

## MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

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**OPEN MEETING  
MONDAY 20 May 2019  
The Old Laundry  
Stockwell Gardens Estate  
20 Eastcote Road, London SW9 9BY  
12.00 pm to 2.30 pm**

### **Voluntary Community Sector**

**Speaker: Jim Dickson**

**Cabinet member for the Voluntary Sector, Partnerships, and Community**

As a voluntary community campaign group run by pensioners for pensioners whose aim is to achieve dignity, respect and financial security in retirement and to challenge laws, policies and practices which impact on their health and wellbeing, we expect older people to be included and be part of any consultations, initiatives and programmes that will affect their welfare. In 2017 voluntary groups got together to speak to each other about the support they need and about the importance of a Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) Strategy. Our concern is that in the absence of LAMPAG, the meeting was not inclusive in the absence of the LAMPAG voice.

We have invited Jim Dickson to come and address us on the VCS support for the voluntary sector, their work with the voluntary sector community hubs as well as the level of protection for vulnerable adults. We would also like information on the VCS Strategy. Of special interest to us are the borough's plans for digital transformation in the light of the digital exclusion of older people without computer access from essential information. More importantly we wish to know about the council's work on community safety. Come and be part of debate. Come equipped with your contributions and questions.

**Tea, Coffee, Biscuits, Raffle**

**Please note change of venue for this month. Change due to EU elections.**

## **May Day March and Rally**

Thank you to members who joined the march and rally from Clerkenwell Green to Trafalgar Square to mark International Workers Day. Though numbers were smaller than last year, the message from Trade Unionists, Socialist Solidarity Groups and activists was loud and clear. Workers around the world were celebrating their achievements and were in solidarity against exploitation and those who seek to divide them. Their fight is for workers' rights and real Internationalism. Workers across the world faced the same multinationals and financiers who tried to impose austerity and attacks on public services.

The message from John McDonnell, Shadow Chancellor was strong and adamant. He said that we need to grow the economy, create job opportunities, end zero hours contracts, defend workers' rights and end Austerity. The Trade Union gagging laws needed to go. The young speaker from Extension Rebellion 'raised the roof' by her eloquent and passionate demand that the government takes more action over climate change and develop a viable path away from calamitous global warming which threatened the lives of young and old and young, the environment as well as the world's precious flora and fauna. The government has since then declared a **Climate Emergency** indicating the need to take climate change seriously.

## **Health Conference**

The **LAMPAG 18<sup>th</sup> HEALTH CONFERENCE BETTER, HEALTH, BETTER CARE** will be held on **MONDAY 17 JUNE** in the **Governors' Hall St Thomas' Hospital** from **9.30 am to 3.00 pm**.

In the morning session there will be presentations by consultants on **(a) Chronic Health Conditions, treatment and prevention and (b) Neurological conditions and older people**. The **Trust Panel** made up of the Chairman of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust, Chief Nurse and the Director of Essentia will attend. They will set out ground-breaking research, policies and practices at the hospital to enhance patient, staff and visitors' experiences. The afternoon session will be given over to a presentation by a speaker from Lambeth KNOP Dr Louise Irvine on **The NHS Long Term Plan** which worryingly involves the further privatisation of the NHS. Final programme later.

## **TV licence debate.**

On 6 June MPs called a debate on TV licences. The debate was to vote on whether the government should take back responsibility for paying TV licences for the over 75's. While the vote is not binding it will send a strong signal to the government the MPs and the public want them to pay for the licence. The fight to save the free TV licence needs to be continued and stepped up. It's up to today's and tomorrow's pensioners under and over 75 to do so. We await the outcome of the debate.

## **Pension Credit.**

"From 15 May, couples where one person is over State Pension Age while the other is under that age won't be eligible for Pension Credit or pension-age Housing Benefit. Instead, both will need to reach State pension age before they can claim Pension Credit or Housing Benefit. These changes mean that mixed age couples could lose up to £7,000 a year and a few could lose out on even more. Older people are being wrongly punished for having a partner younger than themselves. We are urging the government to stop this unfair targeting of mixed aged couples and calling on them to reverse their decision." Jan Shortt, General Secretary NPC. As a pensioners' action group, we need to emulate pensioners in the South East Region who have organised a protest against this unfair practice. This is yet another attack on pensioners.

## **LAMPAG publicity stall.**

We will have a stall on **Windrush Square on Saturday 25 May** to raise awareness of older people's issues and to build our membership. It is important that we engage with the Lambeth older community and sustain LAMPAG beyond our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary that we will be celebrating this year. Please sign up on the rota to take turns at the stall Thanks.

**Committee meeting: Monday 3 June, Lambeth Town Hall, 11.00 am to 1.00 pm in Room 1-16 (please note change of room)**

