

The Pensioner

Journal of Brighton & Hove Pensioner Action

No. 39, Summer 2011

Osborne's budget – and reform of the state pension

The Chancellor, George Osborne, delivered his Budget proposals on 23 March 2011, confirming many of the changes he had already announced. Sue Howley (Pensioner Action) details some of the points likely to be of interest to pensioners.

BASIC STATE PENSION CHANGES

From 11 April 2011, the **Basic State Retirement Pension** rose from £97.65 to **£102.15** per week for a single pensioner and from £156.15 to **£163.35** for a couple, in line with increases in the Retail Price Index (RPI). However, as we reported in the Autumn 2010 issue of The Pensioner (page 4), future increases will be in line with the less favourable Consumer Price Index. Also, the currently high rate of inflation (not helped by the increase in **Value Added Tax** from 17.5% to **20%** in January) has quickly eaten into any extra which pensioners may find in their pockets. The **age addition** for the over 80s remains at the insultingly low **25 pence** per week! The **Pension Credit Guarantee** increased on 11 April from £132.60 to **£137.35** per week for a single pensioner and from £202.40 to **£209.70** per week for a couple, with the capital disregard (i.e. the maximum amount of savings you can have and still claim) remaining at **£10,000**.

WINTER FUEL PAYMENT REDUCTION

The Government has said it will “protect” the **Winter Fuel Payment** but after the Budget, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) made it clear that in 2011 the payment will revert from £250 to **£200** for households with someone at or over the female State Pension Age and from £400 to **£300** for households with someone aged 80 or over. This will be bad news for many pensioners, but particularly for the three million pensioner households who are already spending more than 10% of their income on fuel bills. There has been no announcement about the **Christmas bonus** and so we assume that remains at **£10**.

Basic **personal allowances** for Income Tax will rise from £6,475 to **£7,475**. The personal allowance for someone aged 65 to 74 will rise from £9,490 to **£9,940** and for someone aged 75 or more will rise from £9,640 to **£10,090**. The maximum income a pensioner can have

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Local news & information



Fabrica Gallery - why not visit?



Reforming the NHS

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Editor's Letter



Welcome to our summer issue of *The Pensioner*. It's all go at the moment; things are moving full-steam ahead with Pensioner Action as we do our best to engage with local older people and fight for the issues you care about. We've employed a new

group facilitator for our neighbourhood groups, Myfan Jordan, who is working hard to consolidate existing groups and develop new ones in other areas of the city (see p5 for details), and we've been holding public meetings so we can listen to your viewpoints (see p4).

People's Day: We're pleased to announce the City Council has set the date of People's Day - 18th June - and we've been playing a key part in planning the event to ensure older people are high on the agenda. There will be activities, information, food, fun and games. Come and visit our stall and join in! It will be taking place at the Jubilee Square / New Road area (near Brighton Library) from 10am to 6pm, and we really hope to see you there.

Write to: Lila Hunnisett, Pensioner Action, 1st Fl., Intergen House, 65 - 67 Western Road, Hove, BN3 2JQ. Tel: 01273 229004 / Email: lila.hunnisett@pf.bh-impetus.org

People's Day is an event for all groups across the city - so there will be activities for all ages to enjoy. Call us for more details and please do get in touch if you can volunteer!

Volunteers: we're looking to recruit some able volunteers to help us work and fight for older people's rights and improve services across the city. See page 16 if you think you have what it takes and would like to get involved. We must work together to be a louder voice for older people!

Website: Excitingly, we've been working with a social media consultant to develop an online resource for older people - which should contain an events calendar, links and information, a 'have your say' area so you can submit your issues and *The Pensioner* will be available online. Watch this space for details!

We're back again in the autumn, so have a great summer and remember to get in touch if you want to get involved in any way with Pensioner Action - we need you!

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Signed _____ Date _____

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Get *The Pensioner* emailed to you for free - call 01273 229004 / email: lila.hunnisett@pf.bh-impetus.org - sign up today!

Older People's Council News

Jack Hazelgrove is Chair of the OPC - an independent body set up and supported by Brighton & Hove City Council. It works in partnership with the Council and other large statutory services to give older people a say in policies and services.



Jack Hazelgrove, OPC

Now that the dust has settled on the City Council elections with the Green Party emerging as the largest group, I have taken a look at the section of their manifesto dealing with older people. The new Older People's Council to be elected on June 30th will monitor these commitments over the next four years.

These are some of the main points under the heading "maintaining independence, offering care". Greens will support the Older People's Council. They will promote the wider involvement of not-for-profit third sector organisations rather than private companies in the care of older people. They will work with AgeUK and the Sheltered Housing Action Group. They will support voluntary organisations like Lunch Positive and the Gay Elderly Men's Society to help older LGBT members deal with discrimination and isolation. Likewise, they will work with BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) groups to improve services. Greens will work with local care and repair agencies to make the best use of disabled facilities grants. They will promote and protect bus services. Finally, they will stop the sell-off of all public toilets in the city and look at ways of bringing closed facilities back into use, like those in Upper Rock Gardens.

As this is the last newsletter before the postal vote election of the new OPC – still the only Council elected by all its citizens aged 60 plus – I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues who are standing down and to say good luck to those who are standing again. They have given their time freely without remuneration in the service of their fellow senior citizens. Thanks also to the Pensioners' Forum and Pensioner Action for producing this magazine as the voice of older people in the city.

www.olderpeoplescouncil.org / tel: 01273 296427 / email: olderpeoplescouncil@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Public meetings: The following dates are Pensioner Action public meetings but as we go to press, venues and topics are yet to be confirmed. However please call 01273 229004 for more details or to book a place: 25th July, 10.30am - 12.30pm, 26th September, 10.30am - 12.30pm. We welcome suggestions on topics for discussion, so get in touch with your ideas.

OSBORNE'S BUDGET - CONTINUED FROM P1

and still get the age-related allowances will rise from £22,900 to **£24,000**. On the good side, the Government has given assurances that income tax allowances and thresholds will be increased in line with the more favourable RPI for the duration of this Parliament.

For those of us fortunate enough to be able to put money into an ISA in 2011, the ISA annual investment limit has risen from the overall limit of £10,200 to **£10,680** and the limit for Cash ISAs has risen from £5,100 to **£5,340**.

SINGLE TIER STATE PENSION

But the item in the Budget which probably attracted pensioners' attention the most (and has certainly occupied the media) was the announcement that the DWP would soon publish a Green Paper consulting on proposals for moving to a **single tier state pension**. The Green Paper followed on 4 April and suggested for discussion a **flat rate £140 a week pension** (in today's prices) which would be introduced in 2016 – **but would not apply to existing pensioners or to those retiring between now and 2016**. The basic State Retirement Pension, the Second State Pension, SERPS, and probably Graduated Pension would be rolled up into a consolidated pension, with means-testing in the form of Pension Credit being, to all intents and purposes, abolished.

At first, many welcomed these proposals as potentially simplifying a pension system which is horribly complicated, requires too many people to rely on means-tested support, and leads to inequality in that some groups (women, low-paid and self-employed people) tend to receive lower pensions. The immediate reaction of many pensioner bodies was to prepare for a mighty battle to make sure that what seemed like a wonderful deal should be extended to existing pensioners. However, it becomes clear on closer inspection of the few details that are available that the suggestion is not as good as it seems. First, £140 is still way below the **official poverty line of £178 per week** and as CPI rather than RPI would apply to year-on-year increases, there would be no chance for it to catch up – in fact, quite the reverse. Second, the Government has made clear that no "extra" money would be available for this new scheme. So pensioner bodies (both nationally and locally) need to consider carefully the impact of a system that improves income for some, but costs no more than the present system, and to continue to campaign for a system that gives adequate state pensions to both current and future pensioners.

The consultation on the Green Paper runs until 24 June 2011 and it is likely there will be more detailed proposals later in the year. The Pensioner will keep you informed of developments. **Get in touch if you feel these changes will affect you - we will make you heard!**

Pensioner Action is here to raise your concerns, not only in this magazine, but through our committee, who are members of steering groups and older people's organisations in the city. Get in touch and let us know what's up...or come and visit us at People's Day, 18th June (see p2 for details).

PENSIONER ACTION HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING ON COUNCIL BUDGET

On the 28th of March, with local elections then only a matter of weeks away and talk of cuts in services very much in the air, Pensioner Action organised a lively gathering at Patching Lodge to hear about Brighton and Hove City Council's new budget, which had been approved by the Full Council on the 3rd of March.

The meeting was chaired by Francis Tonks (Pensioner Action), and James Hengeveld, Head of Finance, Integrated Financial Management and Planning, Brighton and Hove City Council explained that, because of Government policies, the Council would need to reduce its spend by a massive 25% over four years. Thanks to a Government grant, Council Tax would be frozen in 2011/12. He ran through the main budget points, noting the "big spenders", such as Adult Social Care, and Children's Social Care, which is at one of the highest levels in the country. Full year effect of savings agreed for 2011/12 would be £27million. Another £54 million of savings would be needed over the following two years. These would be made largely by re-structuring, redundancies (240 in the first year) and by "value for money" initiatives.

James answered a number of questions around redundancies, "intelligent commissioning", business rates and why they are so high, housing benefit, increasing the Council's income, rates of recycling, and empty property.

In an "open session", attendees gave their views on future priorities for Pensioner Action; one of these being the need for more coordination amongst older people's organisations across the City, which we will take on board over the next few months.

This was the first in a series of our public meetings designed to allow discussion of matters of concern to local older people and enable gathering of their views so they can be passed on to decision-makers. One such issue raised was future changes to housing and council tax benefits, which will include the transfer of responsibility for council tax benefits to local authorities in 2013/14 - and a 10% cut!

At the time of the meeting, full details of the Council budget had yet to be worked through and all the implications were far from clear. However, the outcome of the council elections in

May has led to even more uncertainty as to how any cuts will affect older people. The Green Party emerged with the most seats, who, without an overall majority, will run the council as a minority administration. The Party has publicly denounced the Government cuts, but elected councillors must set a legal budget in line with the money from Whitehall. Pensioner Action will be keeping a careful eye over the coming months on exactly how the new Council responds to this challenge, and will be gathering and passing on the views of older people to those who influence decision making.

See page 3 for details of upcoming public meetings - we need you to get involved and have your say!

City Council Elections

Once again, our city has scored a first! In May 2010, Brighton (Pavilion) elected Caroline Lucas as the first Green Party MP to sit in the House of Commons. This year, Brighton and Hove become the first Local Authority in which the Greens were the largest party. The party won more seats, raising the total to 23 (Conservatives 18, Labour 13).

From their initial seat in St Peters Wood, won in 1996, the Greens established a stronghold in this ward and in neighbouring Hanover. Subsequently they won Queens Park and Regency; and this year they won all seats in Preston Park and Goldsmid and made in-roads into Hollingdean, Central Hove and even Withdean. Labour remains strongest in the estates of East Brighton and Portslade.

Whichever party succeeds to power, it will have inherited a dire financial situation. Politicians will undoubtedly claim that they will protect front-line services and find cuts in management services. We must continue to be vigilant in protecting vulnerable and older people.



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VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

As the summer arrives we are looking to expand our volunteer scooter delivery and collections team. This is a rewarding and flexible volunteer role that involves being out in the sunshine!

For more information on this and other volunteering opportunities available with the Brighton and Hove Federation of Disabled People please log on to:-

www.bhfederation.org.uk
Email: katharine.russell@bhfederation.org.uk



60+ Action Group News

Pensioner Action runs meetings for older people in five neighbourhoods across Brighton and Hove (see below for details). Anyone can join in - get in touch!



Members at 60+ Action Groups across the City

In March, the new group worker, Myfan Jordan, started and attended all the neighbourhood meetings with Lila. Myfan has previously volunteered with the Community & Voluntary Sector Forum, Brighton & Hove Epilepsy Action and worked as a Community Participation Officer with the City Council. The groups were all sorry to say goodbye to Lila - and thanked her for all her hard work.

New Groups

One of Myfan's priorities is to increase attendance at meetings and set up groups in new areas. She spent much of April leafleting locally and raising awareness of our activities. The fruits of this so far are a new group for Central Hove area at St John's Café (next to the Cornerstone Community Centre in Church Rd), which launched on May 18 from 10am - 11.30am. The attached Day Centre offers a range of activities for older people and anyone interested in 60+ Action or St John's is invited to come along and have a chat.

Myfan is also hoping to hold an 'expression of interest' meeting in Portslade in the summer, so please get in touch if you would like to take part (tel: Myfan 01273 422971).

During March, groups enjoyed a variety of guest speakers. Gwyneth Chanlewis from Lifelines, told Craven Vale and Kemptown groups about different activities available to all the city's older people at Patching Lodge in Eastern Rd. Could you volunteer to teach a class a new skill, or lead them in a new activity? Gwyn also talked about their 'Activity Partners' project, which teams volunteers with people who lack the confidence or ability to

participate alone. For more information call LifeLines on 01273 688117 (or see the article on p7 for more details).

The neighbourhood groups always welcome new attendees and provide an excellent opportunity for individuals to raise issues relating to the health and wellbeing of older people and push for some action! Recent achievements include successfully petitioning to have dangerously overhanging ivy cut back from railway land in Portslade and informing the council about what older people want to see at People's Day on June 18th.

Information & Opportunities

As the gateway project for older people's groups in the city, Pensioner Action passes on information and opportunities to members: some recently got paid £10 for focus group work at the Peace & Environment Centre, and others were offered the chance to take part on ITV's Dinner Date show!

All our groups focus on how we can improve older people's lives and experience of living in Brighton, Hove and Portslade: why don't you come along to find out more? There is no cost, obligation or commitment - together we can campaign for the changes we want to see: a unified voice heard by service providers in the city!

Get in touch or join a group!

If you would like to see a new 60+ group in your area or would like more information, contact Myfan on 01273 422971 or Lila on 01273 229004 or visit the website: www.bh-impetus.org/pensioner_action/neighbourhood_groups

What is 60+ Action?

60+ Action works together to enable older people to tackle issues which affect our everyday lives, such as:

Hospital and GP services - Public transport - Social services - Benefits - Community Safety - Environmental issues - and anything else which may be affecting you as an older person in Brighton & Hove.

We have regular speakers, give information on services, encourage debate, friendship and work together to get the changes we want for our neighbourhoods.

60+ Action Diary - join in!

Craven Vale Group. Craven Vale Resource Centre, Queensway, Craven Vale • 2pm-4pm. June 29th, July 27th, Sept 28th, Oct 26th, Nov 30th •

Kemp Town/St James/Hanover Group. Patching Lodge, Eastern Road • 2.30 - 4pm. July 12th, Sept 13th, Nov 8th •

West Hove Group. Muriel House, Ingram Crescent West, Portland Road, Hove. • 2.30 to 4pm. July 19th, Sept 20th, Nov 15th •

Moulsecoomb Group. The Orchards, Moulsecoomb Way • 2.30 - 4pm. July 5th, Sept 6th, Nov 1st •

Central Hove. St John's Centre, Church Rd (next to Cornerstone) 10.00 - 11.30am • June 22nd & July 27th •

Call 01273 422971 for details



Letters

Send letters to: Lila Hunnisett, Pensioner Action, 1st Floor, Interger House, 65-67 Western Road, Hove, BN3 2JQ. Unfortunately we can't print them all & some may be edited, but we really want your opinions!

Older people politics?

The idea of an 'Older People's Party', suggested by Keith Jago (Autumn 2010 issue) makes no sense whatsoever. Like the notion of a so-called 'grey vote' it is an insulting stereotype and politically illiterate because it implies that everyone of a certain age shares a common political interest, regardless of social class and wealth. These are the factors which really divide our society, not age.

Mr Jago also appears to have bought into the two most damaging myths afflicting the 'baby-boomer' generation: eternal youth and immortality. The constant claims by politicians and media commentators that we are all living longer and healthier lives stand comparison with the Nazi propaganda machine of Goebbels: tell a big lie often enough and people will eventually believe it. I am losing count of the people I know who have died either before approaching state pension age or soon after. Many of them suffered poor health and struggled on low incomes.

Raising the pension age is just theft of our pension rights which must not be tolerated. Scrapping the so-called 'default retirement age' of sixty-five is merely a measure to pave the way for abolishing the whole concept of

retirement as we have known it, forcing the poor to 'work till they drop'. It is also entirely unjustifiable at a time of youth unemployment at record levels. Do we really want the young to regard the old as 'job blockers', denying them a chance to work? The rich have always had choices about work and retirement. Most of those now working beyond pension age do so because they simply cannot afford to retire and what they need is an adequate pension they can take on, not perpetual wage slavery.

What we all need now is a new political system. The widespread distrust of, and contempt for, the 'political class' is justified because their system can never truly represent the majority of us, regardless of which voting method is used. The arrogance of the Con-Dem so-called 'Coalition' of liars, thieves and butcherism, fabricated entirely as a politically expedient after no party was judged fit to govern by us, should prove to everyone that the UK parliament is a zombie. It is a rotting 'undead' corpse which should be laid to rest before it can do more harm. *Peter Jackson.*

Editor: Whilst we actively encourage strong debate of older people's issues, readers should remember Pensioner Action is an 'apolitical' organisation and does not endorse any party.

SAVE THE NHS

Anyone who is concerned about the governments plans for the NHS should go to <http://www.38degrees.org.uk> and sign the 260,000 strong petition. *Clive Taplin*

War on Wool Moths

Do you, like me, have a problem with moths ruining your best woollen clothes? I have tried most things but have been recommended the following recipe. I still need to buy the ingredients and try it out, but I am assured it is a very effective woolwash:

½lb soap flakes, ½pt methylated spirits, 3tbs eucalyptus oil (about 20mls)

All the above can be bought at Ransoms off London Road. Mix all together and store in a screwtop glass jar. To use: dissolve soap flakes in warm water to make a good lather. Wash woollens in the usual way. Rinse twice and spin out. Dry flat. Using this recipe should keep the moths away. *Clive Taplin.*

Though I don't in fact suffer from loneliness -- I've got enough other problems, thanks -- I read this article with interest (*Overcoming Loneliness, The Pensioner, Issue 38*), and thought it seemed on the whole good advice. However, under Avoid Escape Routes, the writer advises people not to "sleep too much". Now how much is too much, and what's the trick of staying awake when your brain and body are telling you to go on sleeping, or take a nap? I'd love to know! Needless to say, I don't spend hours watching TV.)

Finally, I hope no reader ever gets so lonely that he/she has to feign religious belief ("go to church") just to meet people. For me personally, that would really be desperate! *Bruce A Smith*

Come and Meet Each Other!

My favourite social club is GAMEO which stands for "Come And Meet Each Other". This takes place in "The Centre" at Bishop Hannington Church on Thursdays between 0945 and 1200. Each week, there is a varied programme including talks (some illustrated), music, quizzes and sometimes reminiscing, for which one pays £1 and this includes a hot drink and snacks. "The Centre" is a spacious hall and although there is a large attendance each week, there is plenty of spare seating for new members who are always made very welcome. The programme is organised by Mrs Chris Dalton, telephone no. 01273 702775, though anyone interested can also contact the Church Office on 01273 732965. Besides the Thursday morning meetings, there is usually a Games afternoon between 1400 and 1600 on the first Monday of each month and a Film afternoon at the same time on the third Monday of each month. Bishop Hannington Church is located in West Hove at the junction of Nevill Avenue and Holmes Avenue and is served by bus route No. 5A, although bus route No. 5 runs within about 200 yards of the Church. *Michael Kohn.*

50!

50 years of community activity!

This year, the Goldstone Valley Residents' Association celebrates its 50th anniversary – half a century of continuous activity. Congratulations to all its officers and members past and present.

The Association was founded to campaign for roads and infrastructure to serve the new houses being built on open land of the Downs. Today it is more concerned with bus routes and maintaining the general appearance of the area.

A lively committee meets monthly and produces a monthly newsletter. The 900+ households in the area pay an annual subscription of £1.

We depend heavily on such local voluntary organisations to maintain our quality of life; yet their activities go largely unreported. The GVRA does not claim to be unique – though it does seem to be unusually successful.

The Pensioner would like to publish news of other associations.

50!

LifeLines Volunteer Project Moves

It's all change at the award-winning LifeLines project, funded for a further three years to support older volunteers to make a difference in the local community. LifeLines has moved from Age Concern's management to become part of the national Community Service Volunteers (CSV)'s Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme (RSVP). LifeLines is now based at Mantell House, Lennox Street, Brighton BN2 0HD.

LifeLines will continue its work in the Turner, Eastern Road, Queen's Park and Craven Vale area of Brighton, including the activities being run at Patching Lodge on the corner of Eastern Road and Freshfield Road. Here they currently run weekly Games sessions, a Dance Class, an Art Class, a Listen, Read and Laugh group, a Computer Club and monthly Knitting Network get-togethers and Tea Dances. All these activities are currently free to join (donations welcome) and open to all residents of the above areas. Please call the LifeLines team on 01273 688117 or email lifelines@csv.org.uk for further information on days and times.

Volunteer and make a difference! All LifeLines activities are inspired, led and run by volunteers themselves. We are currently looking for volunteers to set up new activities or groups for 50+ year olds in the Queens Park area or support existing activities. For example, we need more volunteers to support our reminiscence project which runs sessions for residents in sheltered accommodation or to join our Activity Partners Scheme and help a more isolated older person get more out of life.

Likewise, if you would like to join activities but would prefer not to do so by yourself, or if you know someone else who would, please call Gwyn on 01273 688117 and start the ball rolling towards a more active life.

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About a fifth of the poorest men in Britain die before they get their pensions. This means that 19% die before they reach the retirement age of 65. The better-off men only lose 7% in comparison. Women from poorer backgrounds show a similar pattern. 10% die before the pensionable age of 60. The better-off have a 4% death rate. These are uncomfortable statistics. Government plans to raise the pension age can only make matters worse with fewer of us living to enjoy retirement.

At a recent conference I attended, speakers stated that people could now work longer and there would not be a compulsory retirement age. They seemed to think this was a good thing. This may seem alright for academics and planners. In my view they are wrong. Heavy manual work is exhausting and there are huge risks in health and safety for older workers in dangerous occupations. I also believe that seniors still in employment may be holding onto jobs which could go to younger people. The answer, of course, is a generous and realistic pension for all, so no-one is forced by harsh economic necessity to work on unwillingly to put food on the table and heat the house. *Francis Tonks*

After Divorce – Grandparents' Access to Grandchildren

In our last issue, we raised the issue of the relationship between grandparents and their grandchildren after the divorce or separation of the children's parents

In March of this year, a Government Review Panel, led by David Norgrove, published its interim report. It recommends that the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren (and other close relatives) should be tackled within the divorce processes.

It argues that the interests of the grandchildren should be paramount – grandparents can claim no over-riding rights. The legal process involved should be simplified and speeded up.

The report is now out for consultation; the final report is expected in December 2011.



Default Retirement Age

Researcher David Lain from the University of Brighton discusses the imminent abolition of the Default Retirement Age.

From October employers will no longer be able to force people to retire simply because they have reached 65 (currently the 'Default Retirement Age'). This is a big change. In the past people over 65 have had few employment rights, and Managers have often limited opportunities to work beyond 65. Employers wishing to dismiss an employee over 65 will now have to use the same procedures as they do for younger employees, based on capability, conduct, illegality or some other substantial reason. The exception will be where an employer can demonstrate an 'objective reason' for having a fixed retirement age, and these are expected to be rarely justifiable.

As a result, the legislation may increase the number of over 65s in employment quite significantly. The USA, which followed this path in the mid 1980s, has much higher rates of employment past 65. Furthermore, UK surveys suggest that a significant proportion of older people would like to continue working, some for financial reasons, others because they enjoy their job or the company of their colleagues. Many would like to work part-time, and it is hoped that the abolition of the Default Retirement Age will encourage employers to look favourably on employee requests for reduced hours. For older people a reduction in working hours in the lead up to 'complete' retirement may be attractive because they can take their state pension whilst working.

Further information and advice on this is available from the Citizen's Advice Bureau (<http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/> or visit your local office).

Arguments made in favour of abolishing the Default Retirement Age:

- It is unfair to decide that someone should retire because they have reached a fixed age. People are different, and should be given the choice about when to retire.
- It will allow people longer to plan for their retirement.
- It will encourage employers to invest in older employees if they expect them to stay with the company longer.
- It will not remove retirement as a dignified exit from employment.

Arguments made against abolishing the Default Retirement Age:

- It will take away jobs from young people (although this is disputed by some).
- It will make it harder to campaign for decent pensions if retirement is seen as a 'choice'.
- Some will feel compelled to work for financial reasons when they've already done their bit.
- It will make it harder for employers to manage the retirement of their staff, and mean monitoring staff performance more closely.

The ageing crisis – sheltered housing's contribution

Increasingly, we are reminded that we are living in an ageing society; life expectancy is advancing. A "working" life of 40 years is followed by 20 years "retirement". The cost of health and social care must clearly escalate. But can we expect the state to provide all our needs? Clearly not; and least of all when public services are being severely cut.

So what must we do? For the future, we will have to put aside (through savings, pension contributions, insurance policies, taxes) enough funds to cover our needs in later years. Currently, we must firstly do more for ourselves and others through voluntary associations and informal help. Secondly, we must seek ways in which public services are delivered more effectively, though with similar outcomes.

Sheltered housing and its residents can here make a contribution. Our city's Housing Strategy for Older People has, as one of its goals, making sheltered/retirement schemes resource centres for the community. ERoSH (Emerging Role of Sheltered Housing – a national advocacy organisation) also has this as its current year's campaign issue.

Thus, sheltered schemes can become centres for service provision. Of City Council schemes, Muriel House (Ingram Crescent) and Laburnum Grove (Burstead Close, Hollingdean) are Access Points for Adult Social Care. More significant is the opening of social activities, often organised by residents, to outsiders. Thus Sanders House (Ingram Crescent) hosts the Sundowners Club, Churchill House (Hangleton Road) the Forget-me-not Club and Elizabeth Court (Wilbury Road) the Bluebird Club. Each of these gives lonely people an opportunity to get out and meet others. *(For details of such schemes, visit the City Council website – www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sheltered; or phone 01273 293255).*

Care workers often spend much of their day travelling from one client to another. This is clearly poor use of time – however much providing organisations try to rationalise rotas. In contrast, an extra-care sheltered scheme has an in-house team to serve residents. There is an opportunity here for teams in the extra-care schemes (such as Patching Lodge, Kemptown) to include nearby residents; and also to try to rationalise service provision within sheltered housing. Those who purchase care will have less choice of their care worker – though most find the greater flexibility and all-day availability of support advantageous. Changes such as these usually take a long time to implement – so many vested interests are involved. But if the end result is a better service at less cost, how can one ignore it?

Participation, engagement, choice, control: all of these buzz-words herald our greater involvement in service delivery. That means, we should not only complain when things go wrong – we should suggest how things might be put right.

Peter Lloyd.

Right: a community activity hosted by LifeLines at Patching Lodge



WILLS AND LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY

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solicitors and notary

- Don't have a Will but always been meaning to get around to it?
- Made a Will some years ago but it needs updating?
- Think you may have inheritance tax issues?
- Concerned who would manage your affairs if you couldn't?
- Questions or problems regarding administration of estates and inheritance?

We can help

Contact one of our friendly and professional private client team.

Mention this advert and receive a **10% discount** off our usual charges for preparation of Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney.

Contact: Carole Rowe - Tel: 01273 666324 / e-mail caroler@fitzhugh.co.uk / Chris Thomas - Tel: 01273 666323 / e-mail christ@fitzhugh.co.uk
3 Pavilion Parade, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 1RY

The Pensioner

Want *The Pensioner* posted to you?

Subscribe for only £3 per year. See inside front cover for details!



Thank you to those of you who submitted ideas around changing the title of our magazine. Whilst we had some good suggestions our editorial committee took the decision that we should continue with our tried, tested and well-known title 'The Pensioner'.

Pursuing an interest

Joining the U3A (University of the Third Age) is a wonderful way of meeting people with similar interests or exploring a new interest. Don't be put off by the name – U3As exist for all people no longer in full-time work who want to participate in shared learning for pleasure rather than for qualifications.

There are several U3As covering the Brighton area. In alphabetical order these are not only the one called Brighton & Hove, but also Brunswick Westward, Five Deans (which includes Ovingdean, Rottingdean, Roedean, Saltdean and Woodingdean), Patcham, Preston Park, and Shoreham & Southwick.

Although all these U3As started in the areas associated with their names, you can join in fact any U3A that offers activities in the subjects or leisure activities that interest you. You don't have to live in that particular catchment area. Some people belong to more than one U3A!

U3A members meet in small Special Interest Groups - anything from Gardens to Walking, Languages to Literature, Discussion Groups to Family History, Art Appreciation to hands-on Drawing and Painting, Patchwork to Meditation, Jazz Appreciation to Singing – the list is endless. All the Special Interest Groups are coordinated by the members themselves, so the subjects and activities vary from one U3A to another. Some U3As also organise regular Talks by interesting speakers.

For those with access to the internet, the best way to get further information is to go to the website of the Sussex U3A Network, which is at: www.sussexu3anetwork.org.uk From there you can get information about each of our local U3As. Alternatively, here are some useful contact details:

Brighton & Hove U3A – Tel. (01273) 674061 for Membership Secretary (daytime)
Brunswick Westward U3A – Tel. (01273) 747565 for Secretary or (01273) 551425 for Membership Secretary

Five Deans U3A- Tel (01273) 304347 for Membership Secretary

Patcham U3A– Tel. (01273) 562404 for Membership Secretary

Preston Park U3A – Tel. (01273) 706861 for Secretary or (01273) 887455 for Membership Secretary

Shoreham & Southwick U3A – Tel. (01903) 752719 for Membership Secretary

The Circle of Experienced Elders

Do you like discussion? Are you able to listen respectfully to other people's views and perhaps peacefully beg to differ at the end of the day?

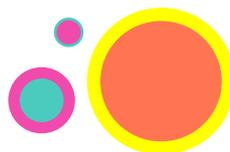
Then perhaps the Circle of Experienced Elders is a group that you may like. We are an independent, grant funded group, affiliated to the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF). We hold monthly meetings at a venue in Hove. Our meeting place is wheelchair-friendly and has a hearing loop for the hard of hearing.

Apart from our monthly meetings, where we do supply a light lunch for members for a nominal fee, we hold a planning meeting where members come up with the discussion topics. They can be newsworthy, serious or light hearted. Variety is, after all, the spice of life.

Members find that the group gives them both mental stimulus and good company. It is a chance to air your views, express ideas, and also learn fresh things. We never know where our discussions might lead us.

If you wish to know more, why not contact us on tel: 07583 935502 (afternoons only, please).

Roger Wood, The Circle of Experienced Elders



GP experiences wanted - make yourself heard!

Brighton and Hove LINK (independent health and adult social care watchdog for the city) is looking for experiences and views of GP practices (good or bad). What makes a good GP? What works and what doesn't? We are particularly interested in hearing what older people think of GP practices. We are collecting views from others in the city and will use our findings to produce a report which will be passed to GPs and commissioners to improve services. The LINK has legal powers and can help to make changes in the city.

You can give your views (without giving your name, although no identifying information will be used in our report) and you can contact us by telephone 01273 810 235/4, email: info@bhlink.org, via our website: www.bhlink.org or by post: Freepost RSGY-UXAC-ZZZG, Brighton & Hove Local Involvement Network, BRIGHTON, BN1 4GQ



Pensioner Action would like to hear of any issues you have around health services, transport, housing, your local area or anything else, so please get in touch -

tel: 01272 229004 or email us at lila.hunnisett@pf.bh-impetus.org to let us know what's up!

Cancer screening saves lives - don't miss out

Early detection of cancer is vital, so please take part in screening programmes when invited. Screening programmes are for people without symptoms, so if you are worried see your GP straightaway – don't wait for a screening appointment.

Breast Cancer Screening: Thanks to the NHS Breast Screening Programme, over 1,400 lives are saved each year in England. **All** women in Brighton & Hove aged 50-70 are entitled to screening by mammography every three years. Those over 70 can also be screened but must phone 01273 664966 to make an appointment.

Bowel cancer screening: About one in 20 people in the UK develop bowel cancer during their lifetime and over 16,000 die from it each year. Regular screening using a self-test kit considerably reduces the risk of bowel cancer. This can be done via a kit sent to the homes of all local men and women aged 60 – 69 every two years. For more information, call 0800 707 6060.

Remember: Look after yourself – eat a healthy diet, avoid smoking, take regular exercise and watch your weight. Know your body - if you notice any changes that persist,

visit your GP. And remember to participate in the cancer screening programmes.

“In January 2010 the Albion held a home evening league game at the Withdean Stadium. At the turnstile I was handed a leaflet ‘ARE YOU AHEAD OF THE GAME?’ I WAS NOT. My doctor immediately diagnosed bowel cancer. One year on I have had radiotherapy and two operations which in all probability have saved my life. I’m 76 years old and have been an Albion supporter for 65 years and am now looking forward to many more happy years cheering my team at our wonderful new AMEX Stadium. My heartfelt thanks to all”

Information on screening for Brighton and Hove is available from: Margaret Felton, Sussex Community Health NHS Trust - email: margaret.felton@southdowns.nhs.uk or call: 01273 267378.

Reforming the NHS

As we go to press, the Health and Social Care Bill currently being debated in Parliament is undergoing a second period of consultation to meet the many criticisms voiced. The final outcome is thus far from clear.

Central to the Coalition Government's proposals – and likely to be preserved in some form – is the transfer of powers from PCTs to local GP Consortia. Many people have welcomed the greater power given to GPs to treat their patients as they see best; but many have voiced concern over the practicalities of the change. Whatever is decided, greater involvement of patients in the processes of health service delivery is expected.

Patient Participation Groups

As patients, we are, as it were, customers of the service providing GP practices. But unlike customers in the High Street we cannot shop around to find the best quality and attractive bargains. We have to be registered with a single practice; and as tax payers we have already paid for the services sought.

So how might we exert some control and influence over the processes of health service delivery? Here are a few suggestions of issues that a patient participation group might take up.

Access:

- is the surgery conveniently located (with branch surgeries in accessible areas)?
- is the surgery well designed?
- do opening hours suit the patients?
- Is the appointment system quick and efficient?

Clinical Issues:

- what services are available within the surgery (e.g. specialist clinics, minor surgery, x-rays)?
- PCTs have prioritised certain conditions or categories of people; will this continue? How will those people in high/low priorities express their views?
- NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) has decided which drugs are freely available on the NHS; what powers will GPs have to prescribe costly medication or operations?

Practice Management:

- The Department of Health will presumably control the ways in which GP consortia and practices use the funding they receive; will the consortia and practices be open to patient scrutiny?

It seems likely that individual practices will develop a variety of modes of patient participation. Typical of past years has been the self-selected active volunteers; but how far are these really representative of the total patient population, reflecting the interests of both heavy and light service users, for instance? Volunteers might also form focus groups to discuss single limited issues. But in today's world we can make much greater use of electronic communication to provide information or express viewpoints.

Details of the transfer of powers from PCTs to GP Consortia are still under discussion; so it will be some months before we know with any precision how patient interest might be expressed. But we have an opportunity now to say how we would wish to be involved; how we might create the organisations through which we might express our interests. *Peter Lloyd.*

The 50+ Tai Chi Group meets at Craven Vale Community Centre on Tuesday mornings at 10.00am and Thursday afternoons at 2pm.

Join us for gentle exercises which contribute to physical and emotional well being. Only £1 per session on a drop-in basis.

The Group also organises a variety of occasional social activities. For more information please contact Ghislaine on 07795 109 131

Could you be a Lay Assessor? Are you...

- Qualified / experienced in working with people, or over 55?
- Working part-time / flexible hours or retired?
- Looking for something interesting and worthwhile to do?

Lay Assessing is valuable and rewarding work. It involves talking to people in their own homes about their experience of receiving Home Care, in order to assess and – where necessary – improve the quality of home care across the City.

We are looking for volunteers to join our friendly team in providing this important service. Your results will contribute directly to the independent report that goes to the City Council. Give us a call and find out more - ring Jo Tulloch on 01273 229004 or email: jo.tulloch@pf.bh-impetus.org

People's Day - 18th June - Jubilee Square / New Road Area - 10am to 6pm - plenty of older people's activities - and Pensioner Action will be having a stall - come and see us!

Pensioners' Association Meeting Diary Dates

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday Morning in each month at 10:30 for 11:00, and all at Patching Lodge, Eastern Road. Do come, if you've never been, the atmosphere is friendly, the talks are always interesting, and the discussions afterwards lively. NB: 1. Please try to arrive by 10:55, in case there is no one to let you in after that; 2. Call for more information or for directions to Patching Lodge. Isla Robertson: 01273 721655

- June 14th – Rachel Collins - Age Concern
- July 12th – Connie French – a life story
- August 9th – TBC (hopefully RSPB speaker)

Breathing and Singing for older people with breathing difficulties and other chronic conditions.

No singing ability required, all are welcome! Mondays: 1.45 to 3.15 at Patching Lodge, Eastern Rd, Brighton (near Bingo Hall). Fridays: 11.30 to 1pm at Elizabeth Court, 65 Wilbury Rd, Hove, £3.
Info: Udita Everett
Tel: 01273 556755



Volunteers required!

Pensioner Action is looking to recruit able volunteers with the best interests of local older people at heart. In particular we would like to get those on board who would be prepared to help us to co-ordinate action on issues we receive. This could be anything from a few minutes to a few hours a week - and could involve letter writing, phonecalls, building up relationships with service providers, co-ordinating their responses and ensuring issues are followed up. A knowledge of any of the following would be useful (but not essential): local health services, transport, adult social care, sheltered housing, older peoples issues, working with the City Council or campaigning. You will need basic computer skills (such as using email and navigating the internet).

For more information, or to get involved, contact Lila on 01273 229004 or email lila.hunnisett@pf.bh-impetus.org (or come and see us on People's Day - see p2). We can work together to help give local older people a voice.

Help with Fuel Bills

Craig Golding is the Fuel Poverty Worker at the Brighton and Hove Citizens Advice Bureau. He makes applications to the EDF Energy Trust on behalf of clients who are EDF Energy customers having trouble meeting fuel bills, or for those in need of other items such as cookers, washing machines and fridge/freezers. The EDF Energy Trust is independent of EDF Energy. You can contact Craig as follows: Craig Golding, Fuel Poverty Worker, Brighton & Hove Citizens Advice Bureau, 1 Tisbury Road, Hove BN3 4AH, tel: 01273 733390, extension 30 - or email: craig.golding@brightonhovecab.org.uk. Although Craig's priority group are EDF customers, he may be able to help those having difficulties with other fuel providers.

Fabrica: Growing an Older Audience

Modern art should be enjoyed by all ages - Clare Hankinson invites us to visit Fabrica Gallery in Brighton.

Based in a former Regency church in Brighton, Fabrica gallery has been exhibiting since 1996 and we have always welcomed a diverse and vibrant audience through our doors.

Fabrica has been busy meeting members of the community and finding out what older people feel about contemporary art. We've found that lots of people don't feel that contemporary art is for them, and that it can be seen as exclusive or elitist.

Fabrica aims to change that. Visitors find that Fabrica is a space where people feel comfortable and at ease – entry is free and we invite everyone to come and enjoy the work and its surroundings. You can have a chat with one of our lovely volunteers about the exhibitions or just have some time to yourself.

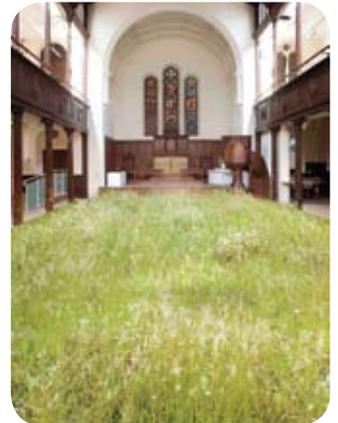
Alongside our exhibitions, we've devised a varied programme of daytime events. The activities use certain themes in the work in an interesting and enlightening way, and vary from drop-in workshops to artist talks. All are free or low-cost. You don't have to know lots about art to get involved – it can be a good way of meeting new people, having a chat or just trying something new.

From 9 July – 29 August we have a playful installation by artist Stéphane Cauchy, who uses simple mechanical devices, occasionally in the form of improbable laboratory experiments.

If you are interested in bringing a group to the gallery for a visit, a workshop, or a Very Private View, or would like to know more about our daytime events please contact us at clare.hankinson@fabrica.org.uk or call 01273 778646. Visit us at 40 Duke Street, Brighton, or online at www.fabrica.org.uk

Join in - Stories from the City, Stories from the Sea', Fabrica, 1-5pm, 23rd June 2011

An exciting FREE event at Fabrica gallery aimed at celebrating the everyday experience of older people through stories. Activities aimed at older people and groups, around tales including stories of buttons, tall tales, yarns, and singing for your supper. Participate in talks, films, workshops, afternoon tea with a difference. Visitors can relax, meet and encounter visual art in a positive, creative way. Events include Ragroof Theatre showing their Button Museum interactive performance, Singing for your supper – an afternoon tea with a difference, creative making activities with artists, talks, and tales. Although this event is targeted towards older people, all are welcome! To book a free place, contact Nicola Bengel: strikealight@rocketmail.com or call 07727 006538.



Modernist Sussex **Dip into local architecture with art historian Gavin R Byman.**

If you are interested in exploring the architecture of the Modernist Movement, Sussex is a perfect place to find it. Buildings by leading Modernist architects including Wells Coates, Sir Basil Spence and Berthold Lubetkin can all be found within the county.

On the sea front just at the border of Brighton and Hove stands Embassy Court (1934-5), a residential block of flats by Wells Coates (who also designed Lawn Road Flats, London). At Falmer you can find the University of Sussex (1961-72) by Sir Basil Spence (Coventry Cathedral) In addition to these examples, a visit to Hayward's Heath would provide the chance to view the Sunnywood Drive Houses (1934-6) by Berthold Lubetkin (London Zoo's Penguin Pool and Gorilla House)

Key themes in Modernist architecture included the promotion of natural light and maximised use of space; these contributed to the idea of healthy modern living and extended to working and studying environments. Berthold Lubetkin in particular believed in an idea that architects had a social responsibility and that through their building designs, they should endeavour to provide the occupant with a good quality of life. *Gavin R. Byman.*



Embassy Court in Brighton. Photo by Jelm6 (Flickr). Published under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License.

Brighton & Hove HomeSafe



Hyde In Touch
Making a lasting difference

If you are over 60 or disabled, we can make a free home visit to discuss how to help you live as independently as possible in your own home. This can include things like advice around your health, your safety and well-being at home. We can then link you in with other services that can help you.

What we can do

Some of the things we can help you with include:

- Keeping your home safe
- Finding out about clubs & events in your area
- Benefits information
- Linking in with our HomeSafe Handyperson service to get small jobs done around your home

Contact

For more information or an informal chat about this or any of our other services:

Freephone: 0800 313 4457

Email: homesafe@intouchsupport.co.uk

The African Princess in Brighton

Miss Sarah Forbes Bonetta, a West African of royal blood, was orphaned in a brutal massacre in her home country at the age of eight.

She was captured and later given to Queen Victoria as a gift, who impressed by the girl's natural regal manner and exceptional intelligence, was pleased to give her sanction to be married in St, Nicholas Church Brighton in August 1862.

The wedding party, which arrived from West Hill Lodge Brighton in ten carriages and pairs of grays, was made up of White ladies with African gentlemen, and African ladies with White gentlemen. There were sixteen bridesmaids. In his journal, Captain Frederick Forbes RN. gave an account of his mission with relation to Miss Bonetta:

"I have only to add a few particulars about my extraordinary present 'the African Child' - one of the captives of this dreadful slave-hunt was this interesting girl. It is usual to reserve the best born for the high behest of royalty . For one of these ends she has been detained at court for two years, proving, by her not having been sold to slave dealers, that she was of good family. She is a perfect genius; she now speaks English well, and has a great talent for music. She has won the affections, but with few exceptions, of all who have known her. She is far in advance of any white child of her age, in aptness of learning, and strength of mind and affection".

Sadly Sarah died from TB in 1880 aged 37. Her daughter, Victoria, was named after the Queen and also became her godchild. When little Victoria passed her music exam; Queen Victoria granted teachers and children a school holiday.

One of Brighton & Hove Bus is named after Sarah Forbes Bonetta.

Bert Williams, Mosaic, Brighton - <http://www.mosaicequalities.org.uk/>



EASYLINK – the easy way to get to the shops

Do you find it difficult to get to the shops? Or do you know someone who could do with some help to get there? Community Transport's EASYLINK shopping bus service might just be the answer.

EASYLINK is a door-to-door minibus service that picks shoppers up from right outside their homes, takes them to a local supermarket or city centre shopping street and then returns them home when they have finished their shopping. The service runs on Mondays to Fridays and can be pre-booked by a simple telephone call to the Community Transport office in Brighton (01273 677559).

The service is specially designed to meet the needs of older people and people with mobility difficulties. All the buses are wheelchair accessible. The drivers are willing to help passengers to their seats and make sure they are comfortable before driving off, and carry their shopping to the front door.

EASYLINK buses run in all parts of Brighton and Hove, from Saltdean to Portslade and from Patcham to the Seaford. Shopping centres served include the Holmbush Centre in Shoreham, Sainsbury's and the Co-op in Hove, ASDA at Hollingbury and the shops at Churchill Square, London Road and Brighton Marina.

Community Transport also run day trips to more distant places, such as Eastbourne, Horsham and Tunbridge Wells, and Lunch Club to eateries in Sussex. Details of all the journeys that run are to be found in a leaflet that is available from Community Transport, on 01273 677559 or on the Community Transport website, www.bhct.co.uk

The fares are very reasonable too – £3.50 return for most local journeys and a little more for the out of town trips. Much cheaper than a taxi and good value for the personal help that some passengers need. Brighton and Hove City Council have been supporting the service for many years.

Why not join the happy band of regular EASYLINK shoppers? Or if you don't need the service yourself, suggest it to someone you know.

'TIGRIS ONE' - her life and death

Last summer was beautiful, but it was also made very poignant by media emphasis on the gallantry of the 'first of the few' in the Battle of Britain and the little ship rescue operation at Dunkirk, all seventy years before.

In one particular, Dunkirk was more extraordinary as it involved civilians sailing little boats to save our stranded soldiers. Normally, civilians are what used to be called 'cannon-fodder', but nowadays are more likely to fall victim to bombing, as so many do in Iraq and Afghanistan. The civilians in their boats were not 'victims' - they were actively attempting to save lives and, fortunately, usually succeeding.

At nearly 80 feet long, one of the larger boats was 'Tigris One'. Unlike most of the rescue boats, she had originally been built for the Navy and commissioned in 1915 as 'His Majesty's Motor Launch No.7'. After service in WW1, she was decommissioned and sold in 1919 to be re-fitted and converted into a Thames Pleasure Launch under the name of Tigris One. She was classified by the Board of Trade to carry 137 passengers - though later 175 - in 'smooth waters' between Richmond and Hampton Court for the 1938/39 season, then fitted with a new engine in the winter of '39/40.

The order to commence Operation Dynamo, as the rescue attempt was termed, was given at 19.00 on Sunday, 26th May, 1940. Three licensed Lightermen, Harry Hastings (Coxswain), Bill Clark (Mate) and Warren Hastings (Engineer) took Tigris One from Kingston, arriving at Sheerness on Wednesday, 29th May. Harry and Warren were licensed Watermen (and hence Freeman of the Port of London), but this would be the only time that Bill would work on a passenger boat, and none of them were experienced seamen. They went on to Ramsgate, then under the guidance of a pilot and destroyer escort, Tigris One arrived in fair weather at Dunkirk on Thursday, 30th May. Because of her shallow draught, she was able to get to the beach, pick up survivors and take them back to the destroyer waiting 1½ miles out to sea, all the time being attacked by German aircraft. On her fourth run, a bomb fell close by, causing such damage that she had to be abandoned by the evening of Friday 31st May. In that short time, however, she has been credited with saving 900 men from the beaches.



Despite her abandonment, Tigris One was not left in Dunkirk. Some desperate French sailors managed to get her part of the way across the Channel, where she was then picked up by a larger vessel and towed back to England. Brief repairs made and a season or two as a river launch again, then she was towed up the Grand Union Canal to become a houseboat.

Eleven years later, Tigris was my home. Her basic accommodation - including a 'Stateroom' with a black iron kitchen range – shared with my husband, two children, a puppy and kitten. For a year, we had a happy, if primitive, life on her until one hot summer night, she slowly sank, despite our efforts on the hand pump. Though the water was not deep it flooded our accommodation but we were able to continue to use the upper deck, and her gang-plank for another year while we lived beside her in a tiny pontoon.

When we left the water for dry-land living, most of Tigris One was still to be seen. Whatever happened to her after that is unknown to us. But we remember her with love as our first home after returning here from Kenya, and with pride at the role she had played in the 'Miracle of Dunkirk'. *Connie Fraser. With thanks to Steve Hastings for his research.*

Helping you
do more online

Council Connect

Now you can
get help
to access
your council
services online

Our **Council Connect**
team will be available
to help you get
online, using the **free**
computers in our
community libraries.

We can also help you to do other things online
such as shopping, applying for jobs, or contacting
family and friends through email or Facebook.

Portslade Library
every Tuesday 2-5pm

01273 296914

Hangleton Library
every Wednesday 10am-1pm

01273 296904

Patcham Library
every Friday 10am-1pm

01273 296912

Moulsecoomb Library
every Friday 2-5pm

01273 296910

Westdene Library
every Saturday 10am-1pm

01273 296922

Whitehawk Library
every Saturday 10am-1pm

01273 296924

Saltdean Library
every Saturday 2-4pm

01273 296920

www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/councilconnect

Are you confident using computers and the internet and
interested in becoming a Council Connect volunteer?

Contact **library.volunteering@brighton-hove.gov.uk**
to register your interest.



Brighton & Hove
City Council