

Dates for your diary

9th June - Committee Meeting
11th June - WMPC Regional Council
16th June- Branch Meeting
7th July - Committee Meeting
9th July - Regional Council Meeting
21st July - Branch Meeting
4th August - Committee meeting
13th August - Regional Council meeting
18th August - Branch Meeting
1st September - Committee meeting
15th September Branch Meeting
17th September - Trip to Broadway and Evesham.

Make Fuel Fair

Apallingly, over 25,000 people each year die because of fuel poverty. The Government could have introduced a law which would have dramatically improved the lives of a staggering 3 million older people in the UK who can't afford to keep their homes warm.

But the Private Members Bill to end fuel poverty did not make it through its second reading in Parliament. It received 89 Votes in favour of the Bill and two against, but needed 100 votes to get through. Mervyn Kohler, Special advisor to Age Concern and Help the Aged, said: 'Fuel Poverty' is a very important issue and we need to keep the pressure on the Government to tackle it.

Coventry Pensioners Convention has already sent a petition to the Government and written to our MP's urging them to sign the EDM.

We have had replies from all three Coventry MP's enclosing a reply from the Energy Minister Mike O'Brien QC MP which was far from satisfactory and in the main did not really say anything other than rhetoric.

What You Can Do

- Write to your MP
- Write to your MEP
- Write to the Prime Minister
- Write to the Press.
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Make the people who make the laws serve you!

Coventry Pensioners Convention

Affiliated to West Midlands Pensioners Convention
and National Pensioners Convention
(A Non Party Political Organisation)



**Meet every 3rd Tuesday of the Month.
Room 02, The Council House,
Coventry
10.30am - 12.30pm**

**For Further Details Contact
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Editor
Harp Place, 2 Sandy Lane,
Coventry CV1 4DX
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email patgilbert@ntlworld.com**

All New Members Welcome

Issue 5 June 2009

May Outing

On the 8th May 74 members in two coaches went on a day trip to Bewdley where the sun shone on us, and we were able to lunch in the open by the river. We then travelled on the coaches to the Severn Valley Railway and made the journey by steam train to Bridgenorth where we had tea.

The day was enjoyed by all and thanks must go to the Social Secretary for all her hard work in arranging the trip.

Future Events

There will be a trip to Broadway and Evesham with a cruise on the river on the 17th September 2009.

Due to constraints there will only be one coach going on this day and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If the event proves popular it may be possible to repeat the trip at a later date.

**Fund Raising Tombola
Saturday
3rd October
Coventry Market**

Our only income is from subscriptions, donations and the occasional grant. In order to raise funds we have taken a stall to run a Tombola on Coventry Retail Market on Saturday 3rd October. **We desperately need items for the stall. Any unwanted birthday or Christmas presents will be most welcome.** Please bring them to the meeting, hand them to any committee member or just ring Pat and we will arrange to collect them.

Your support is crucial!

New Committee

The following people were elected to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting on the 21st May 2009. Many thanks to all who attended.

Chairman	-	Ray Simmons
Vice Chairman	-	PJ Keaveney
Secretary	-	Pat Gilbert
Treasurer	-	Audrey Ross
Social Secretary	-	Joan Spencer
Press and Publicity Off.-		PJ Keaveney

Committee Members:

John Toal	Celia Newcombe
Joe Finnerty	Bill Bridges
Roy Fripp	Les Price

- Social Committee Chair - Joan Spencer
- Campaign Committee Chair - Bill Bridges

There are still vacancies on the Committee if anyone would like to volunteer their services. In particular we are looking for a Minutes Secretary. There are also places on the various Committees either on an ad hoc basis or a permanent basis. Please speak to the Secretary.

Volunteers

We are currently working with two volunteers through Voluntary Action Coventry.

- The first is a student at City Skills who is helping us to redesign some of our leaflets.
- The second is a young lady who is helping us set up a website.

In return we are helping them to build up a portfolio and will provide references for them in the future.

Harry Weston Memorial Fund

Gives help for those over 65 to 74, on Pension Guarantee Credit, with TV Licence and Digital Switchover. For further details contact - Weston Memorial Fund, 8 Eaton Road, Coventry, CV1 2FF

National Day of Action

On the 3rd April Coventry Pensioners Convention took a stall on Coventry Retail Market to campaign for a better State Pension. We were asking for the State Pension to be raised to £165 per week which is the Governments Official Poverty figure. We gained more than 600 signatures for our petition and gained 20 new members. Thanks must go to all of the people who came to the Market and supported us. The Management of Coventry Retail Market and to all those who gave up their time to come and man the stall.

NHS Consultation in Coventry

We are currently involved in a number of meetings through Voluntary Action Coventry in Consultation with the NHS. There has also recently been the set up of 'Coventry Involvement Network of LINK.' LINKs are new independent body created by government legislation to give local people a greater say about local health and social care services. Coventry LINK is a network of individuals and groups. It works to improve the health and social care provision for all those living within its area by:

- Listening to what people have to say about health and social care;
- Investigating the issues raised by local people;
- Reporting its findings to the appropriate organisations and to the local community.
- Acting to ensure reports and recommendations are taken into consideration by health and local care

Pensioners Parliament 2009 2 - 4 June 2009

Members from Coventry attended the Blackpool Parliament and took part in the March from the North Pier to the Winter Gardens led by the Wingates Band from near Blackburn. There was a good turnout. We found that this was the best rally that there had been for some years. Rosie Winterton the Pensions Minister, Nigel Watson the Shadow Pensions Minister, Paul Rowan from the Liberal Democrats and Joe Harris from the National Pensioners Convention the spoke on the first day. On the second day there were sessions which explored the need for dignity in care of older people, the campaign for age equality, the role of LINKS in the NHS, how we can defend local services from threat, the impact of the economic crisis on Pensioners and the launch of a Pensioners' Manifesto for the next election. A panel answered questions about things which affect us all, asking for Pensions to be Indexed Linked and no more means testing. On the last day we attended two more meetings. Michael Parkinson also gave a moving speech. The day was finished off with an evening of music. Everyone felt that they had had a lovely time and are looking forward to next years Parliament.

Coventry General Charities

Coventry General Charities are giving grants of £200 per year payable in £50 x 4 to those that are 60+, have less than £25,000 in the bank and have lived for 10 years within the City Boundary.

Contact Mrs. Tosh, Old Bablake, Hill Street Coventry. or Tel. 02476 222769 for details.