

News from
Lewisham Pensioners' Forum
May 2010
www.lewishampensionersforum.org

Contacting Us
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Please ring in advance of
calling in, especially if
outside of these times.

At last it's over. The most TV and media-driven "personality" general election ever has resulted in stalemate, but first of all, congratulations to you all for the bumper turnout at the two hustings meetings called by the Forum. (See enclosed reports.)

The aim was to get the prospective councillors and MPs to focus on their policies with regard to pensioner issues. All stressed the need for change, but whether for the better or for the worse for the majority of the population was not very clear.

Regarding the outcome of the local elections, Sir Steve Bullock has been re-elected as Mayor and there has been an increase in the number of Labour Councillors. However, what is quite clear is that the provision of local services will depend mainly on policies dictated by central government. To reduce the national debt all parties are warning of reductions in public services, jobs, wages and benefits.

Bad news for the majority of the population.

There are other alternatives and we must point these out:

1. Higher taxes on those who have massively increased their personal wealth in recent years.
2. A windfall tax on energy, banking and pharmaceutical monopoly profits.

A number of candidates expressed the necessity of listening to the people. We must make sure that this was not just "electioneering speak" and whatever they make up of this new governing body, whether it is red/yellow or blue/yellow our voices must be heard loud and clear.

After all, most of us were around in 1945 when the country had enormous debts and had to be rebuilt after over 5 years of wartime devastation. Jobs were created in building and manufacturing to help us back on our feet, and, in 1948, the health and well-being of us all was high on the agenda and so the NHS was born.

It can be done where there is the will of government to get its priorities right and the majority of the population will give support.

This is the "change" that most people wish to see. The welfare of the majority of the people must be of prime importance.

Doris Smith Chair Lewisham Pensioners Forum

Notice of May Forum Meeting
on **Tuesday 25th May, 10.30-12.30**

at **The Saville Centre**, 436 Lewisham High Street, SE13 6LJ (easy access by bus)

AGENDA

- 10.30 Welcome & Introduction & Notices by Forum Chair—Doris Smith
10.35 Guest Speaker—**Gordon Deuchars**. What issues would Forum members want Age Concern London and the Greater London Forum to focus on in 2010.
10.50 Debate
11.15 Comfort Break
11.30 Film Show "Digging for Gold" - A documentary about the contribution of older Londoners that challenges the media and political representation of older people, highlighting our skills, energy and knowledge.
12.15 A chance to meet with a representative from the Volunteers Centre Lewisham and maybe discuss the idea of volunteering and the range of volunteer work available.
12.30 Meeting Close
(meeting date a change from the published schedule—usual venue not available)

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 25 May Forum meeting — Saville—10.30 (see details overleaf)

Tuesday 15 June Planning for Pensioners Day (anyone interested in volunteering welcome)—Saville Centre—10.30

Wednesday 16 June Forum Stall at Lewisham Carers Event—Civic Suite—between 10 and 3

Wednesday 23 June Lewisham Police Consultative Group Special Meeting for Older People—Civic Suite

Saturday 10 July Lewisham People's Day Special "Big Top Tea Rooms" and an

"Ageing Well Zone" —Mountsfield Park—12noon to 6

Tuesday 13 July NHS Campaign Group Meeting—Civic Suite—1.30

Wednesday 14 July "Save our NHS" Campaign Group Public Evening Meeting—Saville—7pm (*all welcome of any age*)

Wednesday 28 July Forum Meeting—Civic Suite—10.30 (details in next newsletter)

phone office—020 8690 7869— for more info.

Advance Notice:
Pensioners Day in the Broadway Theatre
Wednesday 15th September

Coming together to create an 'Ageing Well' Marquee at People's Day 2010

On April 27th representatives from Carers Lewisham, Seniors, WRVS, Victim Support, U3A, CAB, Pensioners Gazette, Linkline, Age Concern, EPSP, Help the Aged, Age Exchange—Blackheath, Pensioners Action Group and, of course, the Forum, all met to plan what we hope will be an exciting and enjoyable afternoon for people 55+ at People's Day on July 10th at Mountsfield Park.

There will be a Dance Floor, there will be music, dance, magic and cabaret in the 'Big Top Tea Rooms'. Next door we'll have Massage, Fun Campaign Photos, and Fun games and prizes. You can chat with specialist advisors on Benefits, Linkline or Fire Detection, you can 'Knit & Chat', you can learn more about Life Long Learning, you can view Art produced by local pensioners, you can contribute to a LIVE edition of the *Pensioners Gazette* being produced on the Day about the Day, you can watch fellow pensioner friends take part in the Big Dance or just Relax and Enjoy the Company of Others.

Make a Date in Your Diary and Come along to the 'Ageing Well' Zone!

Also, we have just received a request from South East Asian Arts for 15 volunteer pensioners to take part in **The Battle between Rama and Ravana** a spectacular outdoor production on stilts at People's Day— the volunteers will not be on stilts but you will be taught how to play an Asian instrument at music workshops leading up to the production on July 10th.

Interested? Call Hi Ching for more info on 07846 614 691

