



# EASTLEIGH SOUTHERN PARISHES OLDER PEOPLE'S FORUM

NEWSLETTER 54  
MAY 2010

## HOW THE POLITICAL PARTIES' MANIFESTOS SHAPE UP

**AGE UK** have passed their verdict on how the three main parties' manifestos tackle the key issues affecting older people:

### Conservatives – 5/18

The Tories' manifesto was said to be 'silent' on challenges of an ageing society. Michelle Mitchell, Age UK Charity Director, said: "Older people will be surprised to find the Conservatives have remained silent about the specific issues concerning older voters and shied away from tackling the challenges of an ageing society. There's much in their manifesto to encourage fit, active and engaged older people to contribute to society, but little new support for those who need help and protection.

"Voluntary insurance to pay for care at home, the possibility of abolishing the Default Retirement Age and the protection of existing age-related entitlements are modest steps forward. The Tories' manifesto fails to address the big challenges facing our ageing society on care, health, poverty and warm homes.

"The Conservatives today scored 5 out of 18 for progress against the key priorities outlined in Age UK's election manifesto."

### Liberal Democrats – 6/18

In response to the Liberal Democrats' Manifesto published today, Michelle Mitchell felt that "the Liberal Democrats have got to grips with many of the problems people in later life experience with innovative and thoughtful policies".

"But," she goes on to say, "this positive work is undermined by the party's failure to provide any concrete proposals on how they will tackle social care – the biggest social policy issue for the next

parliament. "Creating an Independent Commission without a clear statement on policy direction will do little more than delay facing up to the challenge of fixing the crumbling care system. The only firm proposal on the table is to scrap the Personal Care at Home Bill, but it's not clear what will replace it. This is a missed opportunity when older voters say social care is one of their top concerns.

"The Liberal Democrats today scored 6 out of 18 for progress against the key priorities outlined in Age UK's election manifesto."

### Labour – 8/18

The Labour Party's manifesto did rather better. Michelle Mitchell said: "Four new announcements on employment, state pensions and health care, in addition to the recent commitment to a national care service, will bring considerable benefits for older people. Yet despite warm words about helping society adapt to the demographic shift, Labour still needs to do a lot more to turn the rhetoric into practical policies to improve later life.

"The party has missed a crucial opportunity to tell older voters how it will make progress on areas such as health, housing and age-friendly communities to enable older people to continue to play an active role in society. Alongside tackling social care, any future Government must also grasp the nettle on warm homes and pensioner poverty if they are serious about winning the grey vote.

"Labour today scored 8 out of 18 for progress against the key priorities outlined in Age UK's election manifesto." **'Mature Times'**

---

**HAMPSHIRE & I.O.W.COMMUNITY FUND  
SPONSORS ESPOPF'S INDEPENDENT  
NEWSLETTERS**

# ESPOPF COMMITTEE PAGE

## MEMBERS 2009/10

Chair: Patience Sambrook (Hedge End) 01489 782552

Vice Chair: Jackie Charles (Hamble) 02380 453296

Hon. Sec./Newsletter Editor: Diane Andrewes (Bursledon) 02380 403311 [diane.andrewes@virgin.net](mailto:diane.andrewes@virgin.net)

Hon. Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Betty Lawrence (Netley) 02380 453680

Web Master: David Andrewes (Bursledon) [david@espopf.org](mailto:david@espopf.org)

Consultation Officer: Judith Cam (Hound) [judithcam@hotmail.com](mailto:judithcam@hotmail.com)

John Taylor (Butlocks Heath) Susan Moody (Botley) Margaret Phippard Gloria Bowles (Hamble) Pat Rose (West

End) June Watson (Hedge End) Peggy Budd (Netley) Jean Norton (Bursledon)

---

## **MARCH OPEN MEETING**

A mixture of stimulating activity in the morning included the usual exercises and consultations with HISP, a research focus group for non-computer users, and a workshop on Elder Abuse, including financial abuse, led by HCC's Jane Lawson. The enjoyable meal was provided by Cafe Mojo from West End.

The afternoon Hustings with all the Eastleigh Parliamentary candidates attracted an audience of over 132 people. The candidates gave thoughtful answers to a range of interesting questions and everyone seemed well pleased with the event. The raffle raised £63.

The 100 Club March winners were:

£50 Jo Rood (90) West End

£25 Jean Norton (55) Bursledon

£25 Winifred Sedgwick (50) Hamble

---

## **COMMITTEE NEWS**

We are sorry to report that Shirley Driscoll, a founder member of ESPOPF, decided that she felt unable to continue committee membership. Recent unsuccessful attempts since to contact her resulted in the discovery of a police service that is available if it is impossible to reach an older person on the phone. Just dial 101 and ask for a Home Welfare Visit. The police quickly discovered that Shirley is in hospital, but provided no other information. Jean Purchase (West End) has also resigned and we thank her for her very enthusiastic contribution, this year, which was appreciated very much.

We are receiving many more invitations to attend and/or speak at conferences, many in London, and we should like to extend the opportunity to non-committee members to attend and represent us – travel expenses paid. Ideally, we should prefer members who are prepared to speak up for older people, given the opportunity. It is also useful to receive a written report which will inform our thinking. Please contact Diane if you are interested.

---

## **INFORMATION RESEARCH 2010**

We have sent the major part of our research, "In the Dark", to our designer and we are currently engaged in interviewing providers of information services. We intend to launch the research, at our July AGM. David Andrewes will present it at the British Society of Gerontology Annual Conference at Brunel University in July.

David and Diane enjoyed their first visit to Ireland at the invitation of the University of Ireland's Irish Centre for Social Gerontology in Galway to speak about our research. The Centre, which provides academic courses for older people, wants to teach older people to do research. They seemed very impressed by our achievements. We went for a week and spent 4 delightful days, prior to our talk, in Connemara. There were some ensuing difficulties in getting home, including a detour to Holyhead, our flight having been cancelled!

---

## **ESPOPF's AGE-FRIENDLY ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Diane was invited to speak about the Plan at a Local Government Conference in London, following a key-note speech by Lord McKenzie on *Lifetime Neighbourhoods*. She has also been invited to serve on a Government body to review *Lifetime Homes*. 'Lifetime Homes Lifetime Neighbourhoods' is the Government's Housing Strategy for Older People. Meanwhile, some of the authors of the Age-Friendly Action Plan are meeting with Diccon Bright, Co-ordinator for the Bursledon, Hamble and Hound Local Area Committee, to consider its implementation locally.

---

## **ESPOPF BRANCHES IN THE PARISHES?**

Members in West End and Netley are warmly invited to consider forming local ESPOPF groups with other members in their localities on:

**Tuesday June 8 Hilldene Centre 10 – 12**

**Tuesday June 1 R.B.Legion 1- 3pm**

---

**NEXT OPEN MEETING:**

**AGM JULY 20**

# NOTICE BOARD

## HCC CULTURE-ALL PASSPORT

This passport costs £69 and gives two adults and two children 12 months' unlimited, inclusive access to these Hampshire sites:

Milestones Museum  
Manor Farm Country Park  
Staunton Country Park  
Basing House,  
Bursledon Windmill,  
Rockbourne Roman Villa,  
Aldershot Military Museum  
Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve,  
Royal Victoria Country Park,  
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

With the Passport, unlimited free car parking is available at:

Queen Elizabeth Country Park  
Lepe Country Park  
Manor Farm Country Park  
Royal Victoria Country Park  
Calshot Activities Centre.

There are no concessions available for senior citizens, but the Passport is still excellent value for those who like to take their grandchildren under 16 out for the day. The Passport and further details of other offers may be acquired at the attractions listed above or online by emailing

[marketing@hants.gov.uk](mailto:marketing@hants.gov.uk)

## DO YOU WANT TO RATE YOUR GP?

You may rate your GP online at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). If you would like others to know what you think of your GP surgery and the services it provides, simply go to *Find and Choose Services* on the *NHS Homepage* and click on "Add comments about this practice."

Or telephone **01489 611675**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Naomi House, the children and young person's hospice in Sutton Scotney requires helpers

for community support and fund raising. Please phone **01962 843513** or email: [Katrina.verdon-roe@naomihouse.org.uk](mailto:Katrina.verdon-roe@naomihouse.org.uk)

## CANCEL HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS ONLINE

5,150 patients fail to turn up across the region every month costing £6.1million in wasted resources. Until now, patients have had to telephone to cancel or re-arrange appointments, but many patients have been unable to get through. Now, a new online cancellation form is available to us at [suht.nhs.uk/cancel](http://suht.nhs.uk/cancel).

*(We complained about the difficulties in getting through on the phone through the Echo's 'In My View' column - Ed.)*

## HELP WITH DISCOUNTS AND BENEFITS

For advice on help with housing benefit or council tax benefit, please contact the EBC Benefit Section on **023 8068 8046**

## ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE

Help the Aged/Age Concern is asking for case studies of older people who claimed this allowance about 6 months ago, if they are willing to speak about their experience of claiming and how they spent the additional money received. Please email:

[margaret.creear@ace.org.uk](mailto:margaret.creear@ace.org.uk)  
or telephone **020 8765 7626**

## HCC REVIEW OF ADAPTATIONS

We were glad to respond to an invitation to become involved in this drive to improve the experience of older/disabled people, who need adaptations, by attending the first meeting held in the newly-refurbished

HCC Offices in Winchester. We have to report that we were very impressed by the new user-friendly layout. Our pleasant meeting room was situated on the former, Members' car park. For the first time, it was possible to hear the proceedings.

The Review will be evaluating:

- roles of the Occupational Therapy Service and OT Direct
- services and grants provided by district councils
- hospital discharge processes
- services provided by housing associations
- provision of equipment and adaptations
- Home Improvement Agencies

Diane wants to hear members' experiences and views, which can then be fed into the Review. (Tel. **02380 403311**)

## THE HAMPSHIRE HEALTH RECORD (HHR)

The NHS is improving the way it stores and uses information about you and your health needs, so that it can provide faster and more convenient care. The HHR currently combines information on any care you have received in Hampshire hospitals. It helps the NHS staff to provide you with the best possible care. You may control information shared about you by

- asking for your records not to be combined electronically
- viewing the information held about you on the HHR – you can then decide whether you want to withhold your records
- asking us who has looked at your HHR.

For more information:

- ask your GP for a leaflet
- telephone 0300 123 1519
- email: [info@hantshealthrecord.nhs.uk](mailto:info@hantshealthrecord.nhs.uk)
- visit [www.Hantshealthrecord.nhs.uk](http://www.Hantshealthrecord.nhs.uk)

## YOU WRITE...

*Dear Editor*

The Payments Council plans to end the use of cheques by 2018. Age Concern and Help the Aged have warned that older people would be hit particularly hard by this move.

Appearing before the March Treasury Select Committee, I warned MP's that the move could make older people vulnerable, as they might have to keep large amounts of cash in their homes or give their debit cards and Pin numbers to people they do not know well and perhaps cannot trust.

I said that older people are the greatest users of cheques. Twenty-one per cent of people say moving away from cheques would be a major problem for them. I added: "It will force older people who are capable of managing their own affairs to be dependent on others."

Age Concern and Help the Aged accept the need to manage the current decline in the use of cheques, but we had asked for alternatives to be introduced before a target date for the end of the cheque was set. However, so far we haven't yet seen specific, clear, fleshed-out alternatives we can test with older people to see if they are workable.

The Select Committee also heard from Louise Richards, of the Institute of Fund Raising, who said small charities and hospices received more than 70% of their donations through cheques.

*Jane Vass Policy Officer  
Age UK London  
(We provided evidence to Jane of how the administration of our Forum would be adversely affected by the removal of cheques - Ed.)*

*Dear Editor*

The Eastleigh CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau) is providing a Home Visiting Service available to anyone who cannot access the Bureau in Eastleigh at 101 Leigh Road (023 8061 6046) or Hedge End at The Old Library St John's Rd (01489 79665) in person or by telephone, due to age, disability or illness.

The Eastleigh CAB is an independent charity which provides free, independent, impartial and confidential advice on debt, money matters, housing issues, welfare benefits, relationships and family problems, employment, consumer problems, legal procedures.

The service is available to everyone regardless of race, sex, age, disability, sexuality or nationality. Please contact me to request a home visit.

*Charlotte Browning  
Eastleigh CAB 023 8061 7575*

*Dear Editor*

I am writing to thank you for your help in trying to get the dropped kerbs for me, so that I could use my scooter to go shopping, but, once again, living out of town, we are going to miss out. The councillors did come to see the problem, but, again, everything costs too much. Why isn't some money put by for the parishes?

I am sending you the letter I received from Eastleigh, so that you can see how our money is spent – nothing in the out-of-town parishes. Thank you for your help. I do appreciate what you have done.

*Frances Green Boorley Green*

*Dear Editor*

The DWP informs me that, though my basic pension will

increase by 2.5%, the additions ie Graduated Retirement Pension, Additional State Pension, Increases for Adult and Child Dependents etc. will not.

*N.Hart*

*West End*

*Dear Editor*

You ask what is the legal position in respect of motor vehicles parked on pavements and cycling on pavements.

Proceedings for obstructing the highway can be instituted under the Highways Act 1980; Town Clauses Act 1847 and the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 *dependent on circumstances*. Whilst the public are fully entitled to use the whole of the footpath available to them, the obstruction must be more than a mere , trifling obstruction... *What constitutes an obstruction will always be a question of fact for the magistrates to decide.*

Section 72 of the Highways Act 1835 creates the offence of riding or wilfully driving a carriage on the footway by the side of any road made or set aside for the accommodation of foot passengers... the term 'carriage' includes bicycles, tricycles, velocipedes and other similar machines (Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1988) and motor vehicles (Section 91 of the Road Traffic Act 1988).

The driving of a carriage upon any footway of a street is also an offence (Section 28 Town Clauses Act 1847)... In short – yes both are offences that can be prosecuted.

*Sean Sloffett Inspector  
Hedge End Hampshire Police*

*Contributions may be edited to meet space requirements - Ed.*