

JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

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**OPEN MEETING
MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2018
The Old Laundry
Stockwell Gardens Estate
22 Eastcote Street
Stockwell SW9 9BY
12. 30 pm to 2.30 pm**

ORGANISE, MOBILISE, ACTIVATE

The Year 2018 has been ushered in with disturbing reports that a numbers of hospitals are struggling to cope with the onset of the NHS winter crisis. One A&E doctor went as far as apologising for the 'third world conditions' in his overcrowded unit. " Extensive and Sustained pressures" has seen staff brought to their knees and patients languishing in overcrowded waiting rooms and hospital conditions. The most tragic and disgraceful report has been of the 80 year old who died having waited nearly 4 hours for the ambulance to arrive. The state pension remains the lowest in the developed world (OECD). Pensioner and fuel poverty persists with 25,000 people dying of cold related illnesses last year. The care system remains grossly underfunded with many people's care needs not being met and self funders continuing having to sell their homes to pay for care.

Now more than ever we need to organise, mobilise and activate older people to face the many challenges that face us as older people. We need to consolidate and fortify our efforts to work towards bringing about real and permanent change. We need to build and sustain our membership and mobilise our ranks to counteract the many onslaughts on the quality of life.

The meeting will be given over to discussing the ways in which we as a group will move forward to becoming a strong and effective pensioners group which with one voice set out our demands at local and national levels and campaign and take actions for change. Come to have an input to the debate, to contribute your ideas to the process. Your views and participation are important.

Please note the date.

LOOKING BACK

Wishing you a Happy New Year and a future of good health and the fulfilment of your hopes and ambitions. I trust that most of you have been able to enjoy the Festive season with family and friends and that you have been able to look back on the past year with a sense of satisfaction having had some of your hopes and dreams realised.

Having said that, let us spare a thought for those of us who sadly were unable to enjoy the pleasure of sharing the good times with others as a result of ill health, loneliness and frustration and those who have looked back in poverty and despair and cherish hopes for better times in the future.

As a pensioners group whose aim is to achieve social justice, an end to age discrimination and the right to dignity, respect and financial security for all in their later years as well as an acknowledgement of the contribution we make to the economy, our communities and families, we need to re-affirm our commitment to the pensioners manifesto and end inequalities across communities and continue our role as agents of change.

1 FEBRUARY DIGNITY ACTION DAY

We will be celebrating Dignity Action Day with a stall at St Thomas' hospital in the Bird Corridor from 11 am to 3 pm. We will be leafleting the public and highlighting the importance of dignity in Care Homes, Hospitals, all public places and services. Members are asked to let the Chair or the Secretary know at what time they will be free to help out at the stall on the day.

Thanks.

**PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
NHS IN CRISIS FIX IT NOW
SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 12 pm
MARCH AND DEMONSTRATION**

Assemble Gower Street, Central London WC16

The NHS is facing one of the worst winter crises in its history. The crisis has not been caused by the weather alone. It has been the result of the Government's severe underfunding of health services, cuts and privatisation. Health Campaigns Together, the People's Assembly, Keep our National Health Services Public, staff, patients, the public and supporting groups are calling for the end to the crisis and for the NHS to be brought back into public hands.

Meet on the steps of Lambeth Town Hall at 10 45 am for departure to Gower Street at 11 am. Alternatively make your own way to the Demo assembly point and look out for the LAMPAG banner See you there.

**Management Committee Meeting, 29 January 2018, 11 am to 1 pm
Manor Court St Matthews Road. SW2**