

ENFIELD BOROUGH OVER 50s FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR

APRIL 2002 - APRIL 2003

Chairman:	Monty Meth
Secretary:	Tony Watts
Vice-Chair:	Audrey Hardwick
Treasurer:	John Hennell
Committee:	Doreen Hogg
	Chris Mitchell
	Joe Dawson
	Demos Demetriou
	Peter Shukla

Presented to the AGM on Tuesday 29 April 2003
2002-2003 Annual Report

A YEAR OF STEADY PROGRESS

The past year was at times a very difficult yet positive one for the Enfield Borough Over 50s Forum. We begin the year in April 2003 with some 130 individual members and 17 affiliated organisations representing groups of older people in the Borough.

This is a big advance on the situation in July 2002 when without any warning we lost the secretarial services of Jon Pushkin, seconded to us from Age Concern, which left a big gap in our relations with that organisation. But out of adversity sometimes comes advantages and into the breach as Secretary stepped Tony Watts who everyone agrees has done a fantastic job in giving the Forum a level of professionalism and organisation that will enable us to be even more effective in the years to come.

Thanks to Penny Butler, the assistant director of social services and our link officer with the Council, the Council also stepped into the gap left by Age Concern by giving us the services of Chrysanthi

Kouzoupis for six hours a week and she has been a tower of strength in the administrative work, getting material out to members and in getting the information together to launch appeals for funds.

We subsequently met the chief executive and other officers from Age Concern and agreed a new working relationship as a result of which Shirley Scott will represent Age Concern at the Forum and will - if elected - be joining our committee - which should help us discuss matters of common concern.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED

Our Forum provides a platform where matters of concern to older people can be raised; and tries to help older people become better informed of their rights and opportunities to secure a better quality of life.

So measured against that aim, how have we performed in representing the views and interests of older people in Enfield?

1. We now have a direct link officer into the Council through Penny Butler, the assistant director of social services.
2. For the first time we now have a direct link into the Enfield Primary Care Trust which has appointed Gail Hawksworth as their link officer with the Forum and we are now represented on their Older People's Local Implementation Group, which together should enable us to be more effective in representing the views of older people to the body responsible for spending 75% of the NHS budget for the Borough.
3. Our representations to the PCT succeeded in persuading them to put up the money in the current financial year for the provision of the most modern digital hearing aids which we hope will be available in the coming 12 months.
4. We also made continual representations to the PCT about the removal of 1000 chiropody patients by the previous health authority because the NHS could not cope with the long waiting list. They removed people who were said not to be at risk from more

serious complaints, such as diabetes. This has led to the PCT launching a random audit of 200 patients to find out what has happened to them.

We met Pinky Millward, the head of the clinical chiropody services unit and Dr Ketan Gondhia, her deputy. to express our concern at the hardship being experienced by people on income support having to pay £15 -£19 to have their toenails cut; of people so riddled with arthritis and waiting for new kneecaps who still cannot get their toenails seen to under the NHS. We expressed the view that personal hardship should be taken into account as well as clinical need in deciding who should qualify for NHS treatment.

5. We have tried to get something moving on improving the number and availability of public toilets in the Borough - and this campaign is on-going through the appropriate Council Scrutiny Panel .
6. We have questioned the ending of the free swimming sessions for pensioners with Councillor Michael Rye, the Council leader, and we have met the Leisure Centres Trust to try and reduce the impact on older people of the cut in the Council's grant to them.
7. We have joined forces with Age Concern in seeking improvements in a new Fair Charging scheme for homecare and other non-residential social services which on the one hand will see either free or reduced charges for 86% of people getting help, but leaves the other 14% of people paying a lot more under a means test scheme assessed by their ability to pay.

The Council is proposing to charge the 14% some £10 a week more until December 2003 and then the full amount from January 2004. We think the scheme should be phased in over a much longer period and we are worried, among many other things, that under the Council's "break even" policy people will be asked to pay more than the service they are getting actually costs. Some people who need help may then drop out from receiving assistance and be worse off physically and mentally as a result with a consequent greater call on social services and the NHS.

8. We also joined the protest against the closure of the Edmonton CAB - now postponed in a very unsatisfactory way. We cannot understand how the CAB board of management agreed to a closure before a satisfactory alternative was up and running so that there would be no disturbance in the service they give the people of Edmonton.

Without being complacent we think that the Forum has succeeded in raising the profile of the over 50s in Enfield and has had limited success in discussing issues with local policy-makers.

With over 80,000 people aged over 50 in the Borough, we clearly still have a lot more to do if we are going to influence both local and national decision-makers. The Forum believes that older people represent a resource and a force that, working in partnership with others, can help make the Borough of Enfield a place to be proud of.

Monthly Forum Meetings

Our monthly Forum meetings have offered a variety of organisations and services a unique opportunity to communicate their policies to a wide cross-section of older people. The meetings have acted as a critical, debating and questioning Forum which has helped many of our speakers in the formulation of their policies.

And in turn, they have helped us to inform other older people in the Borough of the opportunities and issues they should be aware of. For example, we have had a regular flow of speakers from the Primary Care Trust since its inception explaining the national service framework for older people, the single assessment process and the need to follow a healthy lifestyle. We have had two visits from the Borough police commander and police officers explaining the overall strategy and their work to reduce distraction burglary.

We have had speakers from the fire and the new pensions service; from the Council's library, leisure and road safety services.

We had the deputy mayor of London open a discussion on the new London Plan and a speaker from RNID to launch our campaign for digital hearing aids to be made freely available under the NHS. We have held a public meeting with Rodney Bickerstaffe, president of the National Pensioners Convention; held a pre-General Election hustings for all the main parties followed by a question and answer session with two of the Borough's three MPs.

Our work has included:

- seeking out eligible pensioners who do not claim the minimum income guarantee entitlement
- urging the leisure centres trust to have more schemes encouraging the over 50s to exercise for better health

- opposing the London Mayor's proposed six-year £20 annual council tax surcharge to help pay for the 2012 Olympic Games;
- proposing the Council should run a conference for local employers on ending age discrimination in employment which will be held on June 13 2003;
- opposing the closure of Grange Park post office and
- supporting the National Pensioners Convention campaign for nationwide free bus travel.

Looking to the Future

Our plans include holding a teach-in/seminar on the new Pension Credit scheme being introduced in October 2003 with a view to getting more people to claim. The Pensions Credit will replace the Minimum Income Guarantee which guarantees £102.10 for a single pensioner and £155.80 for couples and under the Pension Credit everyone will be entitled to more money if their income is below £139 for single pensioners and £203 a week for couples.

We are also working on ideas for a healthy living, eating and activity day at the Southbury Leisure Centre for Tuesday September 2nd.

In the future the Forum needs to become more professional if it is to make a real impact on the lives of the Over 50s in Enfield. This could be achieved by:

Having the services of a part-time paid development officer charged with: Increasing our membership, possibly leading to mini-forums in Edmonton, Ponders End etc to tackle local issues; Publishing a regular newsletter (six times a year) which we will be able to do this year thanks to the Scarman Trust; Obtaining charitable status; Working much closer with the Council which at present has no procedure for

involving the Forum in getting feedback from older people. Fundraising and approaching more funding agencies and grant awarding bodies.

The key and crucial next step for the Forum is to pursue vigorously the securing of the necessary funding from whatever sources are available for the engagement of a part-time, self-employed worker who will work with the Committee in taking the Forum to the next stage in its development.

We appreciate that the Council lets us meet at the Civic Centre without charge but councillors and the Council's officers sometimes lack the vision and enterprise to harness the talents, experience and enthusiasm of older people in broadening their service to the community.

Could, for example, more be done to encourage fit and healthy older people to visit regularly those pensioners less able to get about, for a chat and a check-up? Could more be done to expand mentoring services in the Borough where older people can pass on their lifetime experience to younger people, in the hope of encouraging them to become better citizens?

As a community we have yet to adapt to the new world where instead of one in seven people in this country being aged over 50 - as it was at the start of the 20th century, it is now one in three - and by 2021 some 40% of the population will be over 50 - two people out of every five will be over

50. That fact alone - two people out of every five will be aged over 50 in less than 20 years - should make our planners, the politicians locally and nationally, the economists and everyone else think hard, think big and think bold about the future role of older people in the community if we are to make Enfield one of the best places to live, work, study and do business - which is the aim of Enfield's Strategic Partnership. Some parts of the country have recognised these demographic changes and are doing something to meet the new challenges. Leeds City Council, for example, gives a grant of £44,000 to the City's Older People's Forum which has a paid manager. Councils and health authorities in Wiltshire and Swindon gave £80,000 to develop a full-scale partnership programme with older people.

So we have a lot more to do to get wider acceptance of our value to the community.

To fulfil our aims we need more members - and more members coming forward to take on responsibility for single issue campaigns.

And so we will invite all those who want to stay mentally alert and keep their body in trim, who want to be part of a team that uses their energy, experience and talent to make life better for older people to join the Forum and help to make it

THE VOICE OF OLDER PEOPLE IN
ENFIELD.

Affiliated Organisations 2003

Age Concern Enfield

Arnos Grove Townswomen's Guild

BEVAD

Cypriot Elderly & Disabled Group Enfield

Cypriot Elderly Luncheon Club

Enfield Cypriot Association

Enfield Pensioners Action Group

Enfield Unison Retired

First Tuesdays Ladies Group

Home and Fellowship Club

Housing 21

Little Park Luncheon Club

Macular Disease Society, Enfield Group

Meet a Need with Christian Care

Over 50 Bangladeshi Society

Polish Community in Enfield

St Johns Art Group

St Thomas (Oakwood) Golden Link Club

Tamil Relief Centre

The Drop in Centre

The Royal Air Forces Association (Enfield)

Winchmore Hill Community Care

Winstonian Art Club

Members 2003

Anderson Mrs Maisie	Harrison Mr A J	Polley Mrs Rosa
Anderson Mr Stanley	Hawkins Mr Bernard	Prince Mr Lou
Avery Mr H	Hennell Mr John	Prodgers Mrs Doris
Avery Mrs Violet	Hester Mrs Faith	Pullen Ms Joyce
Belsey Mr Frank	Hobbs Mr Roland	Raphael Mr Alfred
Blackburn Mrs G M	Hobbs Mrs Rosemary	Raphael Mrs Marie
Blinko Mr A	Hogg Mrs Doreen	Raymen Ms Olive
Blinko Mrs L	Holt Mrs Peggy	Riches Muriel
Boon Ms Sally	Hossain Mr Ashraf	Saban Mrs Joan
Brassington Mrs Rita	Jones Mrs Madge	Salloway Mrs R E
Brawn - Meek Mr H	Kapadia Ms Urmila	Schindelholz Jane
Brewster Mrs June	Keen Mrs Betty	Scott Ms Shirley
Calvert Mrs Jean	Keen Mr K J	Searle Mrs Audrey
Charles Mr Amos	Keith Mr David	Searle Mr Derek
Charles Mrs Angela	Kirby Mr Nick	Sharpe Mrs Mrs M
Coldham Mrs Babs	Kissooh Mrs M	Sheffield Mrs W J
Constable Mrs P	Knight Mr John	Sherwood Mrs D E
Cowling Mr Douglas	Konyeaso Mr Vincent	Shukla Mr Peter D
Crawley Mr F W	Kouzoupis Mrs	Skeels Miss Gwen
Cristou Mr Michael	Chrysanthi	Sleath Mrs Doreen
Cummings Ms Val	LeBow Mrs Zena	Sleath Mr Ken
Davies Mrs Christina	Linard Mr John	Smedley Ms Olive
Davis Mrs Audrey	Linard Mrs Joyce	Smith Mr Don
Davis Mr Ian	Lucas Mr J T	Smythe Mr Eric
Dawson Mr Joe	Lyon Mr3 Ann	Smythe Mr Rita
Demetriou Mr Demos	Lyon Mr John	Snell Mr David
Eddington Mrs Enid	Manley Mr Derek G	Solley Mrs Coral
Eddington Mr Roger	Mann Mrs L J	Stanbridge Ms Molly
Edwards Mrs Isadora	Marchant Mrs Ann	Stern Mr A J
Farrah Mrs Gladys	Martin Mrs Doris	Stern Mrs A J
Fay Ms Janet	Mason Mrs Mrs B	Stone Ms Mary
Fox Mrs Anita	Mason Mr Tony	Sutherland Mr E G
Fox Mr Charles	McCarthy Mrs Ernette	Sutherland Mrs H E
Francis Mrs Valerie	McCarthy Mr A P	Sutton Mrs Molly
Freston Mr F	McCarthy Mrs A M	Thangarajah Mr S
Friggens Mr Derek	Meth Mr Monty	Thear Mrs Elizabeth
Friggens Ms Helen	Metz Mrs Brigitte	Thear Mr William
Frost Mrs Irene	Mitchell Mrs Chris	Tregudda Mrs
Gamble Mr Keith	Morris Mr Aubrey	Morwen
Gardner Mrs Ruth	Morris Mrs Lily	Tripp Mrs Carol
Gibbs Miss Pat	Myers Mrs Lilian	Watson Mrs Olive
Gisby Mr Leonard	Pais Mrs Irene A	Watts Mrs Angela
Glover Mr Ron	Pais Mr Sylvester	Watts Mr Tony
Goldney Mr William	Michael	Webb Ms Gertrude
Grey Mrs Dorothy	Palmas Mr Adam	Webb Mr Peter
Hanley Mr F	Pandya Mrs Prabha	Wheeler Mrs Muriel
Hardwick Mrs Audrey	Patel Ramanbhai	
Harris Mrs Audrey	Pateman Mrs M J	
Harris Mr Eddie	Pelc Mrs Zofia	

Enfield Borough Over 50s Forum

Revenue Account 1st April 2002 to 31st March 2003

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	Notes	£		Notes	£
Subs	1	461.00	Affiliations	4	34.00
Raffles		198.70	Printing	5	604.49
Interest		0.88	Distribution & Copying		204.00
Grants	2	1,100.00	Stationery		30.04
Sainsburys	3	177.27	Refreshments	3	203.83
Misc		10.65	Xmas Social		403.15
			Misc		9.99
Income/Expenditure			Excess of Income over Expenditure		459.00
Totals		1,948.50			1,948.50

Balance Sheet Year Ending March 2003

Balance April 1st 2002	1,259.62
Excess Income over Expenditure	459.00

Balance as at March 31 2003	£ 1,718.62
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Represented by: Balance at Bank March 31 2003	£ 1,718.62
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Notes

1 Subscription income includes Individual, Joint and Club membership and £38 in extra donations from members. The subscriptions include £61 was for year to March 31 2003 and the remainder (£362) for the year ending 31 March 2004.

2 Grants include: £900 from the Scarman Trust for Newsletter production & distribution. £200 from Age Concern.

3 Sainsbury has kindly been meeting most of the cost of providing refreshments for our monthly meetings.

4 Affiliations include the NPC, the London Section of the NPC, The British Toilet Association

5 Printing include reproduction costs from Age Concern Enfield; those incurred since publication of the new style newsletter; and leaflet printing.

John Hennell (Treasurer) 10-Apr-03

I have examined the accounting records of Enfield Borough Over 50s Forum and find them to be a true and fair view of the clubs affairs.

R C Ashley, 18 Culloden Road Enfield.