

HORNSEY PENSIONERS

www.hornseypag.org.uk

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

June 2023

Never Give up Exercising for Senior Strength and Fitness

Wednesday June 21st



Speakers: Misha Mansour, Personal Fitness Trainer and Lesley Chrysanthou of West Haringey Seniors Exercise Class

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, especially Lesley, who replaced Mike to volunteer on the microphones and volunteer of final Bulletin producer, Mia Anderson.

Access to the June Meeting

Warning: Road works on Priory Road on **June 21st** mean both **144 bus eastwards** to Edmonton Green and **W3 southwards** to Finsbury Park are now being diverted. The 144 is going to Wood Green over Alexandra Palace, W3 diverted at Middle Lane. But both buses run the other way to Muswell Hill and Wood Green as usual. So the opposite bus situation to our last meeting.

HPAG's Future Meetings

July 19th - Food Banks

August 16th - Outing to Forty Hall. Coach is booked and 3 people have claimed their seats, 13 left at £20 each. Contact Ann:

020 8340 8335 or awarr@btinternet.com

Watch Out for the Ham and High Newspaper

Published on **Thursday 1st June** in which our resolution on manned shop tills is discussed under *Opinions*. It was written by members Ursula Maestranzi, Vivien Thomas and Ann Anderson.

At the AGM on April 19th, Hornsey Pensioners Action Group AGM resolved to monitor how health and care services are delivered locally. This will require a working group to be set up.

Please contact Janet if you wish to join this group.

If the mass in a one-kilogram bag of sugar could be converted into energy, it would be enough to drive a car non-stop for 100,000 years. Facts generously provided by The QI Elves

Has IT Made Us ALL Better Informed? May 17th 2023

Janet Shapiro, NPC Digital Working Party assisted by Anne Gray, Over 50's Forum and Sharon Tynan, London Age UK. Three speakers gave well researched and thoughtful presentations.

Janet, who had previously worked as a mathematician with an understanding of computers, opened the meeting.

- i. Recognition that we need emotional and factual human contact as communication.
- ii. There are a number of universally provided means to communicate, digital and non-digital. Will AI take over?
- iii. Royal Mail postal services are ripe for exploitation.
- iv. Communications Workers Union have fought closures of post offices. Banks are going the same way with customers urged to be "online".
- v. Media Literacy and Exclusions - important information e.g. healthcare and public services may only be available on line.
- vi. Consultations from National and Local Government need to be open to all - readily available in paper form.

Anne spoke of the pros and cons of the internet.

- i. There are numerous reasons to favour face-to-face doctors' appointments and using only phone calls increases the likelihood of clinical mistakes and are less reassuring for patients.
- ii. Internet booking of GP appointments is discriminatory and perpetuates the 8am scramble and panic.
- iii. The internet does bring many benefits also for older people - health research, entertainment, socializing and organizing, exercise classes, learning in online classes, services provided with economy of time and money.
- iv. Access to the internet. Need to have a smart phone with a screen (from £100) or a tablet, at least 32GB storage (from £150, Argos). A second-hand laptop to have at least Windows 10 and a 3 month warranty. [MoneySuperMarket](#) may give information on cheap broadband which may be more important than the over 75s free TV licence.

Sharon spoke of the campaign for an age-friendly London (one of the wealthiest cities in the world) this campaign 'Mind the Digital Gap'. 200,000 over 75s in London do not use the internet. Some over 65s would like to use it more but have problems doing so.

Age UK London have researched, using Freedom of Information requests to all 33 boroughs and a Mystery Shopping exercise with 12 local authorities about Housing Benefits, Council Tax Rebate, Council Tax Discounts and Blue Badges. These are the results in summary:

- ⇒ 4 boroughs did not respond; 5 (17% respondents) did not offer any offline access; 8 (25%) had no offline access for Blue Badge applications; 9 (31%) offer no offline access to council tax reductions or housing benefit.
- ⇒ No council recognized the painful irony of saying they had paper forms but to access one, it was necessary to first download it from the website or to have an online account.

Recommendations are made in order that older Londoners (including those on the lowest income) have equal access to services in a straightforward way, protected by the Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty, with a request that councils have sufficient funding to properly administer benefits for older people.

Jane Garner





Contact for a free session with Coffee and Computers for IT help

Web: www.coffeecomputers.org - Email: info@coffeecomputers.org

Phone/WhatsApp: 07999 042497

Hornsey Library Sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month (10:30 - 12:00). Next date, 14th June.

Winkfield Centre Sessions are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month (14:00-15:30). Next date, 7th June.

Copy of letter sent to Ham and High newspaper from Vivien Thomas and Ann Anderson but not yet published.



So the news is out and rumours were true. Sainsbury's has bought the Co-op store and its staff in Crouch End. We are losing a community shop owned by its members to an organisation, though once London based, since 2021 is owned 14.99% by the Qatar Foundation. Sainsbury's already has a large store nearby in Hornsey, so why do they need another? Will the community facilities be maintained by the new owners; that is, the human rather than machine till service, the community notice board, the soft plastic collection, but especially the customer home delivery service?

The local community had to struggle to reinstate this when the Co-op took over from Budgens some years ago. The home delivery service means that the elderly and disabled can enjoy going to the shop, meeting people, including the staff, and importantly, choosing their own fruit and vegetables and any bargains that might be on offer. Then they do not need to worry about getting their shopping home, as it will be delivered for them, free, if they spend at least £25. The reason Sainsbury's was able to buy this store was because the Co-op was not making enough money - so profits before people. It's so sad to see a store with the original co-operative philosophy leave Crouch End's High Street.

Pension Credit from Independent Age

The last time the Government published their own estimate for how many people are missing out, we found out that up to 850,000 older people weren't receiving the [Pension Credit](#) they were entitled to in 2019-2020. Together, we have put pressure on the Government so it has meant they've committed to spending around £3 million on promoting this vital income top-up to the people who need it.

The good news is, in the three months up to November last year, 31,000 people started to receive Pension Credit. Pension Credit can make a life-changing difference, so your support has had a real impact on tens of thousands of lives!

Support Free-to-Use Cash Machines

The consumer group, [Which](#) are pleased to announce its campaign to support free-to-use cash machines has been successful.

The government has agreed to amend the new Financial Services and Markets Bill to ensure people have access to a machine within a reasonable distance and do not have to pay to take out their own money. This is especially important to those who do not use online banking. The number of these machines fell by a over a quarter from August 2018 to March 2023. Which Group has also recently found that over half the bank branches have shut in London since 2015.

[Haringey Community Action Network](#)

Join local people, community groups and trade unions for an open discussion about how we can work together to make change. **All are Welcome.** Contact: Haringey.we.can@gmail.com

SUNDAY 11TH JUNE 2023, 10:30—16:00

Alevi Cultural Centre, 19 Clarendon Rd, N8 ODD

Workshops: Campaign Against Poverty / Climate & Biodiversity / Migrant Justice / Health & Care / Decent Homes for All / Trade Unions & the Fight Against Austerity

In this moment, let us build a movement.



My Parents by Cherry McAskill



This is how my parents met.

During WW2 my father, Alfred David Hasler, was stationed at an ack-ack unit in a field in the mining town of Mexborough, South Yorkshire. The unit was housed in the TA Drill Hall on the town outskirts. The unit shone search lights to track enemy planes heading for the industrial conurbations of Doncaster railway depots and Sheffield/Rotherham steelworks.

Dad had lived all his life, until called up, in London, working in a bookshop and being politically active in left wing politics. He spoke some French and had spent the summer of 1939 in Paris.

Mum, Betty Rhodes, had grown up in Mexborough, an only child but with an extended family. She had been a nursery maid, then worked for a family newsagent, delivering papers along with domestic and childcare work. Her own mum was, to use the terminology of the time, crippled with rheumatism and she was her carer too.

On her paper round, Mum delivered to the Drill Hall, where the ack-ack unit was based. She was intrigued to meet the Private who had *The London Times*, and *The Daily Worker* delivered every day. She did eventually meet him and discovered he was called Alf Hasler. They chatted and soon went walking out but Mum was adamant she could not marry a man called Alf! He said his middle name was David, so that was good enough for Betty. They married, had three children, me the eldest, my sister Jill and my brother Arthur. I was born in Mexborough just after dad was demobbed but before returning to London.

Throughout their marriage, Dad was known as David in the Yorkshire side of the family and always called Alf by his London family.

When Mum first met Dad's family, they talked about those from their family 'over the water', meaning South London, it puzzled Mum before Dad explained the great divide of the Thames between North and South London.

The poet Ted Hughes lived in Mexborough as a child. A cousin of my mum's was in the same junior school class as him. Ted Hughes had a paper round while at school, and I found out from reading about the poet's early life, his paper round included some of the same streets and houses my mum had delivered evening papers to.

Dad worked for a medical bookshop and publisher, so was popular with the local GP, who treated my grandma in Mexborough, as Dad supplied the doctor with trade discounts on books!

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

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