



West Midlands Pensioners Convention Coventry Branch

Harp Place 2, Sandy Lane, Radford, Coventry CV1 4DX
Tel. 024 7672 7273 email patgilbert@ntlworld.com
Chairman - John Parks, Secretary and Editor Pat Gilbert

A Non Party Political Organisation

Issue 1

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New Year Party

On the 8th January we celebrated the New Year with a New Year Party at the Chicago Rock Cafe near the Skydome. Almost one hundred people were there. Entertainment was laid on with 9 acts ranging from Cabaret artists, vaudeville, music hall, and instrumentalists all who gave their services free of charge to enable us all to have a most enjoyable afternoon.

Our thanks go to Chicago Rock Cafe for donating the use of their premises free of charge and contributing to the buffet.

Raffle prizes were also generously donated. Our thanks go to all those who worked so hard to make the event such a success. An acknowledgement and presentation was made for the hard work Ian Smith a volunteer helper had done on the Branches behalf in the Office. We gained 50 new members at this event.

September NHS Rally

About eighteen members of the Coventry Branch took part in the NHS Rally in Birmingham in September 2008. This was against privatisation of the NHS. Our members took our Banner and walked from Victoria Square to Carrs Lane Chapel where a meeting took place with National speakers. They are to be congratulated as they walked in the most dreadful of conditions.



Pensioners Regional Parliament

It is hoped to set up Regional Parliaments to enable people at local level to have more input at National level. Several of our members attended the Regional Parliament inaugural meeting in Birmingham. There were speakers on Transport, NHS and delegates reported back to the Branch.

Bus Pass meeting Breaks All records

At our May Branch Meeting Bernard Delaney, Managing Director of Travel Coventry and Bob Wildman General Manager of DeCourcey travel spoke and answered questions on the **Pensioners Free National Travel Pass**. This meeting was so popular that 140 people managed to get into the room but unfortunately another 20 to 30 people had to be turned away. We apologise for this and hope to repeat the meeting in the near future. Our thanks for your support.

Centenary Celebrations

Pensioners nationally are celebrating 100 years since the introduction of the State Pension. On the 29th March the West Midlands held a rally and March from Victoria Square to Carrs Lane Chapel. Pensioners from Coventry attended the rally taking the Branch Banner with them. Unfortunately it poured with rain and they got very wet. Our thanks to those who made the effort and represented us all.

Welcome

The Chairman and Committee would like to welcome all new members and look forward to seeing you at future meetings. Without your support we would not have the voice or the funds to improve the lot of todays and tomorrows Pensioners. We as a Committee urge you to come to as many Branch meetings as you can. We have gained 90 new members this year and hope to continue to grow.

**16th Pensioners Parliament
2008 Blackpool**

This was attended by delegates from the Coventry Branch. Upwards of 2,000 Pensioners marched from the Promenade to the Winter Gardens.. Opened by the Lord Mayor of Blackpool followed by Centenary Readings telling of the Struggle by our forbears in 1908. Then came Lib Dem, New Labour and NPC Speakers. Capped by Wingates Brass Band playing a specially written composition 'Battle for Old Age Pension'. The second day consisted of Carer's Session related with Long Term and Residential Care and bringing in Primary Care. Other areas covered were Media, Concessionary Travel, Age Discrimination, Council Tax and Post Offices. Delegates will report back to the Branch.

**Meeting Dates 2008
Room 02 Council House,
Coventry**

11.00am - 1.00pm

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>
June	17
July	15
August	19
September	16
October	21
November	18
December	16

**Useful Telephone
Numbers.**

Age Concern
7623 1999

Council House
7683 3333

Bin Collection
0500 834333

Recycling
0500 834 333

Street Lights
0500 834 333

**Members of
Parliament**

Bob Ainsworth MP
7622 6707

Jim Cunningham MP
7655 3159

Geoff. Robinson MP
7625 7870

*Find out more. Want to be involved? Have your voice heard.
Come along to our meetings. See you there. Bring a friend.*

Forthcoming Events

In the coming year we are hoping to address issues linked to going into hospital/worries about superbugs. Hospital Appointment System. A purpose built Older Peoples Centre for all older people in Coventry situated in the City Centre. Free National Travel accessing direct travel routes. We would welcome other suggestions and ideas being brought forward at our Branch Meetings. We are hoping to have National and Local speakers to talk on these subjects and address your concerns. Keep up to date with what is going on, come and support us at our meetings. Individually we have a small voice, together we are strong and can make our voice heard and improve the lot of all Pensioners. We can make a difference. Everyones views are valued and respected. **We are a non-party political organisation.**

Join us Today or Sign up a Friend

I wish to join West Midlands Pensioners - Coventry Branch :

I enclose £2 membership fee.

I would like further information yes/no.

Name.....Title.....

Address:.....

.....Post Code

Tel. Email

Send to: P. Gilbert, Secretary ,WMPC - Coventry Branch, Harp Place, 2 Sandy Lane , Coventry CV1 4DX