

## **OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER**

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### ***CELEBRATING AGE AND BLACK HISTORY*** **MONDAY 29 OCTOBER 2018**

**Assembly Hall  
Lambeth Town Hall  
Brixton Hill, SW2 1RW  
12.00 pm to 3.00 pm**

**Speakers:** Ellen Lebeth, Chair: Lambeth Pensioners Action Group  
Ted Knight, Vice Chair: Lambeth Pensioners Action Group  
tbc  
Francis Evans QC  
Cllr Patsy Cummings, Croydon Council

**Special guests:** Lib Peck, Leader, Lambeth Council  
Mayor of Lambeth, Cllr Christopher Wellbelove  
The Divas Choir

We will be celebrating Age and Black History with an event highlighting the achievements and contributions of older people world-wide to their families, communities, society and the economy. We will be applauding the proud history of older people of commitment to achieve dignity, respect, financial security and recognition and value of their work aimed at to making a real difference.

We will also be showcasing the contributions of inspirational individuals and events in history that Black people around the world have made in the fields of politics, medicine, science, literature, music, art and the media despite the challenges they faced.

We will again mark this month with a social gathering where we will be sharing food, drinks, friendship and warmth. We will replicate the generosity and camaraderie that we have shown so well in the past. Please bring a plate and a drink to share. Come and help with setting up from 11 am. Thanks.

**Buffet, Music, Raffle**

## 1 October International Older People's Day

Thank you to members who braved the cold to help out at our stall outside of Iceland on the day. Thank you also to Age UK Lambeth for bringing along and collecting the pasting table and for the information leaflets they brought to the site. We managed to leaflet and to speak to members of the public about LAMPAG and the NPC activities. Responses were extremely positive.

### **Austerity is over**

In her closing speech at the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham, Theresa May announced that "Austerity is over and hard work has paid off".

**Really?** How can this be true when thousands of head teachers marched to Downing Street recently to demand extra funding for a crisis-hit education? Per pupil school budgets have been slashed by 8% in real terms since 2010 while nearly 530,000 more pupils have joined state schools. (Institute of Fiscal Studies).

Billions of pounds of cuts to essential public services are already in place for 2019-2020 which represent £1.3bn, 36% in cuts when councils are already facing meltdown from previous cuts (Local Government Association). Government plans to move more people on to universal credit could lead to a huge increase in those having to turn to food banks to survive. (Trussell Trust). Thousands of police officers and support staff have been decimated with worrying consequences on our communities. Response to 999 calls are increasing and cuts to fire services are responsible for longer responses.

Her government has announced some emergency funding (£2bn) for social care but this is a mere drop in the ocean when there has been £6bn cuts to social care budgets since 2011 with 1.2 million older people in England with unmet care and support needs. Has the chronic underfunding of the NHS, shortage of medical staff, long waits in emergency departments, lack of care in the community been ended as a result of Austerity measures?

What about the Housing crisis, the shortage of social and affordable homes, homelessness, the plight of private renters, deaths, 31,800 in England and Wales in 2016-2017 as a result of cold related illnesses?. Pensioner and fuel poverty, loneliness and social isolation, zero hour contracts, the living wage? What about these? Austerity has never been an economic necessity. It has been a political choice made by the government to wage an attack on the Welfare State and Public services and to ensure tax cuts for big business. Austerity has caused much suffering and despair. **So much for "Austerity is over"!**

### **Lobby of Parliament**

This year's Lobby of Parliament will take place on 24 October at the Houses of Parliament. It is important that we make our voices heard and contribute to the debates on issues in the very place where laws, good or bad are made and policies drawn up which are and will be impacting on our lives. Please make every attempt to attend. Pensioners from all over the country will join you. Full details in the flyer attached.

**Reminders: 1. Note change of date for the Celebrating Age and Black History event.  
2. Subscriptions are due for those who have only paid for the first half of the year and in full if you have not already paid. Thanks.**

**Committee Meeting: Monday 5 November 11am Lambeth Town Hall.**



