

MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

Chair: Ellen Lebethe, 1 Heyford Ave, London SW8 1EA Tel: 02075825063
Vice Chair: Ted Knight, 17 Gipsy Hill, and London SE19 1QG Tel: 02086701454
Secretary: Penny Savage, 61 Hackford Road SW9 ORE Tel: 02077357375
Treasurer: Solomon Ghadebo, 20 Sidford House, Briant Estate, Cossen St, SE1 7DD
Tel: 02072611977

<http://www.lampag.org>

info@lampag.org

MONDAY 19 MARCH 2018
The Old Laundry
Stockwell Gardens Estate
20 Eastcote Road
Stockwell, London SW9 9JU
12.00 pm to 2.30 pm

LAMPAG AGM

This year we will be celebrating our 39th year as pensioners' action group. Over the years members past and present have been committed to working to achieving financial security, dignity, respect and acknowledgement and recognition of their contributions to their families, society and the economy. We have brought our energy, skills and experience to bear on our activities at local, regional and national levels. LAMPAG has come out in solidarity alongside likeminded organisations in defence of the Welfare State, Public services, workers' rights and social justice.

Our proud history of campaigning has been written as a result of your support and determination to survive despite the challenges that confront us on all levels. So far we have managed to keep going. However, our group will only thrive and grow if we have your continued support and the services of the committee. We will be electing a new committee at the AGM to carry forward our important work. I call on you to consider putting yourself forward to serve on the committee. We need a full and active committee. The group is only as viable as the membership's belief that the group's objectives are worth campaigning and fighting for. I believe they are. We need to reach out to the younger generations and to present workers who share our concerns. They are the pensioners of tomorrow.

Make every effort to attend the AGM, read the papers and come and join in the discussion on how best all of us can continue to build LAMPAG.

Tea, coffee, biscuits, raffle.

March 2018

On 8 March we will be celebrating **International Women's Day**. International Women's Day is time to reflect, a catalyst for change and a call to celebrate the acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities. This year we also celebrate the Centenary of **the People Act 1918** when women over 30 were with a small property qualification were enfranchised. There have been small steps toward bridging the gap between men and women since then. **The Law of Property Act 1922** allowed both men and women to inherit property. **The 1975 Sex Discrimination Act** made it illegal to discriminate against women in work, education and training. **The Equality Act 2010** replaced a number of different discrimination laws. In **1991** the House of Lords made **rape in marriage a criminal offence** in the UK.

Despite these progressive steps, towards gender equality, we still have a long way to go. Stereotypical views of women still rear their ugly heads. The gender pay gap still abounds despite the fact that women have and are saving the government billions in caring and domestic roles. Women outlive men and cuts to social care have left many without the support they need. The unfair changes in the state pension age making women work longer has boosted the government finances by £15bn and has left women worse off during the extra pre-retirement years. Single women on low incomes, escalating house prices and unaffordable housing have forced more women into private rental accommodation. This poses specific issues of security of tenure, high rents and other costs of repairs and maintenance health and moving home.

We are 'Wonder Women' but not the ones portrayed in films. We are the agents of change and will work towards achieving it. So, while continuing our campaign to improve the lives of pensioners, we need to become genuinely inclusive by isolating and meeting the special needs of women, the disabled and ethnic minority groups.

The NHS at 70

This year February saw people march through the streets in London to show their support for the NHS and to express their anger at the systemic inadequate funding by successive governments. Let us remember the words of Anuran Bevin. "The National Health Service will last for as long as there are folk to fight for it." We are the 'folk' **and** the beneficiaries of the NHS.

AGM 2018

Enclosed please find the papers relevant to the AGM. I ask that members give some thought to putting themselves forward to serve on the committee. We need a strong committee to steer the group forward to meet its aims and objectives. The roles of the committee are clearly set out in one of the papers. If you intend to put forward a proposal, please submit it and come to the AGM prepared to speak on it. We have a vacancy for a Treasurer and have to elect one urgently.

Open Meeting 19 January.

If you were unable to join one of the working groups that were formed at the meeting, you can still so. The report that you received in the newsletter in February sets out what the group objectives are to help build the organisation and how this will be done. Remember the idea is to pool our knowledge, skills and experiences in order to move the group forward.

Management Committee Meeting. Monday 26 March, Manor Court, 11 am to 1pm.

