

- Dates for your diary
- 1st December -Committee Meeting
- 15th December - Branch Meeting +Soc.
- 5th January -Committee Meeting
- 7th January -New Year Party
Railway Club
- 19th January - Branch Meeting
- 2nd February - Committee Meeting
- 16th February Branch Meeting
- 25th February - Meal Out
- 2nd March - Committee Meeting

Future Events

In the New Year

- Theatre Trips
- Trip to Stow on the Wold/
Bourton on the Water - April
- Meal Out - February
- Canal Trip
- Concerts
- Campaigns - Feb and Apr.

Watch this Space!!

Broadway/Evesham Trip

On the 10th September 53 members enjoyed a wonderful day out with a visit to Broadway then a river trip at Evesham where we had a cream tea and cake followed by a visit to the Evesham Country Park. Our thanks must go to Handsome Boat Company, the Sankey Marine Tea Rooms and A Line Coaches. A raffle on the coach raised £50 towards funds.

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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Harp Place, 2 Sandy Lane,
Coventry CV1 4DX
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email covpen@yahoo.co.uk

New Members Welcome

Issue 7. December 2009
Website:

www.coventrypensionersconvention.co.uk

Fund Raising Tombola Sat 3rd October Coventry Market

Our thanks to all those that donated prizes, and supported this event on the day. We managed to raise the sum of £323. Our thanks also to Coventry Retail Market and their Management for their support.

Membership Renewal

Unfortunately we come to that time of year when membership is due for renewal. At the Annual General Meeting subscriptions were raised from £2 per year to £3 per year. Most of this figure is given back to you in terms of keeping you up to date, newsletters and postage. Please complete the enclosed form to renew your membership. New members are also always welcome.

New Year Party
7th January 2010
12.30pm - 4.30pm

Railway Club, Spon End, Coventry.

This event is for members only. We have managed to obtain some funding towards our New Year Party this year from the Heart of England Foundation. This money is ring-fenced for this purpose only. There will be a buffet and afternoon of entertainment. If you would like to attend the New Year Party please fill in the enclosed form and return it to the Secretary by 31st December 2009, together with a stamped addressed envelope.

Care in UK in Crisis

Says Dot Gibson NPC General Secretary. The National Pensioners Convention has sent a response to the Governments consultation on the Green Paper on the Future of Social Care in the UK. This calls for :

- A new National Care Service to be funded by general taxation rather than any of the use of one-off lump sum payments, private insurance or through the use of existing care or disability benefits.
- A new National Care Service to be properly regulated with regard to registration, standards, monitoring and inspection of care providers and those employed in the care sector.
- The use of individual budgets for older people to be reconsidered as they raise serious concerns about personal safety, the quality of care and unacceptable responsibility that will be placed on many vulnerable users. Individual budgets purport to give individuals choice and control over their care, but for many older people they will be an unacceptable burden. Individual budgets also raise serious concerns about the safety and protection of vulnerable individuals who will be responsible for employing their own care workers, who at present are exempt from registration, regulation and inspection.

Centro Bus Pass

Bill Bridges attended the NPC Transport Conference in London on the 5th November. He has reported that at present the Pass was safe until the General Election. It is not clear what the other Parties might do if elected after this date. It was therefore decided at the Branch Meeting on the 21st November that this Branch would make this a campaign issue early in the New Year before parties set their Manifestos.

Defending the Welfare State and Public Services Rally 10th April 2010 London

The NPC is leading the campaign to defend the welfare state and public services as part of a major campaign in the run up to the General Election. The campaign is about the kind of Society we want. There will be a March on the 10th April in London to highlight the strength of feeling. This is an issue upon which young and old can stand together. **Watch this space for further info and initiatives taking place in Coventry!**

Pensioners Pay too Much Tax!

The National Audit Office has said that up to 1.5 million Pensioners paid too much tax last year. The average amount of overpayment was £171- amounting to £250m in total. The NAO also estimates that 3.2 million older people are not claiming their additional allowances. These overpayments clearly have an effect on the quality of life of many pensioners. Not only is the tax system complicated but recent cuts in staffing levels mean that individuals can often no longer get face to face help completing their returns and not everyone is able to deal with their affairs over the internet.

It may be worth checking out your

Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission has found room for improvement in the care of Mental Health Patients in Coventry. If you have cause for concern please make sure that you voice these concerns and take them up with the **Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust. Things can only be put right if the managers concerned know about them.**

Address: Head of Complaints, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust, Wayside House, Wilsons Lane, Coventry, CV6 6NY

Faulty Pavements

In debate in Committee Meetings and Branch Meetings it has come to the fore that people are very concerned about falling because of uneven paving slabs and holes in pavements and roads. Indeed several people have had very nasty falls and been very shaken up.

This was also a high priority in the questionnaires we had returned and will be a campaign issue in 2010.

It is imperative that you report any faulty pavements to the council to Councillor Noonan direct and in writing.

Contact Details: Councillor Hazel Noonan, City Services, The Council House, Coventry email hazel.noonan@coventry.gov.uk Tel. 024 7683 2621

Please also report any street lights that are out on 024 7683 3333.

Members Meal Out

On the 29th October over 60 members enjoyed a meal out together at the Britannia Hotel in Fairfax Street. The meal was excellent and very good value for money. The Staff were most obliging and courteous and our thanks must go to the Britannia Hotel. The meal was such a success we have been asked if we can arrange another meal out in February.