

NOTE CHANGED DATE AND VENUE!

Our next meeting is a Hustings.

**Hear and question parliamentary candidates for Hornsey
& Wood Green**

2pm Wednesday 8th April 2015

Arrive any time after 1.30pm for prompt start at 2pm

**at the Hornsey Parish Church Hall, (not Marian Centre)
Cranley Gardens, N10 3AH**

**Bring the manifesto agreed by the National Pensioners
Convention at Blackpool last year.**

Will candidates promise to support our demands?

Meeting of 18th March How safe are you in your home?

Speaker –George Holley-Moore of the International Longevity Centre spoke about electrical safety.

He explained that the centre was an independent, non partisan “think tank” led by the cross bench peer Sally Greengross former Director of Age Concern England.

George gave some interesting population statistics e.g. Despite 2 World Wars and a ‘flu epidemic the UK population was now 2.5 times more than in 1851. We are a dramatically ageing population. Accepting that population projects are notoriously difficult, at the moment it is expected that by 2037 25% of the UK population will be 65+years old while the working age group is stagnating with only 4% growth expected. The oldest old people group are expected to have increased by 800% between 1971 and 2027.

He summarised the findings of the inquiry commissioned by Electrical Safety First with evidence from a wide range of organisations. They considered how an ageing population affects the level of electrical safety under the 2 topics of housing and dementia.

Housing. 50% of households have all 5 of the government’s electrical safety features: 1. PVC wiring 2.RCD fuse box 3. all modern earthing, 4.mini circuit breaking, 5.modern fuse box. Yet only 39% households with a person over 60 had. Owner occupied in older housing stock were most likely to have electrical hazards while social renting has the best record because of updating in 1990s. Private rented sector is the worst but at moment with few older occupiers although this is

expected to double by 2035. Unlike with gas there is no obligation for landlords to check for electrical safety.

Older owner occupiers' concern over trusting tradesmen e.g. over charging is a common cause of this low level of safety. Recent Government cuts mean Local Authorities' assistance to home owners and for care and repair support funding has been reduced. Fuel poverty has meant older people rely on electric blankets (1 study found 77% were unsafe) & old heaters. 1 safety concern is over plugging at accessible height into one socket.

Dementia 2/3 people with dementia live in their own homes while 80 % of people in care homes have dementia. Changes have occurred in care structures now run by fragmented organisations when in the past care homes were run by a local authority or charity. Care and sheltered homes have no statutory requirement for electrical systems safety checks.

Personal preference to stay in their own homes with the advantage of reduced costs of social care means more dementia friendly technology needed e.g. automatic cut off devices, lockable plug sockets. Human judgement should not be completely replaced i.e. Local Authorities tend to remove cooking hobs and replace with microwave ovens thus not maintaining cooking skills. Energy companies' Priority Service Registers for vulnerable customers need to be better published for e.g. free safety home checks and fuse boxes at more accessible heights. Families of dementia customers need to be informed they have this service.

Useful suggestions were made by HPAG members e.g. free fire brigade checks, fridges need metal backs not plastic, check there is a kite mark on electrical goods and buy surge breakers. The electrical safety certificates for house sales when down sizing were recognised as a positive development although expensive for old houses.

Response from the government regarding the report on the inquiry has not yet been received. The report is at <http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/mediafile/100304187/A-Shock-to-the-System>.

Flyers for 2 organisations were distributed. These provide minor electrical repair support for the elderly and recommendations of trusted electricians. Metropolitan Care & Repair 020 83534700 and Age UK Haringey's Handyperson service 020 8885 8354

Extra Notes on Future meetings

April 8th- See poster but don't forget it is on the **second** Wednesday in the month because of the school holidays so it can be located in the **MAIN church hall**. Please enter from the car park.

There will be no time for a raffle. 4 out of the 5 Parliamentary Candidates have agreed to speak so far. Paid up members will have first preference for questioning each speaker!

Outing on June 17th. We are going to the Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green in a minibus .Phone Barbara Ryan on 8889 8357 to have your name on the list. Secure your place with a £5 deposit. Total cost is £10.

PRESS

We get articles in the Broadway Ham & High (last one on March 19th) and

Excerpts from replies to The Guardian's editorial

[Generation divide: The election campaign shows that Britain is no country for young men or women](#), 7 March).

Older people are not the enemies of the young – we're in this together

How disappointing that your editorial has fallen for the popular line that all older people have escaped austerity at the expense of the young. Such a view is both inaccurate and dangerous. The truth is that the rich – whatever their age – are still doing well while the rest of the population are trying their best to get by.

Old and young experience the same level of poverty, and share many concerns on issues such as housing and public transport. The phoney war between the generations has really been created to divert attention away from the real culprits of the economic crisis and to blur the debate about what is needed for the future. A society that unites the generations in defence of our welfare state and public services is the only one worth fighting for.**Dot Gibson** *General secretary, National Pensioners Convention*

I agree that the next government must address the unfair distribution of wealth and support in this country. But the distinction between young and old is tiresome. We all want a decent future for young people. When this prospect looks grim, I blame the global financial crisis and the actions of an uncaring government, not the older people in our community. Older people live in social housing; older people work on zero-hour contracts; bedroom tax affects every generation. **Julie Robinson** Manchester

Moreover, when the 70-plus generation were bringing up families, they lived frugally. Few of us could afford foreign holidays or the latest electronic gizmo. And mortgage costs were crippling.

So please stop the continual sniping at the older generation.

Mike McMorran *Bournemouth*

- The suggestion that pensioners' bus passes be removed is ridiculous. This money doesn't go into pensioners' pockets. It simply subsidises local public transport services, keeping transport workers in jobs and boosting the local economy by getting pensioners out and about and keeping them healthy.

John Dobby Maidenhead

Local activities.

Social

The Cinema Club for over 60's at Cineworld Wood Green on March 30th *Testament of Youth* from 10.30 to 1.30 £3 admission. Meets on last Monday of each month

Jacksons Lane Social Lunch Club on March 26th (you need to book 8341 4421)

Exercise Classes:

Fitness and Fun for Ladies over 60 every Tuesday 10.30 to 11.30 £4.00 at Tetherdown Church Hall, Tetherdown N10 1ND

West Haringey Seniors Exercise class (mixed) Tuesdays 2.15 to 3.15 pm £3.50 at Hornsey Vale Community Centre. Mayfield Road N8 9LP

Remember – subscriptions are due.

See enclosed slip.



Members of the Committee celebrating Older People's Dignity Day in Crouch End