

## News from Lewisham Pensioners Forum November/December 2009

### Contacting the Forum

The Saville Centre, 436 Lewisham High  
Street, SE13 6LJ

Tel: 020 8690 7869

Dear Forum Member

So much to report back to you all on that I'm not sure where to start! Pensioners Day in September was a huge success and I hope you enjoyed the speakers and the showcase of pensioner talent as much as I did. Everyone involved in staging the event did a great job and my sincere thanks are extended to them for all the time and effort given. We have put together some photos courtesy of Tariq Chaudry which capture the essence the day and I would like to thank all of you who came along and made the afternoon such a tremendous success. Don't forget if you have any thoughts about what you would like to see at next year's event please give us a call, the planning starts in January! Our Black History event was also a thoroughly enjoyable, though smaller event, which gave us an opportunity to come together and sample sweet foods from around the world, view art, exchange recipes and buy cookery books in a relaxed and informative setting. Again, a montage of photos is included in this newsletter for your enjoyment.

A big thank you to all of you who provided us with your comments to Gordon Brown's recent paper on '*Building a society for all ages*'. Your replies enabled the Forum to submit a comprehensive response. When asked what the Government needed to do to improve attitudes towards an ageing society we replied that older people should not be treated as second class citizens to begin with. If older people are to be recognised as valued members and contributors to Britain's future and society then the example needs to be set by the Government that leads. The Government must be seen to value older people providing them with a decent state pension so they are not forced to choose between heating and eating. It should make sure that older people can access free homecare and residential care in a safe and caring environment that puts dignity before profit. The Government should make it possible for older people to travel freely as equal citizens on the trains at the same time as everyone else, using their Freedom Pass because its not always possible to conduct one's life in the hours of off peak travel!

The Forum will also be agreeing its response to the Government's recent proposals on the *Future of Care* at our special Forum meeting on October 27th. Because of printing and postage timescales I am unable to include a summary here so I shall feedback to you on this issue in our next newsletter.

Our Keep Our NHS Public campaign group continues to meet and we are presently awaiting further information from Lewisham's PCT about their plans to place GP led centres in three other parts of the borough. This effectively means that some services at GP led centres will be put out to tender and private companies such as Care UK can bid to provide services to run alongside normal services from the surgery or health centre. We shall keep you informed on this campaign work.


Enjoy the newsletter and I hope to see you at the AGM on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Doris Smith—Chair Lewisham Pensioners Forum**


# Getting your new style Freedom Pass

On page 4 of the enclosed *My Life Magazine*, you will find a very useful article on what you need to do to renew your Freedom Pass. If you have any further queries do ring the concessionary team on 020 8314 9844. We have also arranged for a member of the team to come along to our AGM on November 25<sup>th</sup>, when they will be happy to provide you with additional information or answer any questions.


It is also worth noting that the new style pass will be valid for five years rather than two which makes it very valuable. The new pass will also have additional features that personalise the card. But this does mean that cards may take up to 10 working days to produce from the date of a valid application, meaning that your new card will be sent to you in the post and not handed over to you at the Post Office counter.





From now on you'll need a photo for your Freedom Pass



You must renew your current pass now



You need to provide a passport size photo ID like this




And you'll continue to get free bus, tube, train and tram travel throughout London for the next five years

**Get your new  
FreedomPass  
And make it snappy**

You need to renew your Freedom Pass\* now because your current pass is about to expire. Your application will take up to ten days to process. Contact your local council for details of how, when and where to apply. Freedom Pass is provided by your local council and issued to London residents aged 60 or over and eligible disabled people.

[www.freedompass.org](http://www.freedompass.org) tel: 0845 275 7054 or 020 7934 9633

\*Terms and conditions apply



## **Victim Support Lewisham** who are members of the Safer Lewisham Partnership manage the **Home Safe Project**.

This is a free service for victims of crime and vulnerable people that provides home security upgrades to residents of the London Borough of Lewisham. The service is valued and appreciated by all the beneficiaries and is intended to stop repeat victimisation for burglary victims and provide reassurance and reduce fear of crime for anyone.

Residents can have a visit from a Crime Prevention Officer who will undertake a survey of the property and provide practical tips on home security. If necessary the property will be upgraded with British Standard 5 lever locks, spy holes, door chains and window locks.

If you would like any more information please call **Victim Support Lewisham on 020 8698 4583.**

## Message from The Community Safety Team about "Smartwater"

**What is SmartWater?** It is a property marking system which enables the police to detect stolen property and return it to the rightful owner.

**And how does it work?** SmartWater is a liquid applied to valuables by the owner and contains a unique code. Once dry, SmartWater is virtually impossible to remove and any traces will glow under ultra-violet light. A code hidden in the liquid is stored on a secure database together with the owner's details making them uniquely identifiable. SmartWater links criminals to the crime scene and leads to a higher conviction rate.

**Where will it be distributed?** Residents in certain areas of Lewisham have been offered SmartWater free of charge. We also hope to distribute it to groups within the borough.

**Who should I contact for more information?** The Community Safety Team at Lewisham Council will give you more information. Please call either June Al Malah on 020 8314 8020 [june.al-malah@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:june.al-malah@lewisham.gov.uk) or Alan Reynolds on 020 8314 8520 [alan.reynolds@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:alan.reynolds@lewisham.gov.uk)



### WW1 Memorial Evening

The Brockley and Ladywell Cemetery has two very poignant memorials to those who died from their wounds on their return to the UK during WWI. Local men in the main, from early teens to their forties.

On Armistice Day, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 an event is to be held to recognise the sacrifice of young men and others. The event will be a lantern-lit walk through the cemetery during darkness regardless of the weather conditions. The route will be between Brockley Road and the Ladywell gates. Classical musicians and poets will perform recitals of appropriate pieces and writings of the time.

A slow walk will take approximately 25 minutes and afterwards The Rivoli Ballroom have kindly offered to open for people to gather to discuss and chat regarding their experience of the evening.

### Bowel Cancer Meeting

If you missed the Forum's Health meeting in July or would like to learn more on the subject of bowel cancer then contact our members at Milliners Court, Nursery Close, Brockley, SE4. They have arranged for another talk to take place at their scheme on November 12<sup>th</sup> 2pm and Forum members are welcome. If you would like to attend contact Filda, the Scheme Manager, on 020 8692 6829.

### Age Concern Lambeth

FREE EVENT on Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> December

*All Welcome*

Odeon, Leicester Square  
10am (for 10.30 start)

Showing of silent film with classic  
Cinema Organ accompaniment

*"Jingle all the Way"*

## LEWISHAM PENSIONERS' FORUM

### Notice of Annual General Meeting for 2009

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 10.30am-12.30

Rooms 1 & 2, Civic Suite, Town Hall, Catford

Guest Speaker: **Mark Serwotka** - General Secretary of the Public and commercial Services Union - on the topic of campaigning for a better state pension.

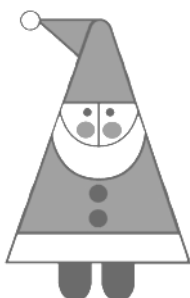
The Annual Report for Lewisham Pensioners Forum with the independently examined accounts will be presented at the AGM and the Management Committee for next year will be elected.

*(Festive refreshments afterwards, advice on Freedom Pass renewal, the Lewisham Handyperson Scheme and Christmas cards for sale)*

Within the AGM a special meeting will be held to vote on amendments to the Forum's constitution. Separate notice of this meeting for Forum Members is enclosed with this Newsletter. For more information or a larger print copy of the proposed amendments phone 020 8690 7869.

### Christmas Cards at the AGM

Bring your purse or wallet on the 25<sup>th</sup> if you want to buy cards as we are pleased to welcome back **Cards for Good Causes**, with packs and bumper value packs of charity cards, advent calendars, wrapping paper, and stocking fillers. And this year we are also pleased to welcome a representative from **Phoenix Trading**, selling individual greetings cards, posters and charts.



### Flags of the World

At our Black History Month event the Saville Centre was decked with flags. These are available for hire if any member or member group want to borrow them. Leave us with a fully refundable deposit of £50 and you may have them for up to a week for £5.

**My Life** This is no longer being delivered direct to the homes of older people in the Borough but we are pleased, on this occasion, to be working in partnership with LBL to send our individual members their copy direct. If your group or organisation has not had some copies delivered, get in touch with Jane Hinrichs on 020 8314 9942. *If you are not a member of the Forum and would like to go on our mailing list just phone us on 020 8690 7869.*