

HORNSEY PENSIONERS

www.hornseypag.org.uk

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

August 2021 - Bulletin 8

There is no meeting this month as we are going on an outing on **WEDNESDAY August 17th 2022**



Meet outside the **Hornsey Parish Church Hall, Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH** in the car park at **1.15pm** prompt.

The fully accessible minibus will leave at 1.30pm. We will stay at the **Capel Manor Gardens** until **4.30pm** and should return to the Church Hall by 5.00 to 5.15pm.

At the Gardens there are a limited amount of mobility scooters and wheelchairs – please book beforehand with Ann. There are still a few places left on the bus and members will be expected to wear masks during the journey. The overall cost to cover the minibus and entrance fee will be: **£20** to include transport and entrance charge, it also includes a non-refundable **£5 deposit**. Contact **Ann Anderson** to book your place asap- **020 8340 8335** or awarr@btinternet.com. If using my answer phone please leave your name clearly.

Another Outing This Month: Tuesday 23rd August 2-4pm, Haringey Pensioners Joint Summer Picnic.

**Pavilion Cafe, Bruce Castle Park,
Lordship Lane, N17 8NJ** in the garden of the park café next to tennis courts to the right as you enter the main entrance (indoors or under canopy if it rains).

- Bring your own food but tea, coffee, cakes, soft drinks & bottled water available to buy in the café.
- Seating is in the garden - benches around tables for 4 to 6 people.
- There are toilets and they are wheelchair-friendly
- Buses from Wood Green : 243 and 123 from Turnpike Lane

Who were they? WWI internees were predominantly economic migrants mainly artisans and small businessmen e.g. watch makers, pork butchers, many of whom had settled here for many years and married British women.

Emergency At Our July Meeting

We would like to thank and so advertise Seris, whom Sarah brought in to cover for our audio-visual volunteer, Mike's, absence. He charged us a most reasonable price. He is a general handyman and PC doctor. Please contact him at: serisl@aol.com or on **020 8886 1210** if you need any job done. He says: *I pledge that I can give your group 10% of my profit for any work generated through your Group.*

Summary of Jennifer Taylor's Talk on "Alexandra Palace Home to 17,000 German Internees in WW1"

Jennifer gave us a concise overview of History of Alexandra Palace leading to its closure to the public September 1914. It housed Belgian refugees until March 1915. From May 1915 it housed German and Austrian civilian internees until June 1919.

Summary of Jennifer Taylor's Talk, Continued From Page 1



Commemorative plaque from Anglo-German Family History Society at Alexandra Palace

Communication with the outside world:

Internees were permitted to keep money, purchase goods such as newspapers, have family visits. Parcels and letters were censored. Wives received a small maintenance grant. German-born wives received less than English-born wives and latter encouraged to divorce.

Conditions: At any one time camp held 3,000 refugees, housed in three battalions. Battalion B of poorer internees accommodated in Great Hall. Higher social classes in tower, with privileged conditions. Food prepared by internees themselves – adequate but monotonous and poor hygiene.

Work - Opportunities limited: maintenance and administration of the camp, gardeners and road menders in Palace grounds: paid 4/6d per week (= c. £20). 400 small allotments made available to internees. Some skilled internees employed by outside firms at trade union rates – but had to pay for their board. Workshops eventually set up in the Palace itself but no dedicated space for this so had to be between the beds in the hall.

Leisure and Educational activities: Theatre used for performances, Films twice a week. Orchestra composed of internees - weekly concerts – classical works and lighter pieces. Billiards and skittles also available – unofficial amusements included gambling and drinking alcohol smuggled in by guards. 1915 school established e.g. science and foreign languages but often discontinued.

Release - Repatriation or deportation?

During the War repatriation depended on internees' agreement. (NB The "right wing" press had stirred up such anti-German feelings the internees probably had little choice but to go) By 1919 official sources admitted that repatriation was not voluntary (so, in effect, it amounted to deportation). Of the 42,000 civilian internees, only 4,000 remained in Britain. Of 12,000 British wives, 3,000 deported.

Jennifer recommended 2 books on the topic:

An Insight into Civilian internment in WW1 £12.35 and *Interned in Alexandra Palace* £10.25

Order from Jenny Towey Bookshop Manager, **4 Channel Heights, Bleadon. Hill Weston Super Mare BS24 9LX**. Cheques Payable to Anglo German Family History Society or visit the society online bookshops on www.genfair.com or www.parishchest.com

A very lively discussion on internments and prisoners of war camps followed this very informative talk.

Pensioners Cinema Club
Organised by Haringey Over 50s Forum

Tuesday 6th September at 2pm

It is at the **new Wells entrance to Finsbury Park underground station**

Picturehouse Unit 1, 17 City North Place, London, N4 3FU

Details of the film being shown will be available one week before the screening. This information will be passed on by Ann Anderson on email or please phone if interested.

Cost is **£7.90** and there is coffee/tea and biscuits. Attendees can also meet in the lounge afterwards.

Archaeology In Haringey

The Wood Green site entrance is between 138 Station Road and the bridge over the New River, on the north side of Wood Green Common.

The excavation is to open up the remains of the grand house at the site that was first recorded on the 1619 Dorset Survey and then apparently developed into a large nineteenth century home. The work was advised by GLAAS, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service and secured as part of LB Haringey's planning permission for redevelopment.



This is a photo of part of the Ferry Island site, where an archaeological dig is going on (you can see it is just to the north of the Tottenham Hale shopping centre). Prehistoric, Tudor, C19, etc. remains found. Tottenham Hale is apparently the part of Haringey with the earliest evidence of humans.

Hornsey Vale Lunch Club



Lunch is back every first Wednesday of the month. The next one is on **Wednesday 3rd August**. Go along and enjoy a two-course lunch with refreshments.

£5 on the door (cash / card). To book a place and advise of any dietary requirements, call **Emma** on **020 8348 4612** or email: info@hornseyvale.org

From Haringey Council

New Financial Support Helpline Launched



The new direct line means that residents can get through to our support teams quicker and easier, and get help and advice with:

- Setting up debt plans
- Childcare costs
- Paying for food, energy, and household essentials
- Reducing rent and utility arrears
- Claiming benefits – (NB. You might be eligible for Pension Credit).*

Applying for grants budgeting call our **Financial Support Helpline** today - **020 8489 4431**.

**Around a third of eligible pensioners do not claim Pension Credit! Check eligibility and apply at GOV.UK.*

Great Aunty Bertha and Her Patchwork Quilt by Carol Lovelidge - Pringle



Aunty Bertha Rudduck was my paternal Grandmother's sister, my Great Aunt. Here she is, on the left, with her friend who, was referred to in the family as 'Aunty Gertie Osman'.

I never met Aunty Bertha, but feel a great bond as she was clearly greatly loved and admired in the family and often spoken about.

One summer's day, in about 1958, when I was in the sixth form, I discovered Aunty Bertha's unfinished patchwork quilt in an old cardboard box whilst helping my mother clear out our attic. To me it was a true hidden treasure, The 'patches' were small hexagons of exactly one-inch sides made from cotton material still tacked to the templates cut from envelopes and letters. There were some completed blocks and lots of rows of single shapes ready to be sewn into the whole and very many single hexagons. The materials were all cotton of a myriad of different colours and patterns – and miraculously all still in good condition considering they were probably then a good 60 to 80 years old.

Mum immediately recognised this pile of ancient patches and told me how it had come to be in our attic. Aunty Bertha had been a psychiatric nurse, working in what was called 'lunatic asylums' attached to work houses in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. One was St George Bloomsbury Workhouse in Endell Street (later converted to a Military Hospital, run entirely by women for the wounded of WWI in 1915). She eventually became matron of a psychiatric hospital.

The patchwork quilt had been what we would call 'occupational therapy' for her patients. It was an enormous task as there were more than two thousand patches. The fun of hand stitching them together with tiny white cotton stitches could then begin. Deciding on some kind of pattern must have been quite a job as the materials were pretty random. Imagine how long all that would take – no wonder it wasn't completed, but rescued in its unfinished state and taken home by Aunty Bertha when she left the hospital or retired.

What she did do eventually was to give it to my family – with three daughters old enough to be able to sew – that must have seemed like a good idea. But even if they started on it, the project got nowhere near to completion. When my older sisters heard of its discovery they were horrified. They told me that during the War, Dad had made them sit in the air-raid shelter in our garden during bombing raids and sew the patches together to calm them.

What possessed me, I do not know, but I decided it should be finished and that I would do it. So I set to with white cotton and fine sewing needle and emulating those tiny stitches, working a little most evenings after I finished my homework sewing the remaining pieces together until I had the double bed sized patchwork quilt complete. I have no idea how long it took – but I did have three years in the sixth form!



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

Key Contacts: Ann Anderson 020 8340 8335 or awarr@btinternet.com

Janet Shapiro 07804 936 139 (text) or janet.rmshapiro@gmail.com