

HORNSEY PENSIONERS

www.hornseypag.org.uk

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

June 2022 - Bulletin 6

UK FAIR TRADE OVER THE LAST 40 YEARS

Speaker: **Poppy Pickard**, Fairtrader for Traidcraft for over 30 years
(she will bring some stock to sell!)



Time & Date: **WEDNESDAY June 15th 2022**

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 to volunteers, Mike Seed and Mia Anderson.

NB. Except for our December social, our meetings are always on the **3rd Wednesday** of the month so **20th July** then the **17th August**.

Hornsey Pensioners August Meeting: An Outing To Capel Manor Gardens, Wednesday 17th August 1.30 to 5pm



The cost to cover the minibus and entrance fee will be: **£15** to include transport and entrance charge. Includes a non-refundable **£5 deposit**.

Contact Ann Anderson to book your place asap- NB places are limited **020 834 083 35** or awarr@btinternet.com See insert or attachment for more details.

(See image, our 2012 visit)

Message From Peter York, “War Against The BBC”.

Peter York was a speaker at our last meeting.

Thank you so much for asking me to talk to your very lively and interesting group of Hornsey residents. I enjoyed myself very much; and carried home my (raffle present) box of Jaffa Cakes. Very up-cheering!

I was also very pleased to have sold – at a discounted price – 10 of our books! The money will go towards getting more books out to more people about this important and very urgent subject. Join Voice of the Listener & Viewer.

More family stories urgently needed!

The War Against The BBC



Patrick Barwise & Peter York. Hornsey Pensioners Meeting, 18th May 2022.

Patrick was to answer questions about this important book but caught COVID-19. Co-author, Peter York, cultural commentator, stepped in to address the meeting, answering previously circulated questions from Ann and Hilary. (Please see questions attached or inserted).

His responses below:

Ann

Equal pay: Not the central question. BBC is not strictly a government institution, but government behaves as if it is.

Cowering attitude re-news reporting: Government has hands-on financial windpipe, is more American populist, right wing. BBC doesn't lie but may not mention things e.g. Johnson's links with the Trump government, Bannon and Neo-nazis, nor exports of weapons to Saudi Arabia with exploits in Yemen. Labour rarely mentions these things. Ukraine, nearer to home and more simple to understand. Russia doing similar things in Syria was not picked up.

Declining quality? But new productions winning BAFTAs, being exported. Competition with live BBC is not Netflix but YouTube, also showing old BBC programmes.

Hilary

Facilitating free/discounted fees: Gordon Brown, 2000, introduced free licences for 75+, as a government welfare concession. Osborne, after 6 meetings with Murdoch(!), met Lord Hall, withdrew concession, handing BBC task of deciding/managing the massive shortfall of funding - £750,000,000, 1/4 of the licence fee. With Mail, Telegraph and Express in mind, a decision was made for means testing, maintaining concession for those on Pension Credit.

BBC has been crucial in the pandemic but the attacks continue: The licence fee is cheap, £159pa/£3.25pw. Sky subscription is over £1,000pa, Netflix £5.99pm is not fresh, live, local or British, in no way comparable to BBC. The destroyers of BBC 'want red meat for the red wall'. The Right is against BBC, ideologically opposed to public ownership; secretly privatising NHS; privatising C4. Commercial broadcasting friends want more profit. Independent public broadcasting will say occasional disobliging things about Johnson, Rees-Mogg etc..

Answers to Questions from the floor: BBC to be available to everyone. Universality is different from subscriptions. Advertising needs focus on socioeconomic/interest groups. BBC provides radio, TV, orchestras, education, impartial news, websites, podcasts etc.

The Book authors now not being asked to appear on BBC, perhaps on the 'managed risks' list!

Nadine Dorries with power over BBC and C4 has no idea of C4 funding (see YouTube), claims C5 is better since privatisation – but its always been in the commercial sector! On Twitter she indicates BBC will be abolished. The Tories, unpatriotically and vandalistically don't care about stripping the cultural sector. BBC has pump-priming role in the creative industries. C4 has done a major job in creating an independent cultural sector. Nothing the BBC can do about its critics, decent one-nation Tories have been kicked out, leaving extreme right-wingers saying the BBC is wildly left-wing.

Young people use Subscriber Video On Demand - BBC can do that on iPlayer.

Planned Project Kangaroo, a British streaming platform, bigger than Netflix, was turned down by 3 accountants.

Labour 'weedy' on these issues.

Ann suggests we will send a copy of the book to Catherine West MP and this bulletin.

Local Support Services

Hornsey Pensioners Action Group wants information from you about local support services, particularly those needed by those suffering from a chronic illness or when discharged from hospital. This is particularly important as the Health and Care Act is now law; we need to monitor how services will be affected. We shall respect any confidential information.

Janet

Message From The Haringey Circle

Could you please let your Hornsey Pensioners group know that the **Circle** is now offering 2 types of management. Gold for £48 per annum, which includes access to activities, events and services and the Silver membership, which is only £10 per annum for access to the handy person, gardening and home help services.

Tel: **020 3196 1894**

Email: paul.kramer@haringeycircle.com

Web: www.HaringeyCircle.com

Energy Bills



Bring your energy bills down- just telephone your company . On behalf of a friend, I telephoned EE. On Next, option 2 was an “energy expert” option.

I spoke to a very reasonable young man who asked me how much did I want the monthly payment reduced to. I decided on double what the friend had been paying which had been too low anyway before the price hike rather than 3 times what they had asked for.

Event at Muswell Hill Library



Organised by the Friends of Muswell Hill Library, the *Extinction REbellion* event will be held on

Saturday, June 18th 2-3pm at Muswell Hill Library.

The Extinction Rebellion group will explain the science of the climate and ecological emergency to understand the enormity of the situation we are facing. Then we will introduce XR's approach to bringing about the change we need.

Cost of Living

Sent in by one of our members.

“Somebody posted this map on Facebook, absolutely covered with markers, thousands of them. They wrote:

“No, these don't show Jubilee parties, these are food banks.”

Against increasing poverty, the crippling fear of many who despair at their and their families' futures, I cannot begin to consider the Jubilee.

Cannot take in gross wealth set against desperate need and the terrible inequalities of this increasingly divided society.”



From Coffee & Computers' Newsletter

“Half of all adults in England have signed up to access digital healthcare. But charities say it creates health risks for many people who are unable to use the technology.”

The above quote is from an article published in the Big Issue magazine, highlighting the issue of digital exclusion that we are trying to help tackle through our Coffee & Computers sessions and other activities.

Check out our [website](#) or phone: **07999 042497** for group or 1-1 support.

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

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The Compasses

By Member Lesley Chrysanthou's Dad, Bernard White



In November 1942, I joined a ship at Mombasa, it was carrying troops being repatriated and I was going home, back to England. I'd served for four long years in the Middle East and East Africa. We were below decks playing Pontoon, we were in good spirits. I was winning a few bob and held a Jack and an Ace. There was a good kitty which I thought was mine. The war was hundreds of miles away and we were nearing S. Africa.

Our good spirits were suddenly shattered by the sound of a tremendous explosion. We'd been torpedoed!! We grabbed lifejackets and made for the boat stations. There were no lights, and the air was full of smoke. We couldn't see, we got up by blind instinct. There was no panic, we fell into line and waited our turn to board the lifeboats in eerie silence.

A mixed group of about thirty service men of all ranks and forces had managed to scramble into the same boat as me. Most were fit but there were a few wounded. We had nothing, we had left behind everything except the clothes we were wearing.

An officer in another boat called "Proceed northwest, you will make the coast of S. Africa in the morning" But the large swell meant that within minutes of the command we lost sight of the other boats. No sight and no sound, we were alone, just a huge expanse of empty sea.

There was no wind and several men took oars and start rowing. The ship's officer took a compass from a box in the locker under his seat and placed it between himself and the man sitting next to him. The man looked at it and said "That compass is completely wrong. Check it against mine!" He was holding a pocket compass in his hand, he was a pilot. He continued, "Look, I was shot down in the desert in Libya, I brought my observer and my wounded air gunner back to safety with this compass. We walked for eight days and nights in the open desert, it got us back to the coast and our unit. It saved three lives. Yours is wrong!" The officer replied indignantly, "No, this compass is correct. Board of Trade regs state we go with this one.

An argument broke out as to which compass to use. We were dirty, dishevelled, and desperate but nevertheless, still a disciplined body of men and subject to the ship's officer's command. We had no choice but to go by the boat's compass.

Daylight merged into twilight and it got pretty chilly. The rowing was feeble and we didn't seem to be making any progress. Night fell and passed in alternate bouts of sleeping and waking, sleeping and waking. I heard the officer say, "We'll see the coast in the morning". We hadn't been that far away from it when we were hit.

As the first glimmer of light gave way to a pale dawn, all who were able, eagerly scanned the horizon but there was no land in sight. Hard biscuits were handed round and we each had a mouthful of disgusting water from a tank. No coast, just sea and sky and the uncomfortable roll of the water.

For 2 more days we were surrounded by silence and stillness, then finally it was broken by a shout, "A ship!!" Thank God!! We went alongside and were helped aboard. It was a South African Minesweeper, we were safe!!

The crew told us they knew where we'd been torpedoed and knew that the current would have taken us south. There we were, thinking that we had been headed northwest towards land and actually we'd been going in the opposite direction. We were extremely lucky that we'd gone towards her and rescue. A few hundred yards further away and we'd have gone on and on towards a very cold, icy, watery grave in the Antarctic. The lifeboat's compass had been wrong after all and I believe in miracles!