



Green Party Seniors Newsletter

January 2022

Another year, another Conference

Booking has opened for Spring Conference
Friday to Sunday, 4-6 March 2022.
Booking closes on 25 February.

<https://members.greenparty.org.uk/taxonomy/term/84>



Standing Orders Committee are meeting this week to agree the Final Agenda and let's hope it will be published in time for discussion before Conference starts.

Spring Conference will be entirely online. I attended the hybrid Conference in Birmingham in person and found it good. It was great that those of us in the room could be joined by members online. However, this experience might not have been so enjoyable if you were attending remotely and had trouble attracting our attention or asking questions. Let us know how you found it and what type of Conference you would prefer.

Prescription charge changes

As you will have heard on the news, the Government is considering increasing the age at which you qualify for free prescriptions from 60 to 66. The history of prescription charges is explained on the Government website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/aligning-the-upper-age-for-nhs-prescription-charge-exemptions-with-the-state-pension-age/aligning-the-upper-age-for-nhs-prescription-charge-exemptions-with-the-state-pension-age>



Is it reasonable that those in their 60s who are still working should have free prescriptions? Would you like to see a nominal charge? Are some items cheaper off prescription and do manufacturers peg their prices to the prescription charge for over-the-counter medicines?

PolicyFest

is an annual get-together of Party members interested in every aspect of GPEW policies and policy-making. Up to now, it has always been physical, held over a weekend, but this time it was all online, allowing for more meetings. Two items of interest to Seniors:

Social Care Policy

GPEW policy is that social care - just like medical care - should be free for those who need it. This is a fine ideal and is not only an issue for Seniors as almost half of those who need social care are under 65. But how will we pay for this care? The Government has sidestepped previous descriptions - "Death Tax", "Dementia Tax" - and gone for increasing National Insurance. And who will provide this care? If family members, should they be decently paid? Are agencies accountable, and good enough? A lot of questions were raised, but not quite so many solutions.



Do any Seniors have expertise in this area and could initiate a discussion?

Health Policy

Stuart Jeffery and Linda Freeman both have extensive experience of the NHS and are leading a re-write of our existing Health Policy. We would very much like to have an online event to discuss the NHS - its successes and shortcomings - and the wider issues of the health of our nation.

We have taken on board that timing for events is crucial for Seniors, who have many commitments, and we will take our members' view into account when we plan this session.

I know we don't think we are old, but



how many people do you know who have injured themselves in falls at home, in the garden or out walking? I was shocked to learn that our balance starts to decline in our 30s and 40s.

Here is a link. Think about it and, if you don't do it already, practise standing on one leg. When you can do that, do it with your eyes closed. The minimum time you should be able to do that is 8 seconds, according to the good doctor.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=4133506533337422>

Accessibility Panel Meeting - Attended by Alex on behalf of Seniors

This group consists of members from all Special Interest Groups and was set up to ensure that GPEX obeys the decision of Conference requiring them to improve accessibility of all groups to Conference.

Spring Conference will be online only and Conference Committee will learn from feedback from previous physical and online Conferences. One problem with online attendance is the level of IT available to members.

There were many failures of accessibility in the physical Conference in Birmingham despite it being a newly built venue.

Dzaier Neil and Rashid Nix (GPEX Equality & Diversity Co-ordinators) will be presenting their E&D report to GPEX on 5 February and will be reminding them that E&D is the responsibility of the whole of GPEX, not just the E&D Co-ordinators.

Diverse Matters has been hired to assess the party against the Equalities Act 2010 and all Special Interest Groups have been asked to send 3 members for a focus group. Is anyone interested in attending?

This is a precis of Alex's notes. If you would like the full text, please get in touch.

Make contact

Green Party Seniors website

<https://seniors.greenparty.org.uk/>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/seniors_uk

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/GreenPartySeniors>

The best way to contact the Committee is through the Google Group.

The Green Party (including its predecessor parties) is 50 years old. Perhaps you have memories and stories you think newer members would like to hear. We would love to collect them.



PEOPLE



Ecology



Green

