



ISLINGTON PENSIONERS FORUM

The voice of Islington's older community

June 2017 Newsletter

Charity No: 1043081

VOTING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION IS ON THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2017



Campaigning at the shopping parade in Holloway Road, on Friday 26 May, we met many old friends and got a really warm and friendly reception from all the shoppers, many of whom signed our social care petition (see page 2). We distributed, the NPC Pensioners' Manifesto, the special Social Care issue of The Message, and the Health Campaigns Together election special. There was no doubting the anger at the policies relating to pensioners set out in Theresa May's manifesto (see page 5 for more information on these policies)

Annual General Meeting of Islington Pensioners Forum

at 10.30 am on Thursday 20th July 2017 in Committee Room 1, Islington Town Hall.

We urge you to do your best to attend, and will send the reports and agenda with the July Newsletter. This year, we hope that our President, Jeremy Corbyn will be able to come to our AGM. we will send him an invitation as soon as the General Election is over!

George Durack, CHAIR Dot Gibson, SECRETARY

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Four days after publication of her General Election Manifesto, Theresa May, interviewed by Andrew Neil on BBC television, said that the public would be consulted about a cap on care payments.

There had been no mention of a cap in the manifesto, or in her speech launching the manifesto. But between that presentation and the Andrew Neil interview, there had been a public outcry!

She had said, Sir Michael Fallon (Defence Minister) had repeated, and other Ministers, including Boris Johnson, had stumbled over the "good news" that people paying for care were guaranteed to have £100,000 left in their estate and their home would only be sold after they died.

"Well, thank you very much!" said thousands of older people to the canvassers on the doorsteps of their hard-won homes.

She then wanted us to believe that nothing had changed ; that her so-called u-turn -- there would be a cap on what people in care must pay -- was what the manifesto meant in the first place!

In reality SHE GOT IT WRONG! Someone should tell Mrs. May what a manifesto means. It is "a declaration of policy" by a political party.

Her policy had been published and circulated. The press, even the right-wing press were, as they say "gob-smacked"! Nowhere in the Tory manifesto does it say that the sum people pay for care would have a "ceiling" -- a cap.

In fact all the journalists knew that a few weeks after the 2015 general election, the government had ditched the Coalition government's decision to have a £72,000 cap on care payments "until 2020"; and Andrew Dilnot, the chair of the Commission that proposed the cap, gave damning interviews to the press following the launch of Mrs. May's manifesto.

Most people in this country already knew that there was a disaster in Care and that it had been building up for a long time. especially the 35,000-a-year fam-

ilies who have already been forced to sell the family home to pay for the care of a loved one.

But Mrs. May was caught out. . . . she thought she could swing us all behind her view that this is the Brexit general election and everything else is secondary. Did she really think that we would put everything else behind us -- the crisis in our NHS, the cuts in local Council services resulting from government austerity measures and the housing crisis?

Did she really think that extending the means-testing on social care would go down well with young voters? That they would be pleased to see the sale of the home their grandparents' worked long and hard to buy?

It is difficult to express in words the audacity and the arrogance of calling a snap general election on the basis that she herself is the one and only "strong and stable" leader to negotiate Brexit, and somehow the rest of us would not want to know where her party and the other parties stand on all the other policies that affect our lives and the lives of our families and friends!

However, suddenly, on a walk in the Welsh mountains with her husband Philip (a senior executive of Capital Group: one of the world's largest most powerful financial institutions controlling \$1.4 trillion in assets) Mrs. May had a vision of a landslide victory with herself as the saviour on Brexit and the economy.

It is difficult for us to visualise the discussion that took place in the mountains, but I hazard a guess that it was more about uniting her party (at loggerheads behind closed doors over Brexit) under her "presidency" than about the NHS, social care, the housing crisis, zero-hour jobs and tuition fees..

I would like to remind Mrs. May that the average family is £1,500 a year worse off than they were in 2010 and the National Debt is larger than it was in 2010!

Ask your family, friends and neighbours to sign our petition on line at

<http://tiny.cc/crisis-social-care>

- Government must provide Councils with enough funding for them to be able to carry out their duty of care!
- Nobody should have to lose their home to pay for care
- Social care should be shared across society. It should be tax-funded with individuals and their employers paying 1% additional tax to fund these services so that they are free to all, like the NHS
- We call on all the political parties to support this policy.

GENERATIONS UNITE!

Department of Health research shows that already 35,000 people a year are forced to sell their home to pay for nursing-home care, and now, if the Tories have their way, thousands of others, especially dementia sufferers, will also be forced to sell their home to pay for domiciliary care.

The Tories say that this shifts the balance towards intergenerational fairness! But they are not calling for an end to student tuition fees!

The two sections of society that are forced to

pay for services are frail elderly and disabled people paying for care and young people paying tuition fees.

Older people are parents and grand-parents, young people are children and grandchildren. Don't the Tories understand that we love each other!

Generations unite! Stand together to defeat these obnoxious policies.

Dot Gibson

Secretary, Islington Pensioners Forum

Published in Islington Tribune 26/5/2017

Our £5 annual sub is less than 10p a week!

ANOTHER GARDEN PARTY!

This one is being hosted by Islington Pensioners Forum on Saturday 1st July 2017, 1 pm in the garden at Highbury View

The jazz band will be there plus a great buffet, and we have ordered good weather!

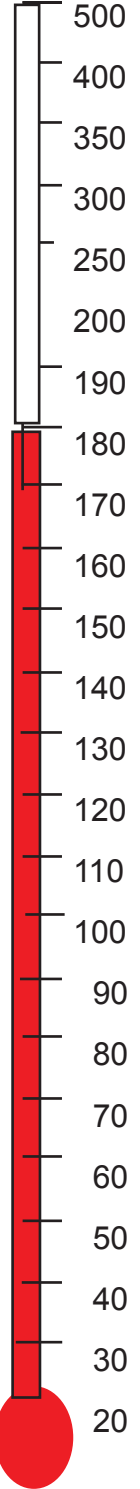
See the map on back page for details of the venue.

WE ARE PLANNING A RIVER TRIP

We are planning a river trip, hopefully in the week beginning Monday 11th September, and we will have more information about the



date, time and cost at the June Forum meeting. So bring your diaries!



Members of Islington Pensioners Forum with Highbury View tenants and the Pearly Kings at the very warm and sunny garden party with a great buffet and swinging music on 27 May.



We make a stand against media abuse of our president.

After the Forum meeting on 16 May, we assembled outside the Town Hall to demonstrate with our banner, explaining that, yes, we are non-Party-political, but we do stand up against injustice, and we are tired of the abuse meted out by much of the media against Jeremy Corbyn, who is our president. After the photographs, we stood on the roadside and many of the drivers of cars, buses, delivery vans and lorries hooted their support.

Before this, the Islington Tribune published a letter from our chairman

On the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme on 6 May, Justin Webb asked Labour’s campaign coordinator, Ian Lavery, the question: “Do you think there is a connection between the abuse he [Jeremy Corbyn] receives in the media, and he does receive abuse, and the questions that are asked about him on the doorstep?” The answer is “yes” and I am glad that somebody in the media, especially the BBC, has at last owned up to this!

Over the last two years Jeremy has been unceasingly and cynically abused by the media. Over and over again they say he is “not a leader”. Having backed up this statement in interviews with those Labour MPs and former leaders of the Labour Party who opposed him in the leadership election, they then put loaded questions to people in the street, who, influenced by the media, repeat this statement.

Despite the abuse and downright lies, in two successful Labour leadership elections, Jeremy steadfastly kept to policy issues and point blank refused to succumb to or respond to cheap gossip and smear tactics; also, out of respect for his neighbours, Jeremy refuses to take part in the “press pack” circus in front of his house.

Anybody who lives through such abuse dished up day in-day out, refuses to hit back in the same way, maintains his principled stand for peace and social justice without putting on presidential airs and graces, has strong leadership qualities. Jeremy Corbyn is a leader!

George Durack

Chairman, Islington Pensioners Forum
 Published in Islington Tribune 10/5/2017

DISABILITY IN BRITAIN. SOME FACTS:

- 11m people in Britain are living with disabilities, long-term illnesses or impairment
- 1 in 5 people have a disability
- 19% of families with one disabled person live in poverty
- 0.5% rate of fraud for the Disability Living Allowance

Source: HM Government, Papworth Trust (disabled people’s charity)

Theresa May presented three particular policies relating to pensioners in her General Election Manifesto:

- To means-test the winter fuel allowance
- To end the state pension triple lock
- To include the value of a person's home in the means testing of domiciliary care

Islington Pensioners Forum opposes these policies.

● The winter fuel allowance:

Together with the concessionary bus pass and the over-75s free TV licence, the winter fuel allowance is a universal pensioner benefit. These benefits were introduced over time because successive governments were reluctant to improve the state pension itself..

The government has already handed over the free TV licence to the BBC and it is no secret that this is now threatened. Mrs. May argues that rich pensioners don't need the winter fuel allowance, but she doesn't say what she means by "rich", i.e. who will still be eligible for this allowance, and in fact many pensioners have value in their home but a low income.

We say it is perfectly possible to recoup extra funds through the tax system without the need to resort to the hated means-test. It is also well documented that it costs around ten times more to administer the means test than a universal payment. ***Say no to means-testing the winter fuel allowance!***

● The "triple lock":

In 1970 the Thatcher government ended the link of the state pension to earnings, and that has resulted in today's state pension being around £70 less a week than it would have been with that link to earnings. In fact the UK state pension is among the least adequate in the western world, and at least the triple lock i.e. increasing the state pension linked to: wages, prices or 2.5% (whichever is highest) does go somewhere towards making up that £70 gap. ***We are therefore opposed to ending the triple lock.***

● The sale of homes to pay for care:

35,000 family homes are lost each year by people who self-fund their care in a nursing home because if they have £23,250 in savings (including the value of their home) they must pay the full cost of this care -- often at least £1,000 a week.

Mrs. May is now saying that people would be self-funders if they have savings of £100,000 (including the value of their home). **BUT** that this must also include those who receive home care, and this would particularly hit dementia sufferers who often have home care for many years.

We say: Nobody should have to sell their home to pay for care. The cost of social care should be shared across society through taxation and delivered free in a National Social Care Service like the NHS.

OUR POSTERS REVEAL SOME IMPORTANT FACTS

<p>141,000</p> <p>PENSIONERS DIED</p> <p>FROM COLD-RELATED</p> <p>ILLNESSES</p> <p>2010-2015</p>	<p>30,000</p> <p>PENSIONERS</p> <p>HAVE ALREADY DIED</p> <p>FROM CUTS TO</p> <p>SOCIAL CARE</p>	<p>35,000</p> <p>FAMILY HOMES</p> <p>ALREADY SOLD EACH</p> <p>YEAR TO PAY FOR</p> <p>SOCIAL CARE</p>
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INFORMATION

BINGO every Monday	1 pm at 1a Providence Court, Providence Place, N1 0RN
Every Wednesday 1.00 pm	Lunch and a chat, in the IPF Hall (address above)
Every Wednesday 3 pm - 4 pm	IT and Smart Phones -- learn how to use them! Sessions by "Healthy Generations" and IPF in the IPF Hall (address above)
Thursday 15 June, 10.30 am Committee Room 1, Town Hall	Forum meeting: After the General Election, what next?
Saturday 1st July 2017, 1pm	GARDEN PARTY AT HIGHBURY VIEW -- jazz, buffet, good company in this wonderful garden (see map below for directions)

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
- Office open from 10.30 a.m. -- 2.30 p.m., Monday & Wednesday, but please call first.
- Sign up for our online newsletter on our website: www.islingtonpensionersforum.co.uk

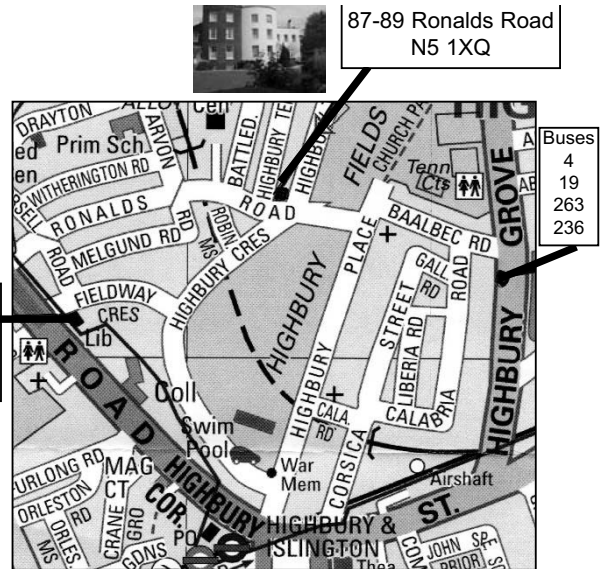
Presidents: Jeremy Corbyn MP & Lord Smith of Finsbury

Chair: George Durack **Vice Chair:** Bob Collins

Secretary: Dot Gibson **Assistant Secretary:** Annette Thomas

Treasurer: Eric Hill

Charity No: 1043081 Supported by Cripplegate Foundation & Islington Council



Islington Pensioners Forum £5 annual subscription

STANDING ORDER FORM : please send the 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.....

Islington Pensioners Forum £5 annual subscription

Name:.....

Address:.....

Telephone:

Email:.....

Enclosed: £5 cash/cheque
Plus donation? £.....

Cheque payable to:
"Islington Pensioners Forum"
Send to: IPF 1a Providence Court,
Providence Place, N1 0RN
or hand in at the Forum meeting