

LAMPAG Secretary's Report for March 2015 AGM

As well as our monthly meetings members were involved in many of the protests and marches pertinent to the living standards of our society and we hope you will be able to join us in the coming year.

The Committee is grateful to all our speakers for providing us with such a wide variety of topics which are relevant to our members. Thanks to our Chairperson Ellen for sourcing the speakers and arranging the meetings.

Please let Ellen know if there are any topics that you think might interest our members in the coming year.

April: We welcomed our local Councillors for the pre local election Hustings. Representatives from the Conservative, Greens, Lib-Dems and Labour parties were confronted with some testing questions from our members.

May: A lively discussion on the Southwark and Lambeth Integrated Care and future funding by Liz McAndrew, Nicola Kingston and Shirley Murgraff.

June: Our LAMPAG Health Conference held at St Thomas's was a great success with 74 members and visitors attending. In the morning we had talk from Dr Rajani on cardiovascular medicine, followed by specialist physiotherapist Sohie Green educating us on Better Breathing for Life. A lovely lunch was enjoyed by all and in the afternoon we heard about the crisis in GP services.

July: Peter Meech from the Communications Workers Union and Ted Knight from Croydon Unite came to join us in a debate about the government attacks on services and what we can do as members to try and halt the trend to divide the younger and older members of society.

September: A very important theme about Safeguarding Adults took place involving Lambeth Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board and the Hidden Voices Project. We also had in attendance Tom from Age UK who spoke to individual members regarding a project on nutrition.

October: Celebrating Age and Black History Month started with a rally in Windrush Square and a walk down Brixton Road. We welcomed the Mayor of Lambeth and Lib Peck and had an interesting and lively talk

from a member of the NUT. This was followed by music and a great selection of refreshments provided by the members.

November: An interactive session from Mavis Hoyle from the Harrow Friendship Society involved us all in a discussion about Ageism in our society. A film made by a local school also showed us how younger people are becoming aware of how the older population would like to be treated.

December: This year we were able to have our Christmas celebration with a choir from Wyvil School, our pianist and a chance to dance to music from our DJ Solomon. Members provided a wide range of delicious food. A raffle raised funds for LAMPAG.

January: A much needed topic about our NHS was given by Gay Savage from the Lambeth Keep Our National Health Service Public. Our eyes were open to the many services already being taken over by private companies and the threat to our already precarious health service.

February: A talk from Andrew Fisher about the Economy, Austerity and the Need for Change raised some pertinent questions from members and reminded us about the answers we need from our MP's during the run up to the General Election.

Penny Savage