

News from Lewisham Pensioners Forum

September/October 2009

Contacting Us

The Saville Centre
436 Lewisham High Street
London SE13 6LJ
Phone: 020 8690 7869
"a campaigning voice"

Dear Forum Member

I hope this newsletter finds you well after our mixed summer. I certainly enjoyed both a fair amount of rain and sun from the tent in Devon this year! Now fully dried out, its back to business! The Forum is delighted to once again be staging the ever popular 'Pensioners Day' which takes place on Wednesday September 16th (a leaflet is enclosed). An afternoon when pensioners can come together over a packed lunch, listen to enthusiastic and inspiring speakers and enjoy the entertainment which this year is being staged by our own talented pensioners in Lewisham and the music of our local Deptford Green School Steel Band. We do hope you can join us. The cost this year is £2:00, which, we are sure you will agree, represents excellent value for money. *We shall be booking a mini bus to help our less mobile pensioners to and from Pensioners Day on 16th September so if you would like to come but need transport then do give Kerry or Tamsin a ring to confirm a booking (020 8690 7869). There will also be people on hand to accompany you to reserved seating at the front. There is wheelchair access to the Theatre but large electric scooters do not fit in the lift.*

I would also like to draw your attention to two further events in October. The first involves our taking part in 'Black History Month' on Tuesday October 13th at The Saville Centre. The Forum, as you know, is keen to ensure that all cultures and backgrounds are reflected in its campaign work and associated activities and we are therefore delighted to be contributing once again to this high point of Lewisham's calendar. You may recall that at last year's event we focussed on the personal experiences of people coming to live and work in London and the UK. This year we

Between Albacore Crescent (just about opposite the Shell Garage) and Felday Road (up towards Catford). *Bus Routes 136, 47, 54, 75, 185 and 208 stop outside.*

Special Forum Meeting

**Tuesday 27th October 2009, 10.30—12.30
at The Saville Centre (seating for 70)
436 Lewisham High Street, SE13 6LJ
to discuss**

'Shaping the Future Care Together' - (HM Government, July 2009)

At Pensioners Day this year we will be hearing from Mervyn Kholer, special advisor to Help the Aged and Age Concern, on his response to the Government's recent Green Paper on the shaping of care and support in the UK.

At the meeting on October 27th we will hear from Ed Knoles from the London Borough of Lewisham on how Lewisham intends to respond.

As a voice for pensioners in Lewisham it is vital that the Forum also has its say: come along, join the debate, and let us know what you think about the Government's proposals.

thought it would be interesting to explore how people around the World come together to chat and catch up over light refreshments. The question we would like to explore in a light-hearted way is: "What's the equivalent of tea and biscuits around the World?" – reflecting all our different social and cultural traditions. What we need to make the event its usual success is for lots of our members to get involved. We already have one member offering to share this notion with us from Trinidad and Tobago and another from Ireland. If you would get involved too and contribute your choice of light refreshment to share, then please call Kerry or Tamsin on 020 8690 7869. We have also invited publishers and booksellers come along with literature that informs about the culture and social histories of some of the Black and minority groups that are reflected in Lewisham's Pensioner community.

I should also like to draw to your attention the forthcoming AGM at which Forum members are invited to stand for election to serve on the Forum's Management Committee. In with this newsletter you will find a blue sheet. One side sets out the role and responsibilities of a management committee member, the other, provides you with a nomination paper to complete. The Forum would not be the success it is today without its volunteer pensioner management committee members so do please give the matter your serious consideration. Nomination papers, which need to be signed by another Forum member, should be returned to Forum's office at the Saville by 27th October . Perhaps you could bring it with you when you attend the Forum meeting on the same day? If you would like to talk the matter through with an existing management committee member then do please call Kerry on 020 8690 7869 and she will make appropriate arrangements.

As usual there is a lot happening with regards to both campaigns and events and we hope that you will be able to join us.

Doris Smith
Chair Lewisham Pensioners Forum

Don't forget to pick up the new FREE Forum Freedom Pass Holder (match-funded by Lewisham Metropolitan. Police) Forum mugs will also be available to buy at Pensioners Day for only £2:00 (all proceeds go towards meeting the cost of the event)



Lewisham Pensioners' Forum
A Pensioners' Campaign Group 020 8690 7869

Notice to Members of
Annual General Meeting
Lewisham Pensioners Forum
Wednesday 25th November 2009
10.30-12.30
Civic Suite, Catford, SE6

Lewisham Pensioners Forum is celebrating the way we socialise and come together as part of
Black History Month
Pop in to the Saville Centre,
436 Lewisham High Street
on Tuesday 13th October
between 11.30 and 2pm
to share hospitality from around the world
and look at books.
Plus a mini raffle

A message from the Grove Park Users Group for Forum Members

The Mayor's Commission on Libraries and Learning was published on 9th July 2009. It is available on the Lewisham Borough website. 'www.lewisham.gov.uk'

There are 27 recommendations. The users should be particularly interested in Recommendation 27, which states:—

“The future development of adult learning in Lewisham should be shaped with the continuing involvement of learners. The “Learner Voice” should be further developed to ensure that they play their part in influencing decisions. The council should review the current learner engagement process and make recommendations for the future.”

The user committee at Grove Park has kept the flag flying for all students of Community Education Lewisham (CEL), for over two years now, including having two members on the Commission. We have been helped and supported by local organisations such as the Pensioners' Forum, as well as regional and national campaigners. If you take a class at Grove Park we would love to invite you to come along and get involved with helping to shape the future of community education in Lewisham. We need your input, your support and your help. Everyone is welcome! We would love to see you at our first meeting on Tuesday 6th October 2009 at 12.15, followed by the full meeting on Thursday 8th October at 3.30pm both at the Grove Park Centre, Pragnell Road, SE12 0LF.

If your classes are held at another main site, such as Brockley Rise, Granville Park or Kirkdale, it is time to lobby for your own user group. We have achieved an enormous amount and if there were four groups we could achieve so much more.

We realise some classes are held off-site. The answer is simple, attach yourselves to your local main centre and join the group there.

It is time the “Learner Voice” became louder, so not to be ignored!”

Diabetes UK (Lewisham) Road-show

Wed. 9th and Thurs. 10th September

Outside the Lewisham Centre

~ trained staff on hand to chat with ~

Diabetes UK Lewisham meet on the first Wednesday of each month in Lewisham Methodist Church Hall.

For more information phone 020 8852 7376 or 07914 976754 or 020 8697 6929

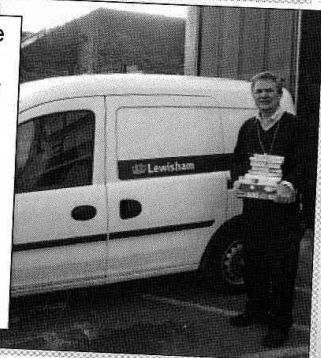
Bringing our Constitution up to date

Members will receive with this newsletter a copy of the first draft of proposed amendments to the Forum's constitution.

Your comments are welcome during this consultation period. We will try to take on board all ideas and a final draft will be sent out before the Special Meeting scheduled for formal approval of the new document—the same time as the AGM—25th November.

Free Home Library Service

Lewisham Home Library Service offers a monthly delivery service of books, music etc to residents and carers who are unable to visit a library because of age or disability.



For further information about this service telephone these Libraries
Catford: 0208 314 6254 / 020 8314 7640
Lewisham: 0208 314 9800
Wavelengths: 0208 694 2535
or your local library



Lewisham Library
199/201 Lewisham High Street
Lewisham SE13 6LG
tel. 020 8314 9800
www.lewisham.gov.uk/libraries

National Consumer Week 14.9.09-20.9.09
A Message from LB Lewisham Trading Standards
for Lewisham Pensioners

The theme for this year's National Consumer Week is "Know Your Rights".

Lewisham Council Trading Standards deal with many consumer problems including:
Rogue builders and scams—Faulty goods and poor services—Consumer credit agreements—Unfair terms and conditions—Cancellation rights.

The trading standards road show will visit:

14th September, Downham Health & Leisure Centre

15th September, Lewisham Centre

16th September, Laurence House and **Pensioners Day at the Broadway Theatre**

17th September, Lewisham Shopping Centre

Consumers can visit the displays and meet officers to find out about their rights.

The trading standards service will have a consumer general knowledge competition running through the month of September.

'Building a society for all ages'—

'...More of us are living longer—In 2007 for the first time in the UK there were more people over state pension age than children...People can spend up to a third of their lives over state pension age...Government wants to create an environment where our later years are a time to be enjoyed...Vision is to build a society where people are not defined by age'.

Source: 'Building a society for all ages' - (HM Government, July 2009)

The Forum is putting together a response to this paper. If you did not pick up a copy of the summary at the July forum meeting ring the Forum office or pick one up at Pensioners' Day.

The document can also be obtained on 020 7449 7203 or by e-mail allages@hmg.gov.uk or the website www.hmg.gov.uk/buildingasociety/forallages

If you wish to co-ordinate your comments with the Forum please get your response to the consultation questions to our office at the Saville by Monday 21st September.

In Kennington—up by the Oval
www.ovalhouse.com

**"Stockwell Good Neighbours
Sing for their Supper"**

- one day only -

Monday 21st September at 3pm and 7pm

Stockwell Good Neighbours, present through songs and stories memories of being in Jamaica and coming to London in the 1950s.

There will also be an opportunity to join in during "Barby's Karaoke"

Tickets £2.00 - 020 7582 7680

You are invited for an hour before the show starts to meet the group and share the home-made Caribbean food on sale.

Guess What? at Pensioners Day

Guess the Weight of the Cake...

A very Big Thank You to Patricia Alfred who has been busy marinating and stirring a delicious fruit cake soaked in rum and wine to help us raise funds for Pensioners Day. The cake, made in an 8inch tin, using a traditional English fruit cake recipe will be iced and on display at Pensioners Day for you to guess the weight—50p a guess. The winner takes the cake. Don't worry if you can't carry it home, we will arrange to get it to your house in time for tea (providing you are local of course!). Help us raise funds, take a guess and invite some friends for tea and cake.

