

Issue 12 Spring 2012

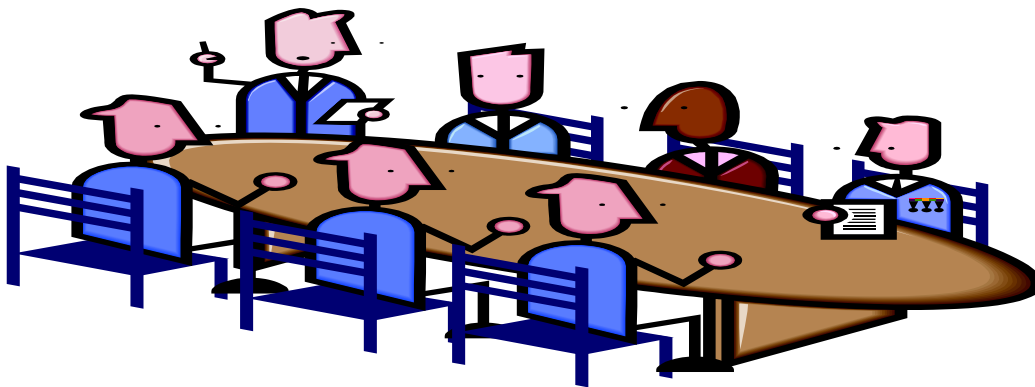
The Assembly Times

Newsletter of the Older People's Assembly

Our Community
Our Voice

Established 2007

THE OLDER PEOPLES ASSEMBLY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012



This year our annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th March 2012 in the Council Chamber of Civic Centre at 1.30. At this meeting we will review the OPA year and the Officers and Committee Members are elected. More than ever your support and involvement is needed as three current members of the committee will retire due to health and other pressing commitments.

The post of Vice Chair and Treasurer will become vacant and so if perhaps you are approaching early retirement or now have time to spare and need something challenging, fulfilling and worthwhile then please think seriously about stepping up and taking the baton so that the OPA can continue to be a voice in the town or maybe 'City'

–The Vice Chair comments..... I have learnt so much, met so many lovely people and been privileged to speak out on issues facing us old 'uns and I can recommend being part of this organisation to you.

Inside this edition you will find an application form for joining the OPA committee which should be returned no later than 29th February, alternatively email your expression of interest to our Chair at liberty55@yahoo.co.uk

Visit our website at www.southendopa.org.uk

OPA Host Community Event at Southend Victoria Plaza Shopping Centre .



October 2011 – saw the OPA host its first community event in the town centre. It proved to be a very successful day and we are particularly grateful to Savilles for providing the venue and to our friends and colleagues from so many organisations in the town who supported the event many of whom exhibited on the day – a small section of which are shown above. We are very fortunate here in Southend with so many good voluntary services including SAVS, Southend Pensioners Campaign Group, Age Concern, Cruse Bereavement Care and so many more. We were delighted with the response to our event and are currently in co-operation with some of the other voluntary and statutory groups looking at the possibility of hosting a larger event this year. More news on this in our next edition.....

The NHS reforms gather pace and we are told that government has been listening to the views of the public and amending the Health and Social Care Bill to reflect our wishes. Do you know what is proposed/are you happy with devolving accountability? Want to know more – check out the Independent NHS regulators website: www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/home/

THIS EDITIONS TRIVIA

Medical terms with a difference:

BACTERIA – *back door to cafeteria*

BENIGN – *what you be after eight*

DILATE - *To live long*

ENEMA - *Not a friend*

FIBULA - *A small lie*

TUMOR – *One plus one more*

URINE - *Opposite of your out!*

CITY STATUS- CAN WE WIN??

2012 will be a big year in a variety of ways with many changes and we shall have the excitement of the Olympics with all that will mean with extra visitors to our shores and to Southend itself. Our council are trying for city status along with Chelmsford, Colchester and a dozen other towns. This city status award is part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations and only one town can win.

Southends' bid has been submitted and has been developed by a partnership of local organisations including Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, community leaders, key businesses and local organisations from the voluntary, faith, private and public sectors. Up to date information can be accessed on www.cityonsea.com. The winner will be announced in the spring.

You may have seen the Arriva bus which has local iconic images emblazoned on it. Images include the sea front, Southend Pier, and the Palace Hotel. Let us hope that if we do win this city status that we will have a better bus service in place so that visitors can actually get to see the sea front and City Beach, the Pier and the other lovely parts of Southend and Leigh and also be able to access the train stations.



CYCLING ON THE PAVEMENTS...



This really is an issue that must be resolved – since September 2009 we along with others have been highlighting the problem and endeavouring to bring about change. Every week there continues to be letters in the local papers from residents of Southend, Westcliff and Leigh for whom walking on the pavements of our town can be a frightening and dangerous experience due to the cyclist who have no regard for pedestrians. Cyclists regularly ride on our pavements and walkways and our council and police do not seem to have a cohesive policy to address this and hence nothing gets done about the problem. We have been in regular dialogue with the council and the local pensioners' campaign group has also written but it seems that unless we can clearly evidence our concern and show there is support for change the council and police will not act. To this end we commenced a petition during the latter part of 2011 requiring the council to take action on these offenders. We need at least 1500 signatures on the petition to present to the council and one OPA committee member, Pat Balls has been tireless in her efforts to obtain the required number but we still have a way to go so please support us by signing our petition and if you are able take a form and gather a page of signatures on our behalf. Together we can raise the profile of this issue. So let's **campaign together not complain!!**

Useful Numbers

Southend Community Action/SAVS	01702 356000	Southend Police	01702 431212
Southend Borough Council	01702 215000	Traveline (National)	08712002233
Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Helpline	0845666663	Arriva Buses Southend	08701201088
Housing Care	0800377707	FirstBuses	01268 525251
South Essex Homes	0800833160/161	Stephensons Buses	01702 541511
Estuary Housing Association	01702 614321	National Express	08705 808080
Springboard Housing Association	02084750033	Dial-a-Ride(Access Anyone)	01702 527992
Southend Hospital	01702 435555	Papworth Trust Home Solutions	01702 465182
Southend Primary Care Trust	01702 224600	HandyVan Scheme	01702 464199
NHS Direct	08454647	Crimestoppers	0800555111
Carers Line	08088087777	Consumer Direct	08454040506
AGE UK	0800169565	NSPCC	0808 800 5000
Age Concern (Southend)	01702 215780	Victim Support Line	08453030900

OLDER PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEETING DATES 2012

WEDNESDAY 14th March 2012 is our Annual General Meeting which includes election of Committee and Officers

CIVIC CENTRE – THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Come and join us 1.00pm registration for 1.30p.m. start

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY- ASSEMBLY MEETINGS FOR 2012

WEDNESDAY 20TH JUNE

WEDNESDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER

Contacting the Older People's Assembly

Do you have a topic that might be of interest to others?

Do you have a question for the Assembly to take up on your behalf?

Do you have an interest in volunteering/supporting us?

**Send your enquiry, questions, articles and letters to:
members@southendopa.org.uk**

Visit our website at www.southendopa.org.uk