

Chair: Ellen Lebeth, 1 Heyford Ave, London SW8 1EA. Tel 020 7582 5063

Secretary: Penny Savage, 61 Hackford Road SW9 ORE Tel:020 7735 7375

Treasurer: Jennie Hall 100 New Park Road SW2 4LN

info@lampag.org www.lampag.org

LAMPAG AGM
Monday 17 March 2025
12.00 pm to 2.30 pm
Room 1 (Ground floor) Lambeth Town Hall

March is an important month for LAMPAG. It is that month when we elect our new committee which will take forward our commitment to work towards ensuring that pensioners are treated with dignity and respect, enjoy financial security in retirement and most of all see an end to ageism.

It is true that we are living in difficult times We are just now coming to the end of one of the coldest winters in a long time and when the winter fuel allowance has been means tested. To crown it all, Ofgem has announced that the energy price cap for April to June is set to rise by 4'6% meaning an average bill of £1849 for households paying by direct debit. More and more older people are living in poverty. Pensions will increase in April in line with inflation but this will not compensate for the high cost of living, increase in council taxes and the cost of poorly insulated homes. As we are all aware, the NHS is in crisis and so is the care system which does not bode well for all of us.

We have our work cut out in defending the rights of pensioners

It is clear that there is a strong case for electing a full and active committee at the forthcoming AGM who are the drivers of direction and change and who will represent the voice of pensioners on a local, and national level. Last year we celebrated our 45th anniversary as an action group. The hope is that there will be enough to speak up for pensioners and make a difference.

Chair's Report

This has not been an easy year. Despite some of the constraints, we have continued to provide a platform for pensioners to articulate their concerns and interests at the monthly meetings and kept informed and up-dated around those issues which impact on our welfare at a local and or national level. Actions speak louder than words. In this regard we have aligned ourselves with like-

minded organisations which organise rallies, campaigns, petitions in support of pensioners rights.

Our monthly meetings have covered a range of issues. The **April** meeting addressed Lambeth Plan for 2030. It sets out plans to transform and reshape neighbourhoods and communities into healthier, safer, sustainable and more equal communities. where everyone can contribute to an inclusive economy and have a place to call home. The speaker was Cllr Marcia Cameron.

The **May** meeting was a follow-up on the Lambeth 2030 plan Our Future Our Lambeth and facilitated by long standing member David Horsley. In his presentation David put forward his ideas on why and how we should reshape our thinking and objectives with the view to our becoming more active and inclusive. He suggested that we publish a document that which sets out our ideas on future Lambeth not in 2030 but now. The document should include a wide range of issues and participants and published widely.

The **June** meeting was cancelled because of the elections.

In **July**, we celebrated our 45th Anniversary as an action group. with an event which paid tribute to members who had built and sustained LAMPAG over the long years. Their loyalty, diligence, commitment and achievements were rightfully recognised. The Guest speaker was Dot Gibson, long standing activist and former secretary of LAMPAG. Cllr Adrian Garden joined this historic event. The afternoon was brightened up by the catchy tunes of the Diva tones and the generous spread provided by members.

The topic of the **September** meeting was Disability and Older People. The issue of disability is of special importance to all of us While some of us may be born with a disability, others may become disabled with age or related illness. Disabled older people face a number of challenges over and above ablebodied people hence it is crucial that their special needs are high on the agenda of assessment support including housing and information,

October. We celebrated Black History in our customary way of honouring the contributions of black pioneers across all aspects of life with speeches, music from the Divatones, refreshments, dancing and some of us in traditional dress. The speaker was Simone Higgins.

Loneliness was the topic of the meeting in **November** The speaker was Paul Coles form Age Uk Lambeth Some people feel lonely some of the time and sadly some feel lonely all the time. Covid, long periods in hospital, lack of family support. Travel restrictions have exacerbated feelings of loneliness. The meeting was about what needs to be done to combat loneliness and access to support to alleviate loneliness.

January 2025. This meeting was given over to an Age Friendly Lambeth Borough Plan 2030 Up-date. It was an opportunity for members to feedback on what Lambeth has achieved thus far. The facilitator was Cllr Tim Whittle. Meeting the MPS was the topic of the **February** meeting which took place at Portcullis House where we were able to meet with the newly elected Lambeth Labour MPs Helen Hayes, Florence Eshalomi and Bell Rebiero on their representation of pensioners' issues in parliament. Steve Read, now a minister, was unable to attend. The meeting was fruitful with a number of questions relating to local and personal issues.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the committee for their commitment, guidance, encouragement and support in the past year. I look forward to working with the new committee to deliver our objectives and to champion the rights of pensioners.

Tea, Coffee, biscuits and Raffle

Secretary's Report for AGM March 2025

A much depleted committee met to plan our meetings most months from April 2024 to February 2025. We found it difficult to always manage to make decisions as some months we didn't have enough members attending to make a quorum. In fact out of the total of nine meetings held, on six occasions we were not quorate. In order to make LAMPAG work we need a full committee consisting of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary and at least three others.

As indicated before it is time for me to resign as secretary as I often have to make emergency visits to Bristol to look after my sister who has been housebound for a while now although I'm pleased to say things seem to be a bit easier now. Looking back I have been doing the job since 2012 so think it is time to hand over to a younger pensioner.

So please think about stepping up to make a difference for LAMPAG. Of course I will be available to help the next secretary get to grips with the job.

Penny Savage

LAMPAG CONSTITUTION AS AMENDED 2010

1. The title of the organisation shall be "LAMBETH PENSIONERS ACTION GROUP" (LAMPAG).
2. The group will operate within the boundaries of the London Borough of Lambeth and shall meet once a month. Members will be informed by means of a monthly letter.
3. The aim and object of the Group shall be to act to maintain and improve the position of pensioners, independently and in conjunction with other organisations with similar objectives.
4. Membership shall be open to all pensioners without discrimination, subject to and in accordance with the Constitution, and on payment of an annual subscription, the amount to be agreed at the AGM and to cover the year from 1st April to 31st March the following year.
5. The AGM shall be on the third Monday in March, or within a month on either side of that date.
6. At the AGM a committee of officers and members shall be elected from those nominated, seconded and known to be willing to serve. The officers shall include the Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. It will meet once a month. The committee will have powers of co-option.
7. In the event of an officer or committee member not attending committee meetings for three consecutive months, that officer or committee member will be regarded as having resigned. Members will be notified in writing not more than two weeks following that third committee meeting. The election of a replacement officer or committee member will then be the subject of consideration at the next Open Meeting following that third committee meeting.
8. Amendments to the Constitution shall only be made at the AGM or by calling a General Meeting giving 21 days notice and outlining the recommended changes.
9. Amendments to the constitution will be made by a majority vote of at least % membership.
10. Adequate records of proceedings at monthly meetings, including details of all resolutions shall be kept by the Minute Secretary. Detailed Minutes of Committee meetings shall be kept.
11. Accounts kept by the Treasurer shall be subject to annual audit conducted by competent persons authorized by the Committee. Annual Accounts shall be presented to the membership of the AGM.
12. Members of the committee shall not receive any money or property from the group except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses.
13. Regular reports shall be given by officers at Open Meetings.
14. An Honorary President may be appointed should the AGM so decided. Such a person should be known to have associations and sympathy with the pensioner movement. Vice-Presidents with similar appropriate credential may also be appointed, subject to the recorded approval of members at an AGM.
15. Dissolution of the organisation will be made by a resolution passed by two thirds of those present and voting at a special General Meeting. On dissolution of the group, any money or property remaining after debts have been paid will be given to a group with similar objectives to this one and determined by voting members at the General Meeting.

