

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

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Brixton Liveable Neighbourhood Programme

Monday 20th JANUARY 2020

Room 1-16

**Lambeth Town Hall
Brixton Hill, SW2 1RW
12.00 pm to 2.30 pm**

Speaker: tba

Following our discussion around safer public transport we have a presentation about making our streets safer places. Brixton Liveable Neighbourhood Programme is a programme to make our streets around Brixton safer, healthier and more inclusive for all users.

Come and see the short films and discuss how this will be achieved.

An important factor in maintaining one's independence, health and general well-being is the ability to travel safely. Unfortunately for some, the elderly and disabled people travelling becomes a problem. Certain safety issues prevent them from going out shopping, carrying out their volunteering and family activities, socialising and most importantly keeping essential appointments. Uneven pavements, street furniture, irresponsible cyclists, pedestrian crossing count-downs and buses exceeding bus stops often cause anxiety and in some cases falls. Other aspects of safety which restrict our travelling especially after dark are poorly lit streets and estates, the fear of mugging and the absence of policing. This meeting provides an opportunity to join in the debate on travelling in safety. Come and share your experiences and expectations of safe travel and insist that the local authority exercises its brief for ensuring safe travel for all at all times.

Pensioners Post 13 December

A happy, healthy and bountiful new year to all. On 13 December the country awoke to the resounding election victory for the Conservatives and the shattering defeat of the Labour Party – the worst election defeat since 1935. It was clear that this was a vote on Brexit and not on Social Justice and Austerity. This means that after ten years of Austerity, we will still have to endure another 5 years of Tory rule. What does this mean for pensioners? A Conservative victory does not mean that Austerity has gone away. The NHS, Social Care and Housing crisis will remain. We will continue to experience the impact of the cuts on our public services and attacks on the Welfare State. Unless there are real and progressive changes, our pension will still be the lowest in the developed world. Fuel and pensioner poverty will persist. The free over 75s TV license will end and the Freedom pass will remain under threat. The retirement age is bound to go up and frozen pensions will continue to exist. Nothing will change unless we strengthen our resolve to challenge the Conservative Government on the pledges they made in their Election Manifesto. We need to hold them to account. We cannot afford to sink into defeatism and hopelessness. Now more than ever we need to build our group and develop strategies, campaigns and actions which will ensure that we achieve recognition, dignity, respect and financial security in our retirement – **nothing less.**

Brexit and Older people

MP's have voted to pass the Withdrawal Bill Agreement meaning that Brexit will almost certainly happen on 31 January. What we know from the Yellowhammer no-deal document is that in "a worse case assumption" there could be public disorder, higher food prices and reduced medicines and medical supplies.

At present British citizens are entitled to travel anywhere in the EU simply by presenting their passports. Furthermore the European Health Insurance Card guarantees access to medical treatment. Post Brexit this agreement will be subject to change. Social care services could face significant challenges when the UK leaves the EU. The social care sector is dependent on the 60,000 of the 12 million NHS workforce from other EU countries. It is still uncertain whether British citizens living abroad will receive the annual increase in their State Pension in line with inflation. No doubt, older people and especially those on low incomes, ongoing health conditions and disabled people face a number of obstacles. Much will depend on how pensioners will deal with the outcomes of the UK leaving the EU.

Committee meeting: Monday 27 January 2020, Lambeth Town Hall, 11am to 1pm

