

HORNSEY PENSIONERS

www.hornseypag.org.uk

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

October 2022 - Bulletin 10

We Think It's Never Too Late To Learn Hilary Farnworth (Ransacker Organiser)

Time & Date: WEDNESDAY October 19th 2022
1.30pm Start

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



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

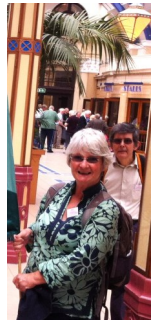
All help by members welcome. With many thanks to all our helpers last month and volunteers Mike Seed and Mia Anderson.

Sad News



Audrey Evers died on September 2nd after her battle to lead as "normal life" as possible with secondary cancer. Here she is (left) announcing our Social Party raffle last December. She was much loved for welcoming members to our public meetings and helping her husband, Clive (our former Treasurer), to make the meetings run smoothly.

Here she is (right) showing her amazing energy banner holding at the National Pensioners Convention annual conference 2013.



Help For Households

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk>

Winter Fuel Payments: In the winter months, pensioners can get between £100 and £300 to help pay heating bills. This winter, they will also receive an extra one-off £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment, which will be paid as an automatic top-up to the Winter Fuel Payment.

Energy Price Guarantee: From 1st of October, a new 'Energy Price Guarantee' will mean a typical UK household will pay no more than £2,500 a year on their energy bill for the next two years. This is automatic and applies to all households.

This will save the average household at least £1,000 a year based on current energy prices from October and is in addition to the £400 energy bills discount for all households.

Eligibility: All households with a domestic electricity connection in England, Scotland and Wales are eligible for the discount.

Cost of Living Payment: Households on means tested benefits, including Universal Credit, Pension Credit and Tax Credits, will receive a payment of £650 this year. This will be made automatically in two instalments, one in summer and another in the autumn, and is in addition to the £400 discount on energy bills.

Report of the Meeting on September 21st 2022

What Are The Main Challenges Keeping Older People Awake At Night?

(Paul Higgins of Reach and Connect spoke briefly at the beginning. See page 3)

Janet introduced David Winskill, who was to lead our activities. She stressed that David has long campaigned locally and had served as a local councillor from 2002 to 2014. He became a champion of Patient Voice in the NHS. David is a true child of Hornsey, born and raised here since 1955. He agreed that we need to gather evidence on the problems facing older people.

David said: During the years following the World War II, the government was determined to avoid any return to 1930's depression. The government set out to build infrastructure and provide public services. In so, doing it fostered economic growth and prosperity, reduced inequalities and gave us longer life expectancy. This contrasts with the mood of government today.

David indicated what was achieved in these years of recovery from WWII, full employment and massive re-build, council homes, Hornsey Town Hall, nationalised railways and an NHS that delivered. This was before private companies were encouraged to make profits from public services. He indicated that of the 146 apartments in the now privately owned Hornsey Town Hall, only 11 are reserved for social housing. (David had been a founder member of the Hornsey Town Hall Appreciation Society - a campaign group to keep the Town hall in public ownership).

As a child, David's health was not good; he is grateful for the attention he received from his GPs and Hornsey Central Cottage Hospital. With other Londoners, he experienced the 1952 'Great Smog' that killed thousands. Then the 'Great Freeze' in 1963, it was the worst winter since 1740 and significantly disrupted normal life. Today we are expecting more extreme weather conditions – the effects of 'Climate Change'. We wonder whether government is committed to reducing CO₂ emissions or even intends to provide mitigating solutions that help.



Joan reporting back from her group

At 2pm, David invited group discussions to begin. The purpose of the meeting was, in preparation for later lobbies of Parliament, for members to list their major worries and suggested solutions, recording these on flipcharts. The task was taken very seriously; comments made used general observation as well as personal experience. Everyone had their say in all groups, with David and committee members circulating.

A brief report back followed to the whole meeting and a summary has been produced from the flipcharts. See the summary inserted or attached.

The National Pensioners' Annual Convention

The Convention, held on September 21st at Birmingham Council House, was a great success. The Convention heard calls for all four UK nations to have Older People's Commissioners, as more are plunged into poverty. Our delegate Sarah Harris can tell us more.

Haringey Has Secured Important Funding to Help Manage and Protect Its Ancient Woodlands

The council will undertake a project in co-production with the community to collect data on the condition of Bluebell Wood, Coldfall Wood and Queen's Wood. This evidence will help deliver an ambitious, long-term plan to protect habitats, enhance biodiversity and increase resilience to climate change.

The project has been made possible thanks to a successful bid to the Rewild London Fund, which is supported by the Mayor of London in partnership with the [London Wildlife Trust](#). With only 2% of Britain remaining as ancient woodland, this partnership project will help ensure that the unique ecology of Haringey's ancient woods is safeguarded.



This charity offers information and support to local people over 50. Contact for support.

Paul Higgins, Community Connector Haringey Reach and Connect.

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Tel: 07308 964 901

Web: www.reachandconnect.net

Twitter: [@ReachandConnect](https://twitter.com/ReachandConnect)

Facebook: [HaringeyReachandConnect](https://www.facebook.com/HaringeyReachandConnect)

Green Open Homes Events



This autumn, Muswell Hill Sustainability Group's ever-popular Green Open Homes events will be back for a 9th season, with in-person visits over the weekends of

1st-2nd and 8th-9th **October**, plus evening talks (in person and live streamed) coming up on **Tuesday evenings** through the month.

Our hosts are again offering a face-to-face and online opportunities to visit and find out how to achieve a low-carbon home, which is also affordable to run and comfortable to live in.

Choose from a range of property types and expert talks exploring exactly why energy prices have shot up, how to plan a retrofit, and how to save energy without splashing the cash.

Details will be updated on the [Green Open Homes 2022](#) page over the coming weeks – bookings open in September. *Only online contact seems available.*

Message From HPAG Member, Betty



I do not use computers for buying online, so I tried **Argos** by phone without much hope.

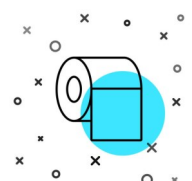
I was amazed and delighted to learn that they have a "special" phone line for the over-70s.

The kind and efficient operator told me the staff on this special line are specially trained. The caller just has to ask, although, I was put through without asking. I used **0345 656 4163**.

Bowel Cancer Screening: NHS London's Campaign

The campaign, "[Your next poo could save your life](#)", urges people who have been sent a free bowel cancer screening kit to use it.

Anyone who received a bowel cancer screening kit in the post but didn't return it can order a replacement on **0800 707 60 60**.



Family Story by Cherry McAskill

I fondly remember both my grandfathers, they were so very different – only united in their appreciation of a good pint of beer, and if I remember correctly, tuneless songs when they had been supping!

Looking into the 1921 census, I found my maternal and paternal grandfathers. Reading the details given in the census reinforced to me the different lives they had led.

My father's father, Alfred James Hasler, was born in 1888 and was 35 years old at the time of the census. The family lived in a large house in Finsbury Park, with a wife, a son (my father), two daughters, plus a lodger. Two further sons followed in the late 1920's. Grandfather Hasler owned the house. He was a time served surgical instrument maker. His apprenticeship papers are lodged in the UCL archive. I remember Grandad Hasler had problems reading, he was probably dyslectic, a condition unknown during his lifetime. He could draw and calculate numbers with ease. During the First World War, the Army Medical Corp argued on his behalf to be placed in a reserved occupation. His skills, they argued, as a surgical instrument maker were more useful in Clerkenwell than in uniform in the trenches. He was a fire watcher at night and weekends.



My mother's father, Arthur William Rhodes, (see image with my brother) was born in 1893 and was 27 years old at the time of the census. He lived with his wife and daughter (my mother) in a two up, two down miners cottage in Mexborough, South Yorkshire. The house was in a yard of four houses, the toilet across the yard, one for each family. A small covered lean to behind the toilets served as a storage area for bikes, prams and somewhere for the kids to play when raining. In the middle of the yard was a paving stone (the rest of the yard was cobble stones) covering where the shared water pump had been before connection to the water mains.

In the census, Grandad Rhodes's occupation was listed as coal hewer. He had served in France and was evacuated home after injury in 1917.

Grandfather Rhodes spent over 50 years as a coal miner underground, strenuous heavy physical work. He enjoyed his cricket and was a champion domino player in retirement.

Both grandfathers retired from their working lives with the same occupation as in the 1921 census.

Grandad Hasler died in 1961 at the age of 73.

Grandad Rhodes died in 1996 at 102 years old.

If you are wondering how they came to be my grandfathers, it took another war! My parents meet during WW2, when my father was stationed in South Yorkshire, but that, as they say, is another story!

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

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