

ISLINGTON PENSIONERS FORUM

The voice of Islington's older community

June - July Newsletter 2024

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PICTURE FROM LUKE DANIELS

VOTING IN GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE ON THURSDAY 4th JULY

Jeremy Corbyn, IPF president, will be standing in Islington North as INDEPENDENT — “for all of us”.

He launched his campaign at a meeting packed with community activists at Brickworks Community Centre in Finsbury Park on Wednesday 28th May.

Thousands signed the “Friends of Jeremy Corbyn” petition urging him to stand as independent even before the General Election had been announced.

FOR FORUM MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS SEE PAGE 2

**Day trip to Eastbourne in the first week of September
Book early!**

£10 for coach and fish 'n chip or vegetarian lunch



Please let Lydia know if you want to book a seat on the bus.

Her mobile number is **07804693461**

or you can leave a message on the office 'phone **0207 226 7687**

BUT PLEASE speak slowly and clearly giving your name and telephone number, or alternatively you can speak to Lydia at a Forum meeting.

Interested in a free film show at the British Film Institute in Southbank? If so contact Lydia on one of the above telephone numbers. Lydia will let you know arrangements for meeting up to go by bus.

MONDAY 3 JUNE "SOPHISTICATED LADY" film starts at 2.30 pm

MONDAY 29 JULY "LAVENDER HILL MOB" film starts at 2 pm

FORUM MEETINGS ARE ON THE THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE TOWN HALL AT 10.30 am

Thursday 20th June and Thursday 18th July

**The July meeting will be the Forum's Annual General Meeting
and our President, Jeremy Corbyn takes the Chair**

See page 5 for Secretary's letter

ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH WE HAVE THE FILM AFTERNOON IN THE IPF HALL (ADDRESS ON FRONT PAGE)

IT IS £5 FOR LUNCH AND FILM

LUNCH AT 12.30 — FILM AT 2 pm

Wednesday 26th June and Wednesday 24th July

Please do not hesitate to send in letters, photos and/or other interesting news or comments on articles that are published in our newsletter... we really appreciate your interest.

To all Dear Friends of Islington Pensioners Forum — a letter about the May Forum meeting

First of all, I would like to say it was indeed a pleasure for me to write this letter after attending the last Forum meeting on Thursday 16th May.

The whole meeting was a pleasure from start to finish. The information was a great help to my knowledge and understanding on the facts presented by our speakers. I went to the meeting with a general idea of what was likely to be presented, but came out with a “grand slam” of good and happy thoughts about the friendly atmosphere and the exciting news that things were being done to take up problems which many of us experience in our daily lives.

Our first speaker was Sophia Stevens from Islington Council’s Adult Social Care team. She explained to us in a clear, concise way, full of interesting and plain facts the work she and her team have been doing with Islington’s Housing team to produce a paper dealing with the problems and proposed changes to the housing needs of older people and especially those with mobility and mental health difficulties.

The paper is due to be launched soon; it is based on the need to plan for older people and people with special needs to live as independently as possible. We will be able to raise questions and suggestions. Sophia is indeed a lady of interest, and was able to explain the work of the Council’s teams at this difficult time to budget for what they want to get done both for individuals, their carers and in the community.

Our second speaker was Cornelius McAfee, and he explained in a straightforward way from his own experience that he personally had problems

which raised the question on a lot of people’s minds about loos in Islington; “Where are they?” And seeing the nodding heads around the meeting, I realised that I was not the only one agreeing with that question! The loo is a priority and also a worry when we go out shopping or just for a walk in the park — the call of nature can come and we get caught! There are those in wheelchairs, and others with electric buggies who are worried about getting wet. Also those who ride bikes, as Mike Sanderson explained. He was at the meeting and is also a member of the Loos in Islington campaign. The supermarket Morrisons has closed its public toilets, and Selbys has a continuous queue at its loo. Cornelius raised the issue of keeping loos clean and stopping the vandals. The campaign calls on the owners of Islington’s town centres to install comprehensive public toilet facilities.

A group of young people led by Rafael and Connor came about their “Trees for Shade” campaign, and we hope they will come again, after having conversations with members of the Forum.

Lastly there was Lydia Batchelor, who is a real asset for the Forum. She is our social events organiser. She speaks well and gave us some information about what’s coming up. See her report on page two of this newsletter.

I hope all future Forum meetings go off as well as this one. May God bless us all and keep our minds and spirits alert to all aspects of Islington Pensioners Forum. Thank you.....

Joe Hagland

***“to be a Jew means standing with the oppressed,
not the oppressor”—***

Wotjek, a Polish Jew who lives in East London, has taken part in every Gaza protest march in London, and carries a “coffin” with a sticker attached with the above quote from Marek Edelman, holocaust survivor. On Saturday 18 May, Wotjek was charged with having offensive language on his coffin. According to witnesses the police had to look up the quote on their mobile ‘phones to check whether it was considered to be anti-Semitic, and they have kept the coffin as evidence. Wotjek was kept in a police cell that night, and released the next morning on strict conditions that he stays at home. Wotjek’s parents fought against the Nazis in Poland; his grandfather was imprisoned in a war camp. Because of his police “stay at home” condition, he has cancelled his planned family trip to Poland.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND PENSIONERS by LUKE DANIELS

Pensioners have seen it all. For generations we have watched the climate debate with denial, outright lies and broken promises

Attempts to confuse us with disputed science funded by the fossil industry-paid scientists to cast doubt on the work of the honest scientists will not work.

Now there can be no denying that

human activity is destroying our precious planet, as the effects of climate change are everywhere being felt.

As the billionaires intensify the search for a new planet to colonise, the majority have no choice but to fight for this planet — not only for ourselves but for the generations to come.

Some of the brave ones, like Just Stop Oil, Extinction Rebellion and others, instead of being applauded for their efforts to save the planet,



Recent floods in Papua New Guinea

have been subjected to police violence, prosecution and in some cases imprisonment.

But the government’s attempt to make peaceful protest illegal suffered a setback.

As Rishi Sunak attends climate conferences and jets around the country making promises of draining every drop of oil from the North Sea, the planet continues to show its anger with flooding and heat waves around the world.

Predictions are that

many will starve from lack of food because of extreme weather patterns. Many are drowning in Kenya and other African countries from flooding. As I write a land slide in Papua New Guinea, because of heavy rainfall, has claimed more than 2,000 lives.

Saving the planet will need each one of us campaigning as hard as we can. Pensioners have a special role to inspire all to keep fighting for the planet.

The “grey vote” is sizeable in Isington and we need to use it to elect leaders who will say what they mean and stand by their words in the fight to save the planet. Let us get behind the demand for the Green New Deal of the Peace and Justice Project with its five demands for a fairer society, and be prepared to take to the streets with our banner to show our solidarity with the planet.

Long live the Planet!

THE POST OFFICE SCANDAL

We have included this brief report to underline the need and the importance to speak up and question things that give cause for worry and concern. . . .Over a number of weeks the BBC TV’s 24-hour news channel has been showing an inquiry which has brought to light the lies and cover-ups by leading Post Office officials — “trusted” people in authority — about the scandal of bugs in Horizon, the accounting system, as 900 sub postmasters and postmistresses, accused of theft, suffered prison sentences, lost jobs and lost homes, as well as being shunned by the community; and all this affecting their families, especially their children and leading to death, suicides and mental health illnesses.

For two days the inquiry cross-examined Paula

Vennells, previous CEO of the Post Office, revealing that she was part of the cover-up. The next stage of the inquiry will cross-examine Fujitsu IT staff, in connection with the now known fact that data could be entered on the Horizon accounting system at head office, unknown to the postmasters and postmistresses in the local sub post offices. Alan Bates, who led the campaign on this scandal has not yet accepted the compensation he has been offered — it is nowhere near enough to cover his losses! In fact it should not be called compensation. The Post Office and the government should receive invoices and be visited by bailiffs to bring this point home! And we need to ask: Will any of these “trusted people” get a prison sentence?

Dear Friends,

ISLINGTON PENSIONERS FORUM

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

in Islington Town Hall

at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 18 July

Let me take this opportunity to say thank-you to members for your friendly welcome to me after becoming Secretary of this important organisation following the very difficult years of the covid lockdowns.

Our Forum has been the voice of Islington's older people since 1986, and we are really proud to say that, as usual we have invited our president, Jeremy Corbyn to join us on this important occasion, and we are looking forward to hearing his views on what is facing older people and, in fact, all generations today and tomorrow.

We will be electing our Committee, and new members are already making their voices heard on our committee which meets on the first Monday of every month in the Forum's hall to decide and make plans for the Forum's activities and speakers.

We will be expressing our thanks to Islington Council for their continuing support, presenting our annual report and welcoming your comments and questions. Unfortunately increases in our costs, especially postage, have forced us to cut production of our newsletter to bi-monthly and to increase our subscription to £10 a year, but we are still recruiting new members and making our voices heard, e.g. to keep railway ticket offices open; to keep our NHS public. Let's continue important campaigning.

With best wishes,

Elaine Durack



If you have not yet paid your 2024 annual subscription of £10, this is just a reminder that we are urging you to do so in time for our Annual General Meeting, and if you have paid your sub, then we would welcome a donation!

Name..... enclosed: £.....

Address.....

To: IPF, 1a Providence Court, Providence Place, N1 0RN

ISLINGTON PENSIONERS FORUM

Officers

Bob Collins — Chair
Luke Daniels — Vice Chair
Elaine Durack — Secretary
Frances Bradley — Assistant Secretary
Eric Hill — Treasurer

Committee Members

Margaret Diffey
Hannah Fagbesa
Dot Gibson — Newsletter editor
Irma Gomez
Alan McDonald
David Milner — Members list

Committee Members continued

Jan Pollock
Philip Richard
Juliana Simon
Annette Thomas
Pam Zinkin

Delegates

to the National Pensioners

Convention (NPC) London Region

Elaine Durack and Frances Bradley

Staff:

Bronwen Handyside — Co-ordinator
Lydia Batchelor — Outings/events organiser

Committee meetings on the first Monday of the month at 10.30 am in the IPF Hall

Forum meetings on the third Thursday of the month 10.30 am in the Town Hall.

The January meeting will be our Annual General Meeting.

**You may have to read this piece from Roger Moran more than once to understand his feelings about the grip the computer gets on our lives.....and the way we get caught up in that grip, as the international computer and programme giants fight each other to make us "theirs".
. . . .Dot**

Bow down to the computer machine! Yet, all too knowable! A digital miracle! Show your respect, or next, get flighty, it might not, (switched off, now on) work just for you? So fool adore your computer!

Our world depends on its never ending. All, or most, wanting, wished for a handy pocket screen to stare at and finger-press. As humans we're just not enough, its suitor we became! Future feed it your love, woo it, after-eight dine it. Technicians, computers' friend — tend it, stroke it into an AI's "life" with your clever, minds? Some enchanted evening a robot's kiss? But, "let it talk English!"

Make it your new friend, more, more money spend! Go to bed, unsure if AI is half true or fake? Become more intimate? Brain worked hard - tied the knot. So relax, lay back — got "only what you deserve!"

In this marriage consummated cash, "the dole" given over for people made idle unpaid while Banks grew ever richer; others suicidal!

Services rendered, a machine smile on clocked faces saved. Internetted in dark corners! Many without a moral stitch to their name? As humans left naked!

Now who serves what?

Roger Moran 23.05.2024
