

Campaign!

The NPC's monthly bulletin for activists in the pensioners' movement

NPC Wales join forces with Age Cymru to help change bus pass application process in Wales

NPC Wales' Phyllis Preece recently joined forces with Age Cymru to help persuade Traveline Cymru to change its application process for a new type of free bus pass they were launching in Wales.

At the beginning of September Traveline Cymru tried to launch a mainly on-line based application process but unfortunately their IT system crashed. This left many pensioners in Wales panic stricken as they thought they may not be able to renew their bus pass.

Age Cymru contacted a number of media outlets including BBC Radio Wales and BBC Wales TV to reassure pensioners that they had until 31 December to renew their application and also to urge Traveline Cymru to offer paper



based applications as well alongside the on-line process. Phyllis was interviewed and appeared on BBC Wales Today, the corporation's flag ship news programme in Wales.

Following the widespread publicity, Traveline Cymru arranged to meet Age Cymru where the charity outlined the concerns of

older people as well some solutions.

Following the meeting Traveline agreed to publicise the fact that the deadline wasn't until 31 December. They also made paper copies of the application available in local authority outlets across Wales as well a number of Wales-based charities.

Phyllis says "Free bus passes have been a lifeline for thousands of older people in Wales, helping them to visit their GP, make hospital appointments and get to the local shops to buy food and collect their pensions. Not many pensioners still drive a car so it is important that Traveline Cymru makes it as easy as possible to use the free bus services".

Image©
WalesOnline.
co.uk

Milk for More?

Milk delivery across the country and firm Milk & More, will put up it's price for milk by 4p a pint for offline customers and cease cash and cheque payments for your goods and delivery from the end of this year.

Doorstep deliveries are a vital life line to those elderly and vulnerable people who are unable, for whatever reason, to leave their home. Isolation and loneliness is increasing

for those who are housebound, a milkman (or other delivery person) is normally the first, and sometimes the only person they see each day.

67% of older people have no access to technology, either because they are unable to afford it, or do not want to engage with a computer – preferring face-to-face or telephone contact.

Many older people do not have a bank card –

it is something they worry about having to carry with them, about using a bank card and having to remember pin numbers.

For many older people, cash (or cheque) is the preferred method by which they do business. The drive to online purchasing, banking, and access to a variety of information excludes those who are not connected to technology.

We recognise that it is not only the older generation that this move will

affect – there are many vulnerable people in other age groups who could find themselves unable to take deliveries of daily necessities because of Milk and More's decision.

Milk & More may lose customers, but the loss to the individual will be much more than the company will understand. The NPC has written to Milk & More asking that they reverse this decision and provide equal access to all.



NPC

Marchmont
Community Centre,
62 Marchmont St,
London WC1N 1AB.
T: 020-7837-6622
E: info@npcuk.org
W: npcuk.org
Facebook: @NPCUK
Twitter: @NPCUK

Fred Olsen Cruises

NPC members can
get an exclusive
10% off award win-
ning Fred Olsen
Cruise Lines by us-
ing the discount
code NPC10, Call
the NPC hotline on
0800 0355 108 or
visit: www.fredolsencruises.com for more infor-
mation.

ATMs in Remote Areas

Rural and deprived
areas are among
the most likely to
be far away from a
cash machine,
which can be vital
for the elderly and
vulnerable.
Link, which over-
sees the UK's net-
work of cash ma-
chines, has set up
a £1m fund to pay
for ATMs in so-
called cash deserts,
although this will
only fund 40 to 50
machines.
Individual consum-
ers, councils, com-
munity groups and
MPs are all among
those who can
email a suggested
site to:
info@link.co.uk

Huge rise in the number of homeless older people

Growing numbers of older people have been forced to seek help for homelessness over the last five years, official figures show. There has been an upward trend in the number of over 60's applying to councils for temporary accom-
modation and other help. Of-
fice for National Statistics
figures show a 39% increase
in the number granted, up
from 1,800 in 2012-13 to
2,500 five years later.

The figures published last
month showed that more
homeless were families are
living in temporary accommo-
dation in England than at any
time for a decade. It's terrible
to think of any older person
having nowhere to call home
but homelessness among
older people is on the rise.
Exacerbating the issue is
that landlords are allowed to
evict older renters at short
notice even when they've
done nothing wrong. That's
why we're supporting the
campaign to end no-fault evic-
tions. Govt. are consulting on
the issue at the moment and
if enough of us stand up for
older private renters, we can
give more people a safe and
stable home to grow old in.

[https://
campaigns.ageuk.org.uk/
page/48944/petition/1?
ea.tracking.id=emailbutton&
utm_source=older_renters_evic-
tion_sept&utm_medium=em-
ail&utm_campaign=campaign
s_housing](https://campaigns.ageuk.org.uk/page/48944/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=emailbutton&utm_source=older_renters_eviction_sept&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campaign_s_housing)

Petitions the NPC are supporting

The NPC are backing
George Clarke's peti-
tion on council hous-
ing

More than 1 million people
are on council housing wait-
ing lists in England. The Right
to Buy scheme has seen mil-
lions of council houses sold
off, without being replaced at
the same rate.

We desperately need a new
generation of well-designed,
genuinely affordable council
houses for those in most
need.

That is why George Clarke
is calling on the Government
to commit to build 100,000
new council homes every
year for the next 30 years.
Sign it on the link below

[https://www.change.org/p/
uk-parliament-commit-to-
building-100-000-new-
council-houses-every-year-for-
30-years](https://www.change.org/p/uk-parliament-commit-to-building-100-000-new-council-houses-every-year-for-30-years)

Additionally, the NPC are
supporting the campaign to
reverse the decision made by

the BBC to remove news,
travel and weather from the
television Red Button ser-
vices, which will take effect
in early 2020.

"Not content with means-
testing the free TV licence for
over 75s taking it away from
3.7 million pensioners, the
BBC have announced the
end to the Red Button ser-
vice next year. This service is
very important to those with-
out access to online."

"It is a quick and effective
way of catching up on the
news, travel and weather. I
use it myself to check travel
times rather than go on my
computer when time is of the
essence."

"Thanks to Joel Kosminsky
for setting it up. Make sure
you and your family sign his
petition." Jan Shortt NPC
General Secretary.

[https://
you.38degrees.org.uk/
petitions/keep-texts-on-bbc-
red-button](https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/keep-texts-on-bbc-red-button)

Pack your bags for Southport

Details for
the Annual Con-
vention 2020 have
been finalised.
Campaigners will
gather in Southport
in their hundreds, at
the Southport Thea-
tre & Convention
Centre for the
NPC's three-day
Annual Convention
which runs from
2nd - 4th June
2020. Although at a
new location, the
event will start with
an opening rally and
still have talks by a
number of expert
speakers. Further
details and booking
forms to follow...

Strike for Climate Change

NPC affili-
ates up
and down
the county, from
Durham and New-
castle to Oxford and
Islington and many
many more joined
in the Strike for Cli-
mate Change on
20th September
and showed their
unity for the week
of global action,

Six million people
took to the streets,
uniting across time
zones, cultures and
generations to de-
mand urgent action
on the escalating
ecological emergen-
cy.

The date
for the
National
Council has
been
confirmed
as
Wednesday
11th
December
2019.

Sign a
friend up to
receive cop-
ies of the
Campaign!
E-Bulletin
- simply
send an
email to:
info@npcuk.org
or follow us
on Face-
book