

JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Chair: Ellen Lebethe, 1 Heyford Ave, London SW8 1EA

Vice Chair: Ted Knight, 17 Gipsy Hill, and London SE19 1QG

Secretary: Penny Savage, 61 Hackford Road SW9 ORE

Treasurer: Solomon Ghadebo, 20 Sidford House, Briant Estate, Cossen St, SE1 7DD

Members Secretary: Benedita Whitehouse, 25 Farm Avenue, London SW16 2UT

<http://www.lampag.org>

info@lampag.org

New Year 2016.

A Happy New Year to you. As we enter the New Year, it would have been great to report that 2015 was a year where communities across the country experienced an upturn in the quality of their lives, as a result of the changes in policies and practices at national and local levels. Sadly this is not the case. The lives of entire communities have been affected by the Austerity agenda of the Con-Dem government with more cuts promised by the present government. Pensioners have fared badly over the years where pensioner and fuel poverty still exists. The UK Pension is still one of the lowest in the developed world. One in ten people over 50 in England do not have their care needs met. 2m older people live in homes that fail to meet the Decent Homes Standard. Loneliness amongst older people

persists and many of the services that older people depend on have been cut. 2016 promises to be a difficult year for whole communities and especially the poor, the disabled and women, with the rich becoming richer and the poor even poorer. As a pensioners' action group it is important that we strengthen our resolve to continue to make our voices heard and to speak up for the voiceless. We need to stand shoulder to shoulder with likeminded organisations in their campaigns to resist this government's programmes of cuts and privatisation and to defend the Welfare State and Public Services. We need to be part of the movement that will bring about real change and make a difference to the lives of today's and tomorrow's pensioners.

NEW YEAR SOCIAL EVENT

Monday 18 JANUARY 2016

12.30 pm to 2.30 pm

at

**THE OLD LAUNDRY
STOCKWELL GARDEN ESTATE
20 EASTCOTE STREET
STOCKWELL SW9 9BY**

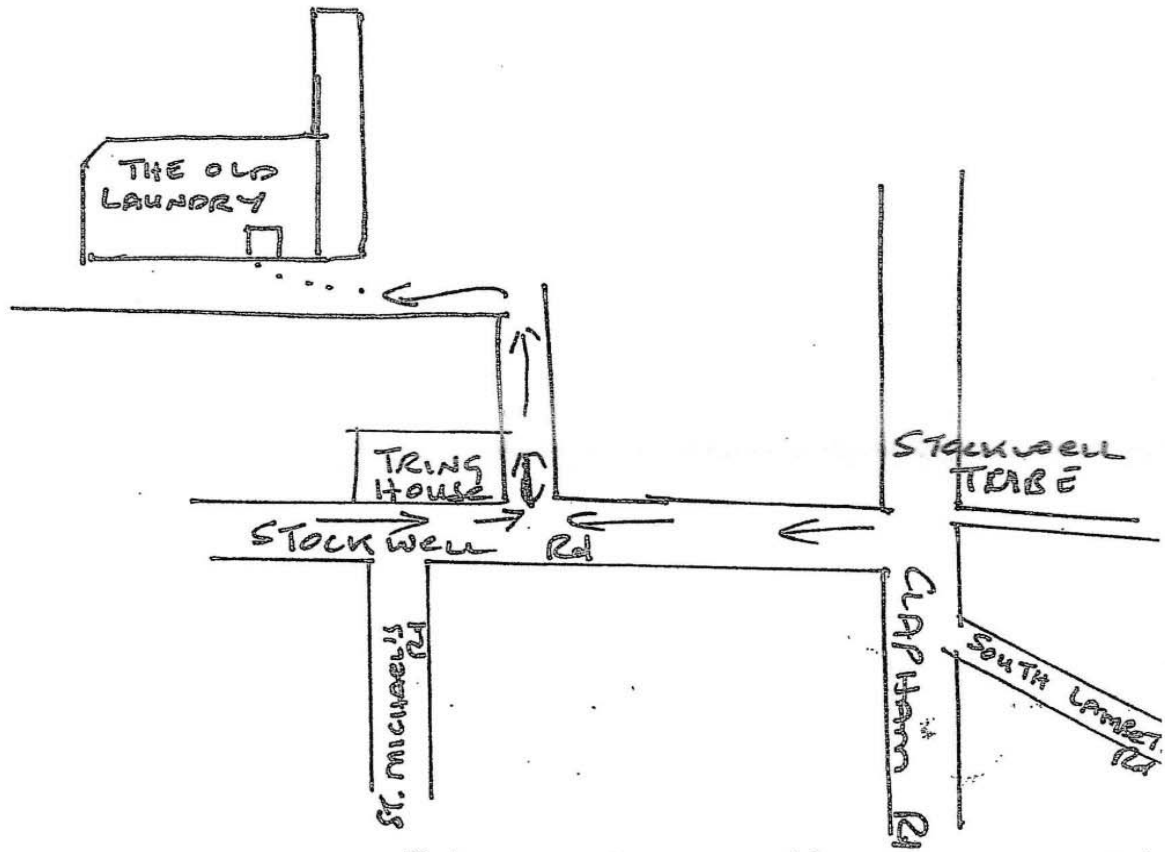
We will be welcoming the New Year with a social afternoon. Come and **share** food, drinks and friendship in our now amiable and customary way. Though I am unable to there with you because I will still be out of the country, I will nevertheless be with in spirit. Do have an enjoyable afternoon. Keep well and warm.

Kindly note the new time and meeting place.

SEE - MAP - OVERLEAF

Dignity Action Day 1 February

Dignity Action Day is about promoting a more respectful and caring way of behaving towards



the vulnerable. It is about upholding the principles of dignity and respect in the treatment and care of the elderly at all times. LAMPAG has been invited to join a **Dignity Action Day event at St Thomas' Hospital** on the **3rd February**. It will take place between **10 am and 3 pm** and will be held in the **Central Hall** and **birdsong corridor**. We will have the opportunity to showcase what we do as a Pensioners' Group. Do come along to celebrate the Dignity Action Day. By

Strike Action by Doctors.

Over the next five years the NHS needs £30bn but has only been promised £8bn. It has to find the rest by efficiency savings many which will mean cuts and more pay restraints on staff pay.

Doctors across London were set to commence industrial action on Tuesday 12 January 2016. They oppose the government's attempts to impose an unsafe new contract on the medical

supporting Dignity Action day we will raise awareness of the importance of Dignity in Care and demonstrate that everybody in the community has a role to play in upholding Dignity in Care.

The event is in its planning stages but there will be more information available at the New Year Social event on Monday.

profession. It is their view that the proposed contract represents an existential danger to the NHS as an institution. The BMA says that in the course of negotiations with the government, they have encountered nothing but intransigence, hence their decision to take industrial action. Hence their recourse to strike action.

Mayoral Elections 2016.

The mayoral elections will take place in May and as a pensioner group we have a special interest in the forthcoming elections, Candidates will be releasing their manifestos with pledges and to improve the lives of Londoners young and old if elected. They will be holding hustings where they will present their manifestos to muster votes. We live in

one of the richest multi cultural cities in the world. As older Londoners we want to share in the wealth and opportunities that we have contributed to as workers, volunteers and taxpayers. We want our contributions to be acknowledged and valued. We therefore need to ensure that we set out our demands for what we consider to our priorities clearly.

Our priorities are:

- **Safety.** A strong well manned police and fire service and safe travel.
- **Transport.** Accessible bus and underground/mainline rail stations.
- **Housing.** Affordable, comfortable, well insulated homes adapted to our needs.
- **Culture.** Access to cultural events and venues, libraries, exercise, swimming classes.
- **Environment.** Parks and greenplaces, noise free, clean air, places to sit, public toilets
- **Equal life chances for all** regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, disability.
- **Communication.** Digital inclusion, an end to discrimination of those without IT experience, access to broadband

These are some of our demands for an Age Friendly London which values older people and which we will put to the candidates at any opportunity.

Dates for your Diary.

Committee meeting: 25 January, Manor Court, 11am to 1pm.

Dignity Action Day, 3rd February 2016, St Thomas' Hospital, 10am to 3pm.