

Dates for your diary

3rd March - Committee Meeting
12th March - WMPC Regional Council
17th March - Branch Meeting
3rd April - Day of Action Coventry
Market 10.00am - 2.30pm
6th April - Publicity for Day of Action
7th April - Committee Meeting
16th April - WMPC Regional Council
21st April - Branch Meeting
7th May - Outing to Severn Valley
Railway

Fuel Poverty and Winter Deaths

We have been invited to take part in a Joint Scutiny Review about Fuel Poverty and Winter Deaths. This is a joint initiative between Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council. Some of the issues they are investigating are:

- how older people are affected by high fuel costs
- what support is already available across agencies and in communities
- the ways in which help, advice and support can be given in a more effective manner
- housing (general standards and insulation)
- social isolation.

We will feed back to you at our April Branch Meeting.

Age Discrimination

Age discrimination legislation has been delayed by up to 18 months and actual legislation to outlaw ageism in GP surgeries, hospitals and social care are in danger and may not even be drafted before the next general election. We encourage everyone to write to your MP asking them to sign Early Day Motion (EDM 458) to ensure that this legislation is on the statute books before the next election.

Coventry Pensioners Convention

Affiliated to West Midlands Pensioners Convention
and National Pensioners Convention
(A Non Party Political Organisation)



Meet every 3rd Tuesday of the Month.
Room 02, The Council House, Coventry
10.30am - 12.30pm

For Further Details Contact
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All New Members Welcome

Issue 4 March 2009

Health, Social Care and You

As a Branch we have regularly liaised and attended meetings with the local NHS/PCT meetings always putting forward the pensioners point of view. We have tried to keep abreast of changes and where possible make suggestions for improvement of services.

The Government has recently set up the Care Quality Commission. This was established to regulate the quality of health and adult social care and look after the interests of people detained under the Mental Health Act. From the 1st April 2009 the Care Quality Commission will bring together the work of the Commission for Social Care Inspection, The Healthcare Commission and the Mental Health Act Commission, creating for the first time an independent regulator of health, mental health and social care in England.

Their primary aim is to put the people who use the services first. From April 2009 NHS providers will be required to register with the Care Quality Commission.

Coventry Pensioners Convention has been asked to play a part at a National level in the consultation on the proposed policy of the Care Quality Commission and the enforcement of its powers.

The draft policy sets out how the Care Quality Commission intend to use their enforcement powers to protect the health, safety and welfare of people who use health and social care services, and to improve the quality of these services. It includes the principles they will follow when doing this.

We have completed two weeks of intense consultation making comments on every question raised..

We will feed back to you in the next newsletter and keep you updated.

Annual New Year Party 2009

Over 100 members enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of entertainment at the Railway Club in Spon End Coventry on the 8th January.

Linda the Stewardess of the Club put on a wonderful buffet and made a contribution to our raffle prizes which was much appreciated.

Our thanks go out to all the Artists who entertained us so superbly and donated their time to the Pensioners cause.

Thanks must also go to the Committee and members who worked so hard to make the afternoon a success.

We were congratulated by the Club for putting on such a superb afternoon of entertainment.

We have also been asked to put further afternoons entertainment later in the year and will keep you informed.

Annual General Meeting

This is to be held on the 21st April 2009 in Room 02 in the Council House, Coventry. We need all our members to support us and attend. There will be a visiting speaker and we will elect a new Committee. For the Branch to survive it is important that we have an active committee who can represent our members and make their voice heard at a local regional and national level.

Want to make your voice heard or nominate someone for the Committee please get in touch.

National Day of Action

On the 6th April the State pension will rise by just £4.55 per week and £2.70 for millions of women who rely on their husbands contributions. This will raise the State pension to a mere £95.25 for a single Pensioner. Such a low state basic pension means that millions of Pensioners remain on means tested benefits and today's workers face poverty when they retire. Only a decent state pension provides an effective and reliable way of guaranteeing financial security in retirement.

Around 62% of pensioner couples have an income of £15,000 or less, and 45% of all single pensioners have an income of £10,000 or less. Means tested benefits fail to reach 1.8m pensioners who are eligible to claim.

Action in Coventry Friday 3rd April 2009 Stall in Indoor Market

We have booked a stall to draw attention to the above issues. Come and visit us, sign our petitions, make your voice heard, take away model letters to your MP, Prime Minister. Together we can do it, divided we fall. We hope to encourage Coventry and Warwickshire Radio and the local press to actually give us some publicity on Monday 6th April 2009.

Social Isolation

Loneliness as we get older is an ever increasing problem. Our meetings are warm friendly and welcoming. In addition to this we try to provide opportunities to get people out of their homes by way of arranging afternoons of entertainment and outings.

We are hoping on the 7th May to run a coach outing to the Severn Valley Railway starting at Bewdley and arriving at Bridgenorth with tea at Bridgenorth then back to Coventry and later in the year a river trip with tea included.

We would also appreciate other ideas from members of things they would like to do.

Monthly Meetings

- In January we had a most interesting talk on the Coventry Careline scheme which deals with personal alarms worn round the neck.
- In February we had a talk by the Hospital Information Service which was very informative and which members have already accessed successfully.

If you would like information on either of the above please contact the Secretary.

Pensioners Parliament 2009 2 - 4 June 2009 Winter Gardens Blackpool

The Parliament will include Question Time session with leading Politicians, separate debates on Taxation, Local Services and Health Care plus guest speakers Michael Parkinson and Professor Alan Walker.

Anyone who would like to attend the Parliament should contact the Secretary for further details.