

HORNSEY PENSIONERS

www.hornseypag.org.uk

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

April 2022 - Bulletin 4

Defending The Natural World From Destruction - Everyone Can Make A Difference



Speaker: Athen Ayren, Greenpeace Volunteer

NB. Greenpeace may wish to film the meeting but if so, we will have an area for those who do not wish to be included.

Time and Date: **WEDNESDAY April 20th 2022**

at 1.30pm start

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

Entrance on Cranley Gardens through car park. Doors open from 1pm.

All help by members welcome.

With many thanks to all our helpers last month and Volunteer Mike Seed.

***NB. Many thanks to members who have already paid their subscription
but 54 are still outstanding!!***

Report on Hornsey Pensioners Last Meeting, March 16th 2022 AGM

Minutes will be distributed in our 2023 AGM. See enclosed or attached the reports re membership and publicity if you did not attend the meeting.

“The Health and Social Care Bill: The Devil’s in the Detail”

With Brenda Allan, Patient’s Representative, NHS Specialist Commissioning.

[Our apologies for mis-spelling Brenda’s name in the notice].

This bill (a white paper last year) is going through Parliament, currently in the Lords. Emphasis is placed on ‘*Integration*’ and ‘*Innovation*’, both words sounding seductively virtuous but the Bill has many deficits and particularly fails to address any of the current difficulties of the NHS, difficulties which predate both COVID and the Bill. Major problems are seriously insufficient funds and the workforce being 100,000 short in the NHS and 100,000 short in social care.

Continuation of Report on Last Hornsey Pensioners Meeting

Inequalities in health add to the issues. In Haringey, life expectancy decreases by 20 years between Highgate and Tottenham.

There have been additional funds recently but much money has been wasted on crony contracts, e.g. useless PPE and failing 'Test and Trace'. The NHS has been part of Tory 'austerity' and subject to under-regulated privatisation. Now the NHS will be reorganised again, the future of General Practice reviewed while the UK is falling way behind in Europe in numbers of doctors, beds, scanners etc.

Clinical commissioning groups will be replaced by 44 Integrated Care Systems, each with a small Board to manage the budget, GPs and Local Authorities having minimal representation and the public so far having none (nor are they open to public information requests). Private providers sit on the board and influence, without proper scrutiny, who gets the contracts - no doubt them.

Patients previously were assessed for community care BEFORE being discharged, now due to lack of beds (11% lost in the past 11 years, BMA estimates a shortfall of 3,000) patients are discharged prematurely, resulting in 19% 'adverse incidents'.

The introduction of capped budgets fails to clarify current deficits, pre-pandemic underfunding and the impact of COVID. The Bill presents no plan to address the workforce shortfall but would give to the Secretary of State the power to deregulate and disempower professional bodies. It is not clear who is covered by ICSs, nor for which services. Currently, if you travel around the country staying temporarily in an area or if you are homeless, you are eligible for help wherever you are. Future arrangements must be specified in the Bill.

Digitalisation and technology in health care long predate the Bill but here there is an inherent emphasis on it, good for planning but not putting patients and personal relationships first and possibly putting confidentiality at risk. The emphasis should be on 'Patients First' not a US style health system.

Effective integration evolves over time, dependent on relationships across services. The 'integration' of the Bill is flawed, top-down and not patient centred. Funding needs to be increased to upper OECD levels with particular attention to Primary Care, Social Care, Public Health and social determinants of health disadvantage. This will benefit health, social welfare and employment both recruitment and retention.

Our socialised health system needs protection from further marketisation.

Jane Garner

Motion from Janet, unanimously accepted at the meeting:

"This meeting of the Hornsey Pensioners Action Group demands that the Health and Care Bill be scrapped as it destroys the NHS, as set up over 73 years ago. Now to be sent to Minister for Health, local MPs councilors and relevant peers local peers."



Image: Demonstration outside Wood Green Library against the Health and Social Care Bill, February 26th

Message to Haringey Council, Sent On From A Member

The much-loved green space at Ramsey Court on Park Road, N8, is being targeted for housing development, to which the local community unanimously objects. If this green space with its beautiful mature trees could be turned instead into a remembrance garden it would not only help us fight Climate Change but it would be a place for people to show their opposition to war, whilst still retaining it as a place where local children can continue to play and visitors to the Hornsey Central Hospital can be calmed by its trees.



At a time like this, there couldn't be a more appropriate gesture. Not many people know that this was the site of the worst damage in Hornsey during the last war - 17 people died, 20 were seriously injured, 20 houses destroyed and 50 damaged when a V1 bomb landed here. The site is also directly opposite the War memorial for WW1.

Tell Haringey Council that this is a unique opportunity to bring people together, to unite our community, to restore our faith in local government and to show a commitment to future generations.

www.change.org/p/ramsey-court-remembrance-garden

Stamp News – But Don't Panic



The Post office is introducing new technology to its "everyday" stamps by adding a unique bar code from 31st March. Non-bar coded stamps, however, will be able to be used until 31st January 2023. The prices should remain the same.

Each bar coded stamp will have a digital twin and the two will be connected by the Royal Mail App. The unique barcodes will facilitate operational efficiencies, enable the introduction of added security features and pave the way for innovative services for customers. There will be a free Swap Out scheme from March 31st.

Message From Our Member, Helen Ball

Extinction Rebellion (XR) are having another two week rebellion on **Saturday 9th April 2022**. People are asked to assemble at **Hyde Park** each day at **10am**, where they will receive further instruction.

This year, the focus is on stopping the use of fossil fuels. It is believed that if XR joins forces with 3.5% of the population, the government would have to act. So XR are extremely keen to see newcomers. If anyone is interested in coming to the rebellion but would prefer not to go alone, they can join Haringey or Muswell Hill XR via Facebook. There's no real danger of being arrested if you are merely offering support.

Booster Jabs

If it's 6 months after your last booster, spring booster jabs are now available at Hornsey Central Clinic between 9am and 6pm - just walk in.

The jab is being offered to adults aged 75 years and over. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) said vaccinating was a "precautionary" move and did not mean there was any current danger to their health. Eligible adults will be offered either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

There are still places on the free **Haringey Adult Learning Service Courses** about computers, phones and tablets.

Mondays 12.30-15.00, April 25th - 18th July
and

Thursdays 9.30-12.30, 21st April - 21st July.
Please text Anne Grey: **07915 477 009** if interested.

TV Recommendation



Member Sylvia Roberts and Big Issue recommend people watch *Then Barbara Met Alan* on BBC iPlayer if they can.

It's a BBC sparky and spirited drama based on the real story of how the Disabled People's Direct Action Network campaigns led to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

The majority of cast and crew are disabled.

Muswell Hill's Irreplaceable Campaigner, Pamela Jefferys

Hornsey Pensioners Action Group has lost a committee member who served us well over many years. Pamela Jefferys died, just short of 95, on November 12th 2021.



Aged 16

Pamela is irreplaceable; she had an eagle eye for any mistake, grammatical or procedural, and we depended upon her good advice. For the last few years she was suffering from severe breathing problems and could rarely attend our meetings, but she had mastered online skills and remained on the committee. As a young woman, Pamela qualified at a secretarial college; at one point she was employed at the National Institute for Economic and Social Research and she later became Personal Assistant, aged 32, to Kingsley Martin, Editor of the New Statesman. In 1957 she moved to Paris, working for the OECD.

Pamela returned to the UK in the 1970s and settled in Muswell Hill. By the 1990s she was involved with local groups - our group and the Friends of Muswell Hill Library. On September 18th 2019, the Hornsey Pensioner Action Group meeting was a 'Celebration of Activism'. Pamela related her part in protesting against the widening of Archway Road. The first enquiry was in 1973. One of the groups opposing the widening was the 'Archway Improvement Association' with Hetty Bechler as Chair and Pamela helping. Another was 'Stop The Archway Motorway Plan' (STAMP). Pamela kept a file of the regular newsletters and wrote a hilarious account of the fate of one of the enquiries. You will notice that Archway Road is only a dual carriageway up to the bridge carrying Hornsey Lane; houses north of that point have not been demolished. So the protestors won.

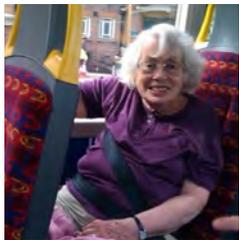


Aged 32

Pamela was a firm supporter of [Greenpeace](#) and wanted urgent action to combat climate change. Please donate to them in her memory. True to her beliefs, she was buried in a cardboard coffin at Springwood Woodland Cemetery on the Isle of Wight. A full obituary, written by her stepson, can be found on our [website](#).

Janet Shapiro

My Family Link With Pamela



Aged 88, en route to HPAG outing

When I was moving to Crouch End in 1967, my mother, Phyllis told me the only boyfriend she had ever mentioned, James Jefferys, had later lived there with his wife, Margot, and that my parents and they were friends when I was little. Phyllis, while working part-time in the doctors' library of Shenley Mental Hospital in the 1970s, also met James's son, Peter, who did not realise her significance at the time. Over 40 years later, long after my mother had died, I found out more when joining a local Pensioners Action Group. I found the membership secretary was called Pamela Jefferys - an unusual spelling of the name. Judging by her age, I asked her whether she was his daughter, to which she replied no, his 2nd wife.

On my saying my mother had been his girlfriend once, she dismissively said, "he had many". Later she asked my mother's name and became very interested, as James had wanted to get in contact with Phyllis for his memoirs in the 1990s but luckily he didn't because by then, she had vascular dementia and would not want him to see her.

Pamela had typed up James' memoirs. Phyllis, a 25 year old Canadian Post-graduate Student at London School of Economics, had subtly seduced him when he was 19 and an undergraduate there. After he was arrested for demonstrating against the Fascist Oswald Mosley meeting at Olympia in 1934, his address was needed to free him from the police cell. Phyllis turned up with her rent book. As he was under age, the police then turned up at James's parents' house in the middle of the night to shockingly announce James was not living with his friend Roger but an older woman. At the court case, his Dad paid the fine as part of his future inheritance.

Pamela was not too dissimilar in appearance, interests and personality to Phyllis. Pamela became like an auntie to me until her death some 15 years later.



James, 1937

Ann Anderson

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