

Ted Knight

Ted was the Vice Chairman of Lambeth Pensioners Action Group for a number of years and was re-elected as Vice Chairman at the AGM in March. He needed no introduction since he was known to the Lambeth Community as the Lambeth Council leader who was surcharged and removed from office for defying the Thatcher Government's cuts which would have impacted negatively on the general wellbeing and standard of living of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the Borough.

As a Lambeth resident, a pensioner and a retired trade unionist, Ted was acutely aware of the inequalities and injustices experienced by older people many of whom often suffered poverty, loneliness, social isolation and the absence of a platform to articulate their concerns. He believed strongly in the right of pensioners to dignity, respect, financial security and a recognition of their contributions to their families, communities, society and the economy. Furthermore, he was a fierce advocate for a pensioners' voice and involvement in policies, practices and actions which affect their lives. He was keen for local activists to reach out to communities and to unite to combat the attacks on their livelihoods and wellbeing. As the activist that he was, Ted was seen on many local demos in solidarity and defence of the Welfare State, and local services and against Austerity.

In the spirit of pensioner solidarity and as chair of the Croydon Assembly, Ted forged strong links between the LAMPAG, the Croydon Assembly and the Croydon Retired Members Group. With the support of the CRMG, group LAMPAG was able to supplement their funds and send representatives to the Annual Pensioners Convention in Blackpool.

Ted's contributions to LAMPAG Open Meetings were always inspirational, passionate and filled with conviction. He was a mentor and the personification of a campaigner for pensioners rights. His speeches exemplified his profound knowledge of the human condition and were always based on the need for equality and social justice. As a member of (LAMPAG), a pensioners action group, Ted ensured that the pensioner voice was heard at local authority decision-making meetings and on ensuing policies i.e. nothing about us without us. He ensured a monthly meeting structure where Cabinet Councillors are invited to attend meetings to answer questions on their briefs and to be challenged and held to account on delivery where appropriate.

Ted represented Unite Retired Members on the National Pensioners Convention (NPC) Regional Committee and at its monthly meetings he regularly scrutinised NPC policies, practices, communications and added his ideas on necessary actions with the view to recommending and calling for appropriate action to taking them forward and making a difference. He believed fervently that words needed to be complemented by actions at all levels. In a spirit of standing firm in his beliefs and to drive the message home, Ted was seen on a number of National demos rallies, marches in defence of the NHS, Welfare State, Public Services, workers and pensioners rights and against the crippling Austerity measures.

On the local level he was at the forefront of actions against cuts to Lambeth local services i.e. libraries, colleges, childrens' and youth services, regeneration, fuel, poverty, the Housing Bill and for justice for the Windrush Generation and Grenfell. He was seen at the LAMPAG stall in the TUC tent at the Lambeth Country Show every year talking to the public and dissemination LAMPAG and NPC publicity material Ted's fighting spirit was clearly visible when he headed a deputation of pensioners to the for LAMPAG in the Town Hall after months of communications and prevarications. **We won.**

Inspired by his socialist convictions, his unremitting drive, his uncompromising stand determination and actions to bring about real change, Ted has left us **all** with a permanent and enduring legacy on which to build. **Rest in peace Ted.**