

Information & Advice



Congratulations are in order to all members of the Information and Advice Team who in the year 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008 managed to raise over £800,000 in Benefits and Grants for their clients.

We are sure you will all wish to send your congratulations to each and everyone of them for achieving such a remarkable amount, which will help improve the quality of life for older people in Westminster who used the service over the past twelve months.

Professional self-regulation

New fundraising rules operate from April 2008. Professional fundraisers must:

- Inform donors if they receive payment for their work
- Make clear their relation to the charity concerned
- In certain instances, state the amount they are paid when partaking in fundraising activities.

Charities that need to use professional fundraisers are distinguished from charities which do not. Charities using volunteers are excused from such standards.

FEEDBACK

We welcome your feedback. If you have any issues you would like to see raised in *Platinum Age* please do not hesitate to contact us at the address below:

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Email: enquiries@acwestminster.org.uk

Opening Doors

Opening Doors is a partnership project involving Age Concerns, Westminster, Hackney, Camden, Islington and Kensington & Chelsea to specifically meet the needs of older Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender people.

The aims of the project are to reduce isolation, improve social well-being and mental health, provide increased support to promote the independence of older people from the LGBT community and to heighten awareness of the needs of older LGBT community members to other statutory & voluntary agencies.

What kind of services will we provide?

Befriending, monthly group events, exercise classes, computer classes, Information and Advice sessions with guest speakers, volunteering opportunities, and training and awareness sessions to statutory and voluntary agencies.

People, who are over the age of 50, identify as being Gay Lesbian or Bisexual and work, live or socialise in Camden, Hackney, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster can be referred to the project co-ordinators Debbie Neil and Nick Maxwell who are both based at Age Concern Camden. Contact details shown below.

Opening Doors

contact details

Nick Maxwell

Men's LGBT Development Co-ordinator

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Debbie Neil

Women's LGBT Dev't Co-ordinator

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Age Concern Westminster loses Day Care Contract

Age Concern Westminster is disappointed at the decision of Westminster City Council not to award them the contract to continue to provide Day Care Services at Pullen, Sherborne and Elgin.

We have been operating day care services for many years and have operated day services from the Sherborne Centre since 1961. The loss of this contract, which represents over 50% of the income of the charity, will have a significant effect on the provision of other services by the charity.

Age Concern Westminster will now embark on a period of restructuring and retrenchment, which we recognise will have an impact on staff and local older people but will enable the charity to continue delivering services to older people in the future. Staff are to be consulted on the changes over a six-week period during July and August with the majority of changes taking affect from 1st October 2008.

Chief Executive, Martin Davies, said, "This is sad news for us, and we have a tough period ahead adjusting the charity to the new situation. We are optimistic about the future and are actively seeking new ways of meeting the needs of older Westminster residents."



Volunteering after 1st October 2008

Age Concern Westminster prides itself on having an excellent volunteer community who last year contributed over 37,000 hours to the charity. The loss of the Day Care Contract will increase the need for quality, experienced volunteers. We will keep you informed of any changes to the organisation throughout the process and hope that you will continue to support and drive the organisation on to new heights. We value your significant contribution and hope to work with you for a long time to come. Alex will be arranging meetings with all affected volunteers. However, if you have any questions regarding your own volunteer role please do not hesitate to contact Rita Lilala or Alex Dalton on 020 7724 9347 or adalton@acwestminster.org.uk.

The champions of a new golden age

Article from the *Times*, by Michael Binyon

There is something inspiring about vigour in old age. We have all come across them; men and women who are well into their seventies or eighties but retain the zeal and enthusiasm of 20-year-olds. Some are still at the helm of their companies, some are producing new books, plays, paintings or music, and some have won fame and honour in new careers begun only after retirement.



Take Trevor Baylis, the inventor who, later in life, famously invented the wind up radio and has transformed the fortunes of millions in Africa. A 72-year-old who began as a stuntman. His idea for a radio came after he heard a programme about the spread of Aids in Africa and how the disease could be halted by access to education on the radio.

Others have continued to be active into late old age in causes that have won them widespread admiration. Nelson Mandela at 90, the Queen at 82 and Prince Phillip all continue to work hard and have demonstrated a readiness to shoulder a workload that has won acclaim.

Sir Sigmund Sternberg, the founder of the Three Faiths Forum still goes to his office daily and visits conferences at the age of 87. He has now proposed an annual award, to be given to the older person who, in the opinion of the public, has done most for society and for good causes in old age. The public are invited to nominate those over the age of 70 who, they believe, most magnificently are ready to defy age to assert the ever youthful and questing spirit of humanity. **Please send your nomination to the *Times* by 1st September, 2008 Full details found at www.thetimes.co.uk/commentcentral, online nominations at www.timesonline.co.uk/activelifeaward.**

Music and Art at the Elgin Centre

Elgin Centre had a Chinese Arts music day in which clients participated in playing a wide range of instruments from Chinese musical orchestras. This was then followed by the musician playing several pieces of Chinese music that service users enjoyed. They returned in June to complete a two day work shop and concert.



In other news from the Elgin Centre; On 30th May Elgin will be hosting our 2nd Fun Day which will include salsa dancing performed by our own City Guardian Rosanna, a short musical concert by the staff at the Elgin Centre, afternoon entertainment by Harry Jackson and lots more music, raffles, food and drink.

The City Guardians of Westminster have awarded Christophine Isaacs with a special award for her painting based on how she would like to see the environment. Christophine has been a member of the Elgin Centre for four years.

European Good Neighbours Day @ The Leonora Club

Eighty two people attended a BBQ organised at the Leonora Club on 27th May to celebrate Good Neighbours Day. Clients of the club and tenants of Ada Court, where the Leonora Club is based, were able to mingle and get to know each other over some food and drink. Some of the Ada Court residents have now started attending the club, which offers a lunch club, exercise, dance, arts and computer classes, as a result of the event. Reaching U Co-ordinator Michelle Stamou (who works from the club) said, "The day was really good, it has increased the attendance at the club."

Home Office announcement

The Home Office recently announced that, from 12th October 2009, individuals will need to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) if they are to work with children and/or vulnerable adults.

The cost for an individual to apply for ISA registration will be a one-off, lifetime fee of £64.00.

For the latest information coming from the ISA and its new service please visit ISA's website www.isa.gov.org where you can register to receive regular updates.

National Bus Pass introduced



Older Londoners can now travel free on buses throughout England. The English Bus Scheme, introduced on 1st April, allows older Freedom Pass holders to travel free on local bus services between 9.30 am and 11 pm Monday to

Friday and all day at weekends and on public holidays. (London Freedom Pass holders can still use their passes in London after 9 am.) The scheme includes some longer distance buses and coach services where part of their route is registered as a local bus service. If in doubt, check with the service operator or local transport authority.

You don't need a separate pass; you just use your current pass (which should have an expiry date of 31st March 2010, a rose logo and a bus hologram). In 2010 these will be replaced by a national style pass (currently issued outside London).

For further information see www.freedompass.org

ACW contributes to the £100,000,000



Age Concern's More Money in Your Pocket launched in June, on the back of the news that Age Concern's ambitious target of raising £100 million extra in benefits for older people had been exceeded. Susan Mustafa, who featured in *Network* relayed the story of a 72-year old who she helped obtain £400 in Attendance Allowance back payments on top of £168 per week in Council Tax and Housing Benefit.

Time of our lives at the Sherborne Centre

On Thursday 27th June the Time of Our Lives Music Theatre came to the Sherborne Centre to entertain the service users. They presented a reminiscence musical comedy show celebrating British life and culture from Wartime to the 1997 Election. They performed a variety of show songs, pop songs, dance, stand-up and sketch comedy with four professional actors/singers/dancers. They really encouraged the audience to join in, and there was a lot of cheering and clapping. Feedback from everyone attending was very positive, and they said they would really like to have them perform again in the future.

£2, 346.92 raised by runners

Ten fun runners ran on behalf of Age Concern Westminster in the British Open 10K race on Sunday 6th July 2008. A big thank you to Tristan O'Garro, Marilene Marinho, Erica Marinho, Angelica Da Silva, Robert Herbert, James Adamson, Richard Gregory, Walter Scott, Edward Stockbridge and our very own Alex Dalton for all their efforts.