



Lambeth Pensioners Action Group

Newsletter May 2025

Our next open meeting will be on Monday 19th May from noon to 2.30pm in Room 1 of the Town Hall, when the theme will again be

Housing.

After the very helpful talk from Councillor Issa Issa last month, we will be looking at the specific topic of Lambeth's estate regeneration schemes and their consequences for communities and individuals. We will have a very knowledgeable guest speaker from Refurbish, Don't Demolish.

The usual tea, coffee and biscuits will be laid on. If any member is willing to take on this job for future meetings, please let our Chair, Ellen, know.

Remembering Ted Knight

Our much-missed former Vice Chair and leading community activist is to be commemorated with a bench in Norwood Park. Your committee have decided that the takings from this month's raffle will be donated towards the cost of the bench. So please bring super prizes and buy lots of tickets. You will also be welcome to add a donation if you so wish.

Renewal Time

Membership fees for 2025/26 are now due

The amount remains at the very reasonable rate of £10 a year. If you have not yet paid, please give the money to the Membership Secretary, Gloria Cameron, in the meeting. Alternatively, you can transfer the money direct to LAMPAG'S bank account, the number is 81491972 and the sort code is 60-03-36. If you pay this way, please quote your surname as the reference and email the date paid to our Treasurer jenniekh@hotmail.com.

We are an Action Group!

A flyer for a march against austerity on Saturday 7th June accompanies this newsletter. Please take part. Austerity is a political choice and now is a good time to press the Government to make a different choice. Labour MPs are very concerned about their party's poor results in the recent council elections and at least 36 are now openly in favour of restoring the Winter Fuel Allowance.

Some of us would like to march as a group with a LAMPAG banner. We will gather near the Town Hall steps from 11 am and leave at 11.25 am to catch a bus. If you can join this group, please let Ellen know in advance. Either tell her in the meeting or by a quick email or phone call.

On Tuesday 17th June, we will have a stall outside Iceland in Brixton from 11 am to 1 pm. This will have leaflets publicising activities and benefits that passing older people might be missing out on. Your committee also think it will be a great opportunity to recruit new members to LAMPAG. Please volunteer to help on the stall either for the first hour or the second, or both if you are very dedicated. Please see Stephen in the meeting or email him with the time you can be on the stall.

Lambeth's Library Service is still in danger. The Council's official line is that they are going to reduce the libraries' budget by a quarter without damaging the service, though they do not appear to have any ideas about how this aspiration might be fulfilled.

Libraries is the most unionised part of Lambeth's workforce. Of the 65 staff, 60 are members of UNISON. The 60 have been balloted on strike action if the Council press ahead. 58 voted for strike action, with one against and one abstention. The Council are now talking with UNISON representatives.

When libraries have been threatened in the past, they have been saved by the staff and library users working together. **The first step for all of us must be to tell everyone we know in Lambeth what is happening.**

News Roundup

Covid has not gone away. If you have not yet had the Spring Booster Vaccination, it would be wise to get it straight away. It is free on the NHS for anyone who is 75 or older, or who will reach the age of 75 by the end of June. The booster is available from your doctor's surgery by appointment. Also, some Chemists offer a walk in service.



Members who have not been following local politics will no doubt be delighted to read that the Reform Party secured only a derisory 135 votes out of the total 3718 votes cast in the recent Council by-election in Herne Hill and Loughborough Junction Ward. Congratulations go to the other parties, especially the Greens and Labour, for their well-organised comprehensive canvassing. South London Stand Up to Racism also helped by distributing leaflets to almost every home in the Ward.

Stephen Carlill

LAMPAG always needs more volunteers to come forward. At the moment, we need:

- Someone to do the tea, coffee and biscuits.
- Two raffle ticket sellers.
- More committee members, including a Vice Chair.

So, please do not be shy.

Even if you cannot volunteer, please think about what topics you would like to be covered in future meetings and let one of the officers know what these are.

www.lampag.org

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LAMPAG is affiliated to the National Pensioners Convention