

NPC Pensioners' Parliament



Tuesday 14th - Thursday 16th June 2016
Winter Gardens, Blackpool

Programme

Tuesday 14 June

1pm assemble for 1.15pm march

- March to the Winter Gardens from Adelaide Street West (back of Blackpool Tower)

2-4pm

- Official opening of the NPC Pensioners' Parliament, Opera House Theatre by the Deputy Mayor of Blackpool Cllr Gary Coleman followed by a rally chaired by Ron Douglas (NPC President) with John McDonnell MP, John Hilary (Director, War on Want), Anthony Curley (National Youth Co-ordinator, UNITE), Judy Downey (Chair, Relatives and Residents Association), Gary Fitzgerald (CEO, Action on Elder Abuse) and Dot Gibson (General Secretary, NPC)

4.15pm

- Fringe Meeting: What the cuts to Public Services mean (Renaissance Room, First Floor) - Hosted by PCS

Wednesday 15 June

Morning sessions 10am-12noon

- How healthy is the NHS? (Pavilion Theatre, Ground Floor)

Chair: Jan Shortt Speakers: Dawne Garrett (Older People and Dementia Care Professional Lead, RCN) and Clive Peedell (Leader, National Health Action Party)

This session will look at the care that older people receive and what improvements need to be made, alongside considering how privatisation has affected health care services and consider what campaigners can do to defend the NHS

- Pensions, intergenerational fairness and the baby boomers (Spanish Hall, First Floor)

Chair: Brian Sturtevant Speakers: David Sinclair (International Longevity Centre) and Neil Duncan-Jordan (NPC)

This session will discuss the ongoing changes to pensions, consider what retirement might look like in the future and assess the claims that older people have escaped austerity at the expense of younger generations

- Is digital exclusion age discrimination? (Renaissance Room, First Floor)

Chair: Norman Jemison Speaker: Prof Leela Damodaran (Loughborough University)

This session will look at the move towards information and services only being available online, the effect this has on older people who may be excluded and consider what can be done to prevent the digital divide

Lunchtime Meeting 12.30-1.30pm

- Home Alone (Renaissance Room, First Floor) - Hosted by the NPC Women's Working Party

Explore the impact of loneliness and isolation on older women as a result of declining health, disability, cuts in local services, crisis in care and the lack of public transport. Come and share your experiences and discuss what can be done

Afternoon sessions 2-4pm

- The state of the social care sector and where the money goes (Pavilion Theatre, Ground Floor)
Chair: Dot Gibson Speakers: Matthew Egan (UNITE) and Dr Diane Burns (University of Sheffield)
This session will look at the problems facing social care, outline the financial arrangements of some of the major private care providers and consider what steps need to be taken to improve standards and access to social care services for all
- The future of bus travel (Spanish Hall, First Floor)
Chair: Derrick Baker Speakers: James MacColl (Campaign for Better Transport), Bob Mason (Blackpool Transport Services) and Peter Rayner (NPC)
This session will consider the problems facing public transport, assess how devolution might affect bus services in the future and discuss what campaigners can do to in their local areas
- Home sweet home? Older people and housing (Renaissance Room, First Floor)
Chair: Rosie Macgregor Speakers: Sarah Davies (Chartered Institute of Housing) and Stuart Masters (Anchor Housing)
This session will look at the complicated issue of older people and housing, consider what the housing needs of older people will be in the future and what can be done to help older people to live at home

Evening Social, Empress Ballroom, 7-11.30pm

- Entertainment from Bill Barrow's Jazz Knights and 60s/70s Disco

Thursday 16 June

Morning session 10am-12noon (Pavilion Theatre, Ground Floor)

- The challenges we face
Chair: Ron Douglas Panel Speakers: Lynn Collins (NW TUC Secretary), Ciaran Osborne (Independent Age, Head of Policy and Campaigns), Neil Duncan-Jordan (NPC National Officer) and Dot Gibson (NPC General Secretary)
This session will consider the challenges of austerity faced by the population over the last five years, consider how older people have been affected and look to what issues and campaigns need to be raised in the future.
The panel will be followed by general discussion, comment and questions
- **Rosie Macgregor sings Keep Right On To The End Of The Road**

Ev'ry road thro' life is a long, long road
Fill' d with joys and sorrows too
As you journey on how your heart will yearn
For the things most dear to you
With wealth and love 'tis so
But onward we must go

Keep right on to the end of the road
Keep right on to the end
Tho' the way be long, let your heart be strong
Keep right on to the end
Tho' you're tired and weary still journey on,
Till you come to your happy abode
Where all you love, you've been dreaming of
Will be there, at the end of the road

- **Close of NPC Pensioners' Parliament 2016**

Acknowledgement

The NPC would like to thank all the exhibitors and the following organisations for their generous support towards the organisation of this year's Pensioners' Parliament:



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