

### **Keep our Buses Safe**

LAMPAG joined Sir Hugh Taylor, Chairman, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, Kate Hoey MP, DASL, Transport for All, Waterloo Action Centre, hospital staff and supporters at the launch of the legal action against TFL's proposals for a 'floating' bus stop outside St Thomas' Hospital. Patients, visitors and staff getting off buses would have to cross a busy cycle lane to reach the hospital if the plans go ahead. Guy's and Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust has filed an application for a judicial review against TFL's consultation process with witness statements submitted by LAMPAG and charities including the RNIB.

Sir Hugh Taylor said, "We are not taking this action lightly. We are concerned about the impact (of floating islands) on patients and carers, especially the elderly, disabled and families with children in buggies and wheelchairs coming to Evelina Children's Hospital at St Thomas'. LAMPAG opposes TFL's plans which will compromise our safety.

### **WASPI (Women against State Pension Inequality) campaign**

Thousands of women including LAMPAG and supporters gathered on Parliament Square on Wednesday 30 June to protest against pension inequality. The WASPI campaign is for a 'fair transitional arrangements' because the government didn't notify the affected women after initial changes were made in the 1995 Pensions Act and instead accelerated the increase to their state pension age in the State Pension Act 19011. This meant that some women who in their mid or late fifties were told they would have to wait until the age of 66 for their pension when the state pension for men and women had increased to 66. The Turner Commission had recommended that a period of 15 years notice be given to pensioners.

It is well known that large pensions disadvantages exist for women and ethnic minority elders. Women have not been able to accrue the same occupational pensions as men. Only 48% of women get a full state pension compared to 80% of men as a result of low pay, part time working and time off for childcare and caring for the elderly relatives. This is compounded by the fact that many women do not get the full state pension having relied on their partners' contributions. Women are at the back of the pension queue with three quarters of women living below the poverty line. It is crucial that any discussion on pensions should highlight and address the issue of injustices within the pensions system specifically affecting women and ethnic minority elders.

### **Lambeth Country Show Saturday 16 July and Sunday 17 July**

LAMPAG will have a stall in the TUC tent at the country show thanks to Lambeth TUC. And will distribute publicity materials. Please visit the tent. Bring friends and family and encourage them to join. If you can spare some time on either day come and help at the stall.

### **A message to members**

August is our holiday month. It is the month when we take a break from 'business' to spend time with friends and family and to recoup our energy. Thank you members for your participation. Many of you are unable to attend meetings and the various campaigns but I know you value the newsletter and support our aims. Renew your membership if you have not already done so. We need to continue our proud record of a pensioners' group campaigning for pensioners' right to dignity and respect in retirement. Enjoy the summer recess. Ellen.

**Next Committee Meeting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August 11am at Manor Court**

