



Charity No: 1043081

## ISLINGTON PENSIONERS FORUM

The voice of Islington's older community

### August 2015 Newsletter

#### *All smiles at our garden party on 11th July*

With good team-work, generous contributions for the buffet and the raffle, and the friendly visit from Councillor Richard Greening the Mayor and Lady Mayoress, plus brilliant sunshine all day long, we had a great garden party on Saturday 11th July.

Our thanks to Peter and his friends for the music, Graham (Manager of Highbury View Sheltered Housing) for his great assistance, Maurice and helpers for putting up the gazebos and Steve Poole for the delicious sandwiches and cakes. Also thanks to all members and friends who came along to make this a memorable occasion. We are now looking forward to a garden party in 2016.

**Also afternoon tea on 20th August this year? See below**



## Our Annual General Meeting points the way ahead

In up-coming months the Forum will be working out a programme based on our objectives to:

- Reach out and promote the welfare of Islington's pensioners;
- Recruit new members into the Forum and extend our influence;
- Work with other like-minded groups to unite the generations;
- Build our connections with other North London pensioner groups.

This programme is based on experiences over past years and particularly since the last AGM. Our report showed this.

On our relations with Islington Council, the importance of the various Council events, the

reports from Councillors to our monthly meetings and the warmth of the Mayor's hospitality have all given the Forum great confidence that we can share our experiences and concerns with the Councillors to promote the welfare of Islington's pensioners. This is particularly important at a time when the Council has already suffered £112m cuts in government funding with the expectation of a further £95m of cuts.

When we brought together in our report the very varied subjects and speakers at our monthly meetings we were surprised – and we managed to have a general election hustings as well. From the NHS to fuel

poverty, from caring to transport our members heard from and discussed with experts.

Also during the year we campaigned: successfully on a 50% reduction in visitors' day parking passes, but unsuccessfully to keep our post offices; and we are part of on-going actions with the Whittington Hospital Coalition, and on the NPC national campaign for the Dignity Code – but on this we are fortunate to have a Council which has adopted the Dignity Code at the heart of its annual care workers' awards.

Our monthly newsletter importantly gives information on pensions, health and care etc, guides our campaigns and reports on these as well as our

social activities and our reducing loneliness and isolation initiative. Thanks to grant aid from the Council and the decision to have the £5 a year membership subscription (producing and distributing our newsletter costs £8 per member per year) our AGM was able to decide to continue this newsletter and to produce a quarterly publication based on our

*/continued on page two*

**AFTERNOON TEA  
IN THE GARDEN  
2 p.m  
Thursday 20th August  
HIGBURY VIEW,  
Garden Gate  
Entrance,  
87-89 Ronalds Road,  
N5 1XQ  
see page four**

# CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

The world is as usual in a political turmoil; so "what's new" at home. Before an election any political party will lay out their manifestoes where they tell you everything you like to hear, offering a load of goodies. The country voted in this present government based on the presentation through our media, its offerings which it had no intention to carry out, except to penalise those receiving welfare benefit, and others who are the most vulnerable in our society, proving it's easy to promise the world, and then put two fingers up to all those at the bottom.

Recently a quarter of a million people marched against austerity, saying to government "Hold on! We didn't vote for this!" Yes you did, brothers and sisters, yes you did. The government told you what to expect: further austerity! What they did not tell you was who would have to tighten their belts the most. You've guessed it -- those with the least. Which turns me to the present fun the media are having with the leadership of the Labour Party.



Our President, Jeremy Corbyn MP speaking at our Annual General Meeting on 16th July 2015

The media have plenty of news about infighting; perhaps it's better for the public to hear all the arguments reminding everyone that the majority of media reporting will prejudice good Labour

policies, so reading between the lines may help with final judgement.

Our own MP, Jeremy Corbyn has done exceptionally well, quite deservedly. His appeal to many with a wider spectrum of worldly and home affairs makes for a much needed discussion, especially on the appalling housing situation where our younger people cannot save enough to get a mortgage and are paying more in rent at present. It is a disgrace that many of the country's economic problems are caused by housing. Jeremy has for some considerable time put forward ideas which have fallen on deaf ears on housing and international issues. I do hope our MP's message reaches a wider audience.

Turning to our future at the Islington Pensioners Forum, we depend upon the part the new committee play in bringing forward new ideas and much stronger campaigning, and a much more effective and entertaining group.

We do need help in this direction.

continued from page one/  
charity activities.

Over the past year members have been encouraged to join in our monthly Executive Committee meetings on the understanding that at the AGM they could decide whether to come forward for election. We were therefore pleased to be able to present a

full team to the AGM which readily agreed to their wish to continue and this committee has elected the officers.

Last but not least our president, Jeremy Corbyn MP spoke at our AGM and we really appreciated this since he was even busier than usual with his party's leadership election.

## OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	George Durack
Vice Chairman	Bob Collins,
Secretary	Dot Gibson
Assistant Secretary	Annette Thomas
Treasurer	Eric Hill
Committee:	Ann Colls
	Peter Crockett
	Ann Marie Jupp
	David Milner,
	Blanche Woodbridge,
	Pam Zinkin
	Eddie Zissler.



**ISLINGTON PENSIONERS FORUM**

Meets on the third Thursday of every month except August at 10.30 a.m. at Islington Town Hall

**IPF MEMBER**

**STANDING UP FOR TODAY'S AND TOMORROW'S PENSIONERS**

**ISLINGTON PENSIONERS FORUM**

1a Providence Court, Providence Place, Islington, N1 0RN Charity no: 1043081

Telephone 020 7226 7687

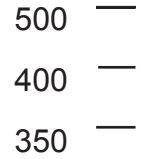
Email ipf@talktalkbusiness.net

Web www.islingtonpensionersforum.co.uk

Twitter@ipfofficial

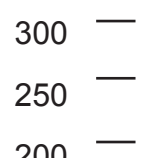
Facebook Islington Pensioners Forum

You will see above the back and front of the membership card. The card was given to those members at the AGM who had paid their £5 annual subscription. We will keep reporting on the number of members each month in the newsletter. Pay at the meeting or at the office or by bankers order SEE BACK PAGE. . . . .



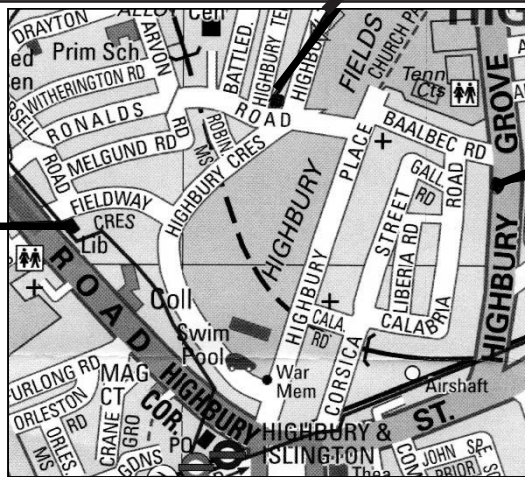
**COME AND HAVE AFTERNOON TEA AT HIGHBURY VIEW on 20th AUGUST**

There is no Forum meeting in August and so we invite you to afternoon tea at 2 p.m. at HIGHBURY VIEW, Garden Gate Entrance, 87-89 Ronalds Road, N5 1XQ

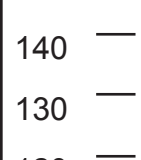
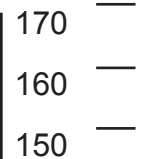
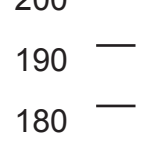


come along and enjoy a cup of tea with friends and relax in this lovely garden

Buses 43 271 393 263



Peter and George enjoy the sun at the garden party



**LETTER: Beware Greeks - banks bearing gifts**

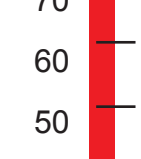
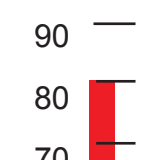
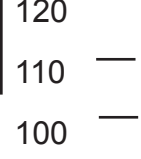
Five years ago the French and German banks made some bad loans to Greece, under certain conditions, including some privatisation of public services. But after five years of austerity Greece is even further in debt. The July 13th agreement with EC Banks will now force Greece into further privatisation and austerity, against the recently expressed wishes of the people. So this is a political and not just a financial imposition. Some of the money will go to Greek banks, and much will go back to German and French banks. Stockholders are warned that shares can go down as well as up, yet the bank shareholders expect to get bailed out -- yet again. There are lessons here for us in the UK -- not about the EU but about , austerity and also the TTIP.

David Milner

Dear all,

*It would be good to know what sort of things you are interested in so that we can arrange outings, theatre and museum trips, afternoon tea and a chat, or . . . . . whatever else takes your fancy. So please let us know so that we can organise things. . .*

Thanks Dot



# WE'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO ORGANISE. . . . . . . AGITATE. . . . . AND FIGHT BACK!

The result of the General Election -- a majority Tory government -- was a very bad result for pensioners.

Everyone including the Tories expected a hung-parliament leading to a minority or coalition government. Indeed my view is that the Tories published a manifesto which they did not anticipate having to fulfil. Their thinking was that, if after the election they were to either form a minority government or be part of a coalition government, they could hold up their hands saying that they were being prevented from carrying out their manifesto in full because of opposition from other Parties. However this is not the case. Regardless of the outcome of the election there were going to be cuts. The issue at hand was how severe they were going to be. We now know that they are going to be very severe indeed.

The Tories have stated they intend to impose £12billions of welfare cuts. Therefore to achieve this level of cuts they will have to adopt a "slash and burn" policy. If allowed to get away with this the impact on Local Authority jobs and services will be horrendous. The impact on the National Health Service will be equally bad. This must lead to a great deterioration in the services and support for pensioners.

Now that they have been elected the Tories are moving even more to the right. The cuts that'll be proposed will be much more severe than those we have already suffered from. It will be the working class who will again be expected to pay for the financial mess that was none of their doing.

- Jobs will be cut;
- living standards will fall;
- benefits will be cut;
- the vulnerable will become more vulnerable;
- there will be an increased use of food banks and cuts in services which will adversely affect those that rely on them such as the elderly, the disabled etc.

Unimaginable though it may be it has even been suggested that the Tories could consider cuts that

**Discussion article  
by ERIC HILL,  
Islington Unison  
Retired Members  
Group**



even Thatcher would have balked at. And all the time the Tories will ensure that the rich will get richer at our expense.

One just needs to look at the recent budget to see this scenario unfolding in front of our eyes.

We pensioners are already about to suffer a discriminatory state pension scheme whereby those who retire from 2016 onwards will have a larger pension than us who have already retired, but as time goes on people will have to work longer, pay more but get a lower pension than us! So we must unite with future pensioners to campaign for a living state pension -- above the poverty level.

We must also look to protecting Universal Benefits as the Tories will be looking to either reduce them or, where they think they can, eliminate them.

We must also fight for a much increased Winter Fuel Allowance given the high energy prices we are faced with as the energy companies go for ever-increasing profits. It is appalling that 31,000 pensioners died of cold-related diseases in 2013/14 which could have been avoided if they had sufficient money to pay for gas/electricity to keep warm. We must stop the dreadful situation where the majority of pensioners have to choose between heating their homes or buying food.

The Tories' cuts in the welfare system will have an adverse effect on all of us. They want to slash the welfare system leaving vulnerable people of all ages even more vulnerable and those who are possibly just keeping their heads above water going under.

These are just a number of the issues that will be affecting pensioners over the next months and years. It is important that we fight for our rights and defend what we've got through the various pensioners/older persons' organisations such as local Pensioners Forums and UNISON's Retired Members Groups as well as nationally with the National Pensioners Convention.

Tory cuts are not inevitable. WE'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO ORGANISE, AGITATE AND FIGHT BACK!

**LETTER: A view from the chair**

As George was going to the Pensioners' Parliament, I was asked to chair the June Forum. We had two speakers booked but for commitment and personal reasons both were unable to attend. As chair I asked those present if they would like an open forum and all agreed. This led to a lively debate covering housing, Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour leader election and how the young and old can interact.

As chair I sometimes forgot my role and added to the debate! We managed as a Forum to last until 11.45. It was an interesting experience as this was my first time as chair of the Islington Pensioners Forum.

Thanks for the kind and positive comments and to all who attended.

**Bob Collins**

**CONTROLLED PARKING ZONES**

Islington Council propose to extend controlled parking zones (CPZs) in the following areas:

- **ANGEL:** parking will be restricted between 8.30 am and 11 pm seven days a week
- **EMIRATES STADIUM CONTROL AREA:** this includes Highbury, Canonbury, Finsbury Park and large parts of Holloway, existing match-day controls will be removed and the parking restrictions extended to 9 pm, seven days a week.
- **AROUND FINSBURY SQUARE AND FARRINGTON STATION:** the CPZ will apply for 24 hours between Monday and Saturday and from midnight to 6am on Sundays.
- **AROUND WHITTINGTON HOSPITAL:** the CPZ will be in force 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- **ARCHWAY:** the zone will be extended to 8.30 am to 6.30 pm from Monday to Friday and from 8.30 am to 1.30 pm on Saturdays.

They propose a £2.40 flat rate pay-and-display evening charge to cover the extended periods and free e-vouchers for residents' visitors to cover Monday to Saturday from 6.30 pm to 9 pm and 8.30 am to 9 pm on Sundays.

These measures are aimed at protecting parking for residents, but the traders say they will be bad for business; also changes could be a problem for frail elderly people who depend on families getting them out of the house at week-ends.

The Consultation ends on 7 September:

[www.islington.gov.uk/cpzconsultation](http://www.islington.gov.uk/cpzconsultation)

**● Latest figures of Pensioner Poverty:**

The proportion of pensioners in relative and absolute low income (after housing costs) both increased in 2013/4 by 1 percentage point to 14% and 16% respectively, according to the latest figures from the Department of Work and pensions (DWP). These figures show 1.6 million pensioners in relative low income, whilst there were 1.9 million under the absolute low income measure of 60% median population income. However, the DWP described this increase as "not statistically significant". Nevertheless, it shows that changes to pension uprating and rising living costs are having an impact on older people.

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**● One in five patients lack dignity:**

A fifth of people in hospital in England are not always treated with respect and dignity, according to a wide-ranging survey of NHS patients. It found that more than a third of patients who need help at mealtimes did not receive enough assistance. The research by the London School of Economics found 23% of patients reported experiencing poor or inconsistent standards of dignity and respect, the equivalent to 2.8 million people a year, of whom a million would be aged 65 and over. They also found that a quarter of all respondents said they needed help with eating during their hospital stay, amounting to just under 3.5 million a year. Of those who needed help with eating, 38% said they only sometimes, or never, received enough help from staff -- equivalent to 1.3 million a year, and 640,000 aged 65 and over.

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**● Over 1m people without home care**

The number of elderly people not getting help with tasks such as washing, eating and dressing has soared to more than 1 million. According to figures from Age uk, the number of older people not getting help with basic tasks has risen by 100,000 to 1,004,000 in the last year. Some 580,000 people are not receiving support with washing or bathing, while 140,000 are without support for going to the toilet. In addition, an estimated 210,000 older people do not get any help with getting out of bed and 230,000 with taking their medication. The lack of social care is putting increased pressure on the NHS. Between 2005-06 and 2012-13, the number of over 65s admitted to A&E increased from 1,810,531 to 2,211,228. Over the same period spending on social care services for older people fell from £8.1 billion to £5.46 billion.



# INFORMATION

Every Monday BINGO	At the IPF Hall, 1a Providence Court, Providence Place, N1 0RN Ring Ann for more information 020 7226 7687
Thursday 20th August <b>TEA IN THE GARDEN!</b>	We do not have a Forum meeting in the Town Hall in August, so we invite you to an afternoon cream-tea at Highbury View (where we had the garden party) -- starting at 2 p.m. <b>SEE MAP ON PAGE THREE</b>
<b>PLAY-TIME FOR SENIORS</b> WEDNESDAYS SEPTEMBER 9th and 23rd	1 pm at the IPF Hall, 1a Providence Court, Providence Place, N1 0RN For more information ring 020 7226 7687
NEXT FORUM MEETING Thursday 24th September	10.30 a.m. Islington Town Hall, Upper Street. Details will be published in the September Newsletter

**We want to hear from you.**

- Write to Islington Pensioners Forum, 1a Providence Court, Providence Place, N1 0RN
- Call us on: 020 7226 7687 Email us at: [ipf@talktalkbusiness.net](mailto:ipf@talktalkbusiness.net)
- Office open from 10.30 a.m. -- 2.30 p.m., Tuesday to Thursday, but please call first.
- Sign up for our online newsletter on our website: [www.islingtonpensionersforum.co.uk](http://www.islingtonpensionersforum.co.uk)

**Presidents:** Jeremy Corbyn MP & Lord Smith of Finsbury

**Chair:** George Durack **Secretary:** Dot Gibson

Charity No: 1043081

We are supported by the Cripplegate Foundation and Islington Council

**Annual subscription to Islington Pensioners Forum £5**  
**Send a cheque or pay by cash or use this Standing Order Form**

Please send completed form to:

**Islington Pensioners Forum, 1a Providence Court, Providence Place, N1 0RN**

To: The Manager.....Bank (Sort Code / / )

Bank address/post code.....

From: (your name and address).....

Please pay the sum of £..... on the ..... day of ..... (month and year) and then yearly thereafter

From my account: Name.....account number.....

To Islington Pensioners Forum, account number 50014279, Co-op Bank, sort code: 08-90-33

Signed..... Date.....