



APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER

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

Secretary: Penny Savage, 61 Hackford Road SW9 ORE

Vice Secretary: Solomon Ghadebo

Treasurer: Pat Prendergast, 103 Glenville Road, London SW2 5DF

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

LAMPAG AGM

The AGM took place on 17 April in Room 8 at Lambeth Town Hall. Our guest speakers were **Dot Gibson**, former LAMPAG secretary and NPC General Secretary and **Jon Rogers**, Branch Secretary Lambeth Unison.

In her address Dot reminded us that we can build a community made up of different generations. This society was unkind to young people who shared some of the same concerns experienced by older people. We needed to be proactive at a time of youth unemployment and active in the campaign to improve the lives of older people where more and older people live in pensioner and fuel poverty.

The NPC was at the forefront of the campaign for issues that pensioners themselves consider important. The NPC demands a state pension above the poverty level of £176.00 which lifts pensioners out of poverty and rejects the raising of the retirement age to 68. It has led the National Care Service campaign for free care at the point of need and paid through general taxation. It called for an integrated health and care service, good quality care and the implementation of the Dignity Code in hospitals, care and community settings. The NPC defends the NHS and other public services is opposed to government cuts, threats to Universal Benefits and campaigns for the retention of the Freedom Pass. The NPC works closely with unions to defend jobs, wages, pensions and working conditions. She asked for members to identify issues which concern them as set out in the NPC Pensioners Manifesto and insist that these are raised with political parties for the inclusion in their manifestoes for the 2015 general elections. Dot said that the NPC hopes to bring together old and young in Generations United events across the country. She hoped that we would be able to send a big contingent to the Pensioners Parliament in Blackpool in June.

Jon pointed out that at present funding services were primarily in the hands of private companies whose sole aim was to make profits at the expense of working people. Privatisation has resulted in severe job and wage losses and Lambeth was one of the worst boroughs suffering cuts. Over the last 3 years there has been a 20% cut of the budget. At a meeting on 26 February the Cabinet asked for the approval of £25m savings i.e. cuts in council spending as part of achieving a target of £95m over 3 years to 2016. The proposal included savings from services to older people, the disabled, children and staff reductions which would inevitably impact on service provision, jobs, working conditions and the quality of life of the community

Jon said that Lambeth Council should join forces with other Councils to resist these cuts and prepare a 'needs budget' showing the services which it would provide to meet the needs of older people and the most vulnerable. He expressed the need to build a mass

lobby of the council with other unions, the Lambeth community and LAMPAG to when the council comes to debate the budget under a 'No Cuts' slogan.

Motions. It was considered that the motions proposing the increase in subscription, holding bi-monthly committee meetings and publishing bi-monthly newsletter should be deferred to a later meeting to allow more time for discussion of the proposals. This was agreed. The discussion will take place at the May Open Meeting.

The following members were returned/elected to the committee.

Officers: Chair: Ellen Lebethe, Secretary: Penny Savage, Vice Secretary: Solomon Ghadebo **Treasurer:** Pat Prendergast. Members Secretary: Benedita Whitehouse

Committee: Gloria Blackwood, Valerie Collin, Ted Knight, Victoria Osibogun, Ron Reid.

The chairman congratulated members on their election and said that she looked forward to working as a team to drive forward the LAMPAG agenda. Thanks to the generosity of members the raffle raised £32

The meeting ended on a social note with tea, coffee and biscuits.

Pre- Local election Hustings.

The April meeting will be pre-Local elections Hustings. The 2014 London Borough elections will be held on 22 May; Representatives of the Conservative, Greens, Lib-Dems and Labour Parties will be here to present their manifestos. This as a valuable opportunity for you to call for, if elected, that the Council will make the borough age friendly, ensure high quality health and social care, provide accessible, affordable housing and transport,, value the contributions of older people support and ensure that they keep older people at the centre of their election campaigning and work for them during their time in of office. This is your chance to put your questions to the panel regarding the issues of importance to you in the forthcoming local elections. **Please note new date.**

LAMBETH PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP

PRE-LOCAL ELECTIONS HUSTINGS

MONDAY 14 APRIL 2014

1.30pm to 4pm

ROOM 8, LAMBETH TOWN HALL

Panel:

Conservative Party: Cllr John Whelan, Thurlow Park Ward

Green Party: Jonathan Bartley, St Leonard's Ward, Streatham

Liberal Democrat Party: Cllr Daphne Marchant, Streatham Wells Ward.

Labour Party: Cllr Jane Pickard, Knights Hill Ward.

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY

May Day March and Rally - Thursday 1 May

May Day brings together trade unionists, workers from many international communities, pensioners, anti-globalisation groups, students, political leaders and many others in a show of solidarity across the country and across the world. This year the May Day Rally in Trafalgar Square will be dedicated to the late Bob Crow and Tony Benn to celebrate their lives devoted to activism, militancy and the support of the working classes.

LAMPAG will be joining the May Day March and Rally and come out in solidarity with Others in the celebration of International Workers Day and the fight against Austerity privatisation, the cuts and for jobs and good public services.

Meet: Lambeth Town Hall steps.

Time: 11.15 am

Depart: 11.30 am for Assembly point, Clerkenwell Green ECI

March to Rally in Trafalgar Square: 1.00 pm

If you unable to do the March from Clerkenwell Green to Trafalgar Square, please come to the rally in Trafalgar Square. Look out for the LAMPAG banner. We need to come out in force.

Fuel Poverty Action Demo

Monday 12 May. 1pm

Queen Elizabeth 11 Conference Centre

Broad Sanctuary Road, London

British Gas will be presenting their annual report of profit-making at their AGM and the massive returns for shareholders while more and more people have been pushed into further fuel poverty as they speak. Last year alone 12,000 older people died of fuel related illnesses. The government is doing nothing to take on the Big Six whose actions are causing so much misery to so many people.

Join Fuel Poverty Action Demo for a creative protest against the poverty profiteering British Gas at their Annual General Meeting! Come and join the protest against the rip offs and dirty energy. We need to say "enough is enough" to unaffordable, undemocratic unsustainable energy.

Meet: Lambeth Town Hall Time 12.15 pm for 12.30pm travel to Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre.

Reminder: Membership subscriptions. Annual Subscriptions (£5) are now due. Please see attached letter for advice on how to make payments

HEALTH CONFERENCE 23 JUNE 2104 ST THOMAS' HOSPITAL

Topics to be presented. Cardio Vascular Conditions, Respiratory Conditions. Integrating Health and Social Care. Tickets will be available at the May Open Meeting. Put the date in your diary and publicise the conference among friends.

Committee Meeting: Monday 28 April 2014, Manor Court. St Matthews Road, 11am to 1pm.

BIN BRITISH GAS PUT POWER IN PUBLIC HANDS

- * SAY NO TO FUEL POVERTY,
FRACKING, AND CLIMATE CHANGE
- * SAY YES TO AFFORDABLE, DEMOCRATIC AND
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

MONDAY MAY 12 1PM
BRITISH GAS AGM
QEH CONFERENCE CENTRE
LONDON W1



FOR MORE INFO: FUELPOVERTYACTION@GMAIL.COM | [T: @FUELPOVERTYACTION](https://t.me/fuelpovertyaction) | [FACEBOOK.COM/FUELPOVERTYACTION](https://www.facebook.com/fuelpovertyaction)