffle chosen by Audrey

Free buffet lunch & tea by Janet W and Ursula

DJ Clive playing at lunch and for dancing later

Peggy Sue and her tango demonstration

Sarah's Quiz for all abilities (individual, not teams
this year) - presented by Ann

*We might even put on the heating this meeting as the hall ceiling is high
- wear your best woolly hat anyway.*

Time & Date: **WEDNESDAY December 15th 2021**

1.30pm prompt start for your free LUNCH

Address: **Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH**

ALL HELPERS NEEDED!

Looking Forward to 2022

Let's hope it is a better year for us all

There will be **no** Hornsey Pensioners meeting in **January** as that might mean a Bulletin written on Christmas day.

Our 1st meeting for 2022 will be on **Wednesday February 17th** - topics to be disclosed at the end of January. Please send in suggestions.



We are delighted to welcome Parminder Gunn-Hamilton as our New Treasurer!

NB. Watch out for Janet Shapiro's article in the *Ham and High*, on pensions and excess winter deaths. Coming out on December 2nd.

Don't Be Scared of Scams – Just Learn to be Aware Public Meeting, 17th November 2021

We were all looking forward to meeting PC Upton and a colleague to talk to us about SCAMS—how to spot them and how to respond. Alas, we waited patiently but they did not arrive. Then, Ann Anderson stepped into the breach and led a discussion about people's experiences of scams. Members reported on driving, delivery, phone and tax (HMRC) attempted scams. During this discussion, a young man, Bill Taylor, noting the topic of our meeting, popped into the Church and gave us all the benefit of his knowledge about scams in his capacity as an employee of Barclays bank. We wondered at first if he was a scammer!



The key points he made were:

- Never feel pressured into making a decision or providing any information on the phone, if it is genuinely a bank calling they will never be in a rush for you to do anything. Take your time.
- If there is even a 1% doubt in your mind that the caller is not genuine just put the phone down. An employee of the bank is not going to take any offence and it's better to be safe than sorry.
- Just because someone knows a few basic details about you, it doesn't mean they are genuine. Fraudsters regularly use personal information to build trust and believability.
- If you do speak to someone about banking on the telephone and you then decide that perhaps you want to call your bank to double check that the call was legitimate, try to call someone else before calling your bank. Sometimes the scammer will not put the phone down at their end and keep the line open, then when you think you have started a new call you are in actual fact still speaking to the same person who can then pretend to be from the bank.

You can call anyone that you know so that you can recognise their voice, if there is no one that you feel you can call then you can always dial **123** and hear the talking clock. If the scammer is still on the line they will not be able to imitate this call.

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, report it to the police AND to [Action Fraud](#)



Andy Jeffrey of [HealthWatch Haringey](#) spoke about the independent consumer watchdog for Haringey which collects information and represents residents' views on health and social care in the Borough. He highlighted the **Digital Health Workshops** they are running to enable more people to access NHS services and appointments digitally. Phone: **020 8888 0579**, 09:00 – 17:00 Mon-Fri, Email: info@healthwatchharingey.org.uk

Finally, Andy talked about his voluntary work with **Coffee and Computers** which is a local community group offering digital support for people who want help to make the most of their laptops/tablets or phones. People are paired up one to one with a volunteer who can help. They are not classes or lessons, just one to one support. They have just resumed these sessions in Hornsey Library on a fortnightly basis.

Website: <https://coffeecomputers.org/> - Email: info@coffeecomputers.org

Support Helpline: **07999 042 497**



If you left this little scarf behind at the meeting, Ann will bring it to the Party or if not coming, contact her.

Coffee and Computers Also Suggest "159" Fraud Hotline

A new emergency fraud hotline has been launched which you can use to report or check on any (potential) financial scams. Anyone who receives a call or message from somebody claiming to be from a trusted organisation and asking for money to be transferred or for personal/banking details is being urged to hang up and call **159** to be connected to the hotline. The service has been launched by [Stop Scams UK](#) with support from major UK banks and telecoms/tech companies like BT and Google.

Pamela Jefferys



Pamela off on our summer trip, 2015

Pamela Jefferys was our leading committee member for over 20 years. She was Minutes Secretary and Membership Secretary, with a keen eye for written mistakes and nonsense. It was she who suggested we changed our name from Muswell Hill and Highgate to Hornsey Pensioners Action Group, covering the old borough of Hornsey.

She was buried in a cardboard coffin on Thursday 25th November at 2pm in the beautiful Springwood Woodland Cemetery on the Isle of Wight next to Jeffray, the man with whom she shared the happiest decades of her life. She died peacefully in her chair at home in Bishops View Court on November 12th, just four months short of her 95th birthday. She dreamed and then spoke again of demonstrating for climate crisis action, triggered by the youthful protests taking place in Glasgow. So

rather than sending flowers or cards, if you do wish to commemorate her, we are suggesting you make a donation to Greenpeace, a campaigning charity of which Pamela was a long-time supporter.

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/support-us/donating-in-memory/>

Step-Free Access on the Tube Survey- Which Stations Need It?

Please share your views by taking part in our online survey. It should take you no more than 10 minutes to complete.

<https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/improvements-and-projects/step-free-access>



If you prefer not to complete the survey, then please submit your response to us in writing to:

Haveyoursay@tfl.gov.uk or

FREEPOST TFL HAVE YOUR SAY. You can also phone us on **020 3054 6037** to leave your name and number and we will call you back.

Deadline, 10th February 2022.

Flood Prevention in Haringey from Haringey Council

In partnership with our contractor, Marlborough Highways, we have invested in the purchase of 2 new gully cleansing vehicles to make our maintenance programme much more efficient by allowing a wide range of problems to be resolved in one visit. With this, we can now accelerate our gully cleansing over the next 5 months to ensure all 15,000 gullies in Haringey are cleansed at least once by the end of March 2022. Cleaning up rubble after having works done, not pouring oil or leftover, wet concrete down your gully or drain, and not sweeping hedge trimmings and garden waste into the road can all help prevent your local gully from becoming blocked and help minimise the risk of flooding.

Proposals to Restructure Bus Routes

A proposal to restructure bus routes **21, 143, 263 & 271** and introduce routes **620** and **N271**. Our public consultation on the suggested changes is now open. You have until the **9th of January 2022** to have your say.

- **Route 271** would no longer run between Highgate Village and Finsbury Square
- **Routes 21 and 263** would be rerouted to provide a new structure for the local network
- Retain and extend the night service on route **271**, renumbered 'N271'
- Reroute the **263** via Highgate Village
- Reroute the **143** via Archway Road
- Introduce new school route **620**
- Cut back route **21** from Newington Green to New North Road and extend to Nags Head so it operates between Holloway and Lewisham Shopping Centre.

You can read more about the proposals on our website: <https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/> You can make your views known by completing our online survey.

Alternatively, email: Haveyoursay@tfl.gov.uk or write to: **FREEPOST TFL HAVE YOUR SAY (Routes 21, 143, 263 and 271)** If you would like to request paper copies of the materials and consultation survey, please email us to arrange.

A Fifties Christmas, by Audrey Evers

My first school was at the top of the village of Burwell, Cambridgeshire, nestled in the shadow of the imposing St. Mary's church on one side, and hilly, green meadows and lanes on the other. It was a long, low, one-storied building made to last in stone and flint. 'Girls' over one entrance and 'Boys' over the other. It was at the very centre of my life in those early years, embracing warmth, excitement, novelty, so much colour, and companionship, all of which I had a great thirst for, and the memories of which fill a Pandora's box from which I can pull a never-ending patchwork of memories.



The long, barn-like room with heavy wooden beams and high windows giving a view only of the sky, housed two infant classrooms separated by heavy red velvet curtains. Each end of the room housed a floor-to-ceiling stove with wrought iron guards on which we dried our hats, gloves and scarves, ready for playtime.

At Christmas time, the room became one with curtains drawn back, the piano in the middle, and the raised stage at one end becoming the focal point of the room.

Christmas in that infant classroom was magical, for a week or so ahead. Exercise books were packed away before lunch and the classroom became a craft emporium. We pasted strips of coloured paper for paper chains to be looped and strung across the high beams, we fashioned paper shapes, snipping squares of white paper with blunt scissors, tongues gripped between teeth in concentration, every result a unique snowflake to adorn the windows. The arrival of the Christmas tree, borne in by the school caretaker, produced a momentary hush before we children, bearing individually created lanterns, bells and glittering stars, decorated the branches. The excitement was palpable.

We practised carols around the piano and chanted verses of poetry; a favourite of mine was 'When Icicles Hang by the Wall and Dick the Shepherd Blows his Nail.' I would shiver and imagine Dick out there with chilblained hands, red raw from tending the animals, while we were enclosed in the womb-like festive warmth, wishing for snow to play in after school.

In Christmas week, the Nativity story would be told and enacted over and over. I recall praying to be given a speaking part for the final performance. My older sister, Rose, had been chosen to be Mary the year before, and with her long hair and a drape matching her blue eyes, had been much admired. Alas, I was chosen to be a mewling lamb.



Audrey and Rose in 1958

On the last day before Christmas Eve, we children were to sit cross-legged below the stage, where the giant decorated Christmas tree stood. Our families would be squeezed in at the back on the over-small chairs or standing, the whole classroom bright with outdoor layers and paraphernalia, warm and snug with all these bodies crammed in together, babies and toddlers included, ready for the afternoon's entertainment.

After the carols, the readings and the enactment of the Christmas story, a gasp would pass along the rows as a giant of a Father Christmas would arrive with his sack and plant himself next to the Headmistress on the stage. Each child would be called up in turn, receive a handshake and be given a tangerine, a Cox apple and a small bag of walnuts from the large brown sack. I can still recall the sweet smell of the apples and the sharp, exotic smell from the oranges in that hot room and finally knew that Christmas had come at long last.

Out in the cold night air, family members gathered together, we looked for the brightest star and wished for snow; warm from the glow of the afternoon, we began the long walk home. We still had the family Christmas to come but looking back now, I know that nothing could have surpassed the joy generated within the four walls of that classroom on the night before Christmas Eve.

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

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