

## A MESSAGE FROM KEN

Since being re-elected as Mayor of London, I am looking forward to continuing to work closely with LOPSG to ensure that issues of concern to older people are kept high on London's agenda. I am developing a London Strategy for Older People, which will provide a strategic approach to address issues such as age discrimination, affordable housing and accessible transport and how they impact on older Londoners.

I will continue to safeguard the Freedom Pass. I will also push for more recognition of the vital contribution older people make to the city as volunteers, carers, consumers, employees and employers.

The London Older People's Resource Facility, which I set up in my first term, has recently opened and is providing practical support to older people's organisations with the work they carry out. The Facility offers the opportunity for increased engagement with London's older population, and this I believe will be invaluable to the process of developing my Older People's Strategy for London.

### Ken Livingstone



Photo Liane Harris

*"I am developing a London Strategy for Older People"*

Writing to Ken Livingstone on behalf of LOPSG, congratulating him on his re-election as Mayor of London, Graeme Matthews, Secretary, said,

*"We are delighted that the excellent working relationship that has been built up over the last four years between you and your officers and LOPSG can now continue and develop for the benefit of all London's older people."*



**For older people,  
by older people**

EVERYONE WELCOME

Admission Free  
Wheelchair Accessible

**Sunday 8 August 2004  
2 pm - 6 pm**

Bernie Spain Gardens, Upper  
Ground, South Bank, London SE1

Located on the riverside walkway  
between the National Theatre and  
Tate Modern

Full information  
[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

## A Story of Dedication

We feel privileged to have Ken and Blanche as LOPSG members, and are always delighted when Ken is able to attend Participants' Meetings and give us his experience of older people's issues from a carer's perspective.

Ken and Blanche had experience of caring for elderly relatives before their first son Keith was born in 1966. Unfortunately, at three days old, before leaving hospital, Keith contracted Meningitis. He was so severely affected that he was unable to develop speech or manage life without constant care. Apart from brief periods of respite care, Ken and Blanche have looked after Keith at home as well as bringing up their second son Neil.

Naturally, the years of caring have been harder for Ken and Blanche than most of us can imagine. They have some hair-raising stories, such as accidental injury suffered by Keith during periods of respite care, and the effects of wrongly prescribed medication. Yet in spite of everything they have remained outward going and upbeat. They are popular figures among carers' groups in the Bexley area and are full of praise for the support they have received from the Bexley MENCAP branch and the South London Spina Bifida Association.

Ken and Blanche would be glad to talk to any LOPSG members in need of advice on caring.

**Graeme Matthews**



Photo Neil Little

### Some concerns of elderly carers Ken has listed

- Lack of suitable respite care facilities.
- The feeling of isolation experienced by those suddenly finding themselves in a caring situation.
- State pension provision for long-term carers.
- The need for benefits to be transferred when residents in care homes spend time with their families or go on holiday.
- Concern about the future care of their relative if they are unable to cope, or after their death.
- Adjusting to life after caring. It can be difficult to readjust if the person you care for dies or moves into different accommodation.

### Organisations supporting carers

#### Carers UK

20/25 Glasshouse Yard  
London EC1A 4JT  
020 7490 8818

[www.carersonline.org.uk](http://www.carersonline.org.uk)

#### Mencap

London ECY 0RT  
020 7454 0454

[information@mencap.org.uk](mailto:information@mencap.org.uk)

## Eileen Paige in ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE MOTHER OF THE PRIDE

**Saturday 18 September  
8 pm**

**Croydon Clock Tower  
Katharine Street, Croydon  
CR9 1ET**

An emancipated woman 800 years before 20th century feminism imagined it had invented the idea, Eleanor was passionate, powerful, shrewd and scheming. An indomitable woman of intellect and courage who railed against the stultifying and confining life mapped out for a woman of her time she would have been extraordinary in any century. In her own time she was a trailblazer.



Catherine Muschamp's one-woman play is a perfect vehicle for one of our finest actresses, Eileen Page, a veteran of the RSC under Peter Brook, the National under Olivier, and the Old Vic.

**Box Office 020 8253 1030**

**Minicom 020 8253 1027**

[www.croydon.gov.uk/clocktower](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/clocktower)

**Tickets £10.00 (cons £7.00)**

Presented as part of  
**CAPITAL AGE FESTIVAL**

## Voice Your Views

The London Older People's Strategies Group is a very special organisation. Over 130 groups across Greater London are now members, and through LOPSG have a wonderful opportunity to press upon the Mayor how he could act to make London a really good place in which to spend our retirement.

The Mayor has already done much to improve transport and policing, but there are many other areas where his influence can directly affect the lives of older people. And he is asking for the views of older people.

Have you thought about what would improve the quality of your life?

The work to unite older London's citizens and their organisations and present their views and demands to the Mayor rests largely with LOPSG.

But we need to identify our priorities.

This is why it's so important that on 19 August your group comes to the AGM, voices its views, and elects the very best Co-ordinating Committee, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Let's make the 2004 Annual General Meeting another step towards a better life for London's older people.

**Joe Harris, LOPSG Chair**

## LOPSG and the Mayor's Older People's Strategy

We are extremely pleased that the Mayor has decided to focus on the needs of older Londoners by developing an Older People's Strategy.

This Strategy will cover not only the defined areas of the Mayor's remit, but also address other issues such as discretionary services provided by local authorities.

Since its inception, LOPSG has had sub-committees working on Transport, Equalities, Planning and Culture, and our two Older People's Assemblies have been highly successful consultation exercises to which we know the Mayor has paid much attention.

Our task now is to feed in to the Mayor's Strategy our views on all the factors affecting our lives in London. As a start to this process, we are conducting a major consultation exercise the results of which will be presented for discussion at our third London Older People's Assembly on 28 October at City Hall.

This is a unique opportunity for LOPSG members to influence decisions and help formulate policies for the benefit of London's older citizens.

Why not take part!

**Les Evans, LOPSG Vice-Chair**

**Annual General Meeting  
Thursday  
19 August  
City Hall**

## Generations

**Trafalgar Square**

**Wednesday 25 August  
5 - 7.30 pm**

A tea dance with a twist!

A live strict tempo band, the **Lea Valley WI Singers**, local ballroom dance groups and an aerial Finale by **Vicki Amedume** provide something for older visitors.

Ballroom entertainment by **Foxtrot Oscar, Stickleback Plasticus** and **Couple no. 69**.

This is part of a series of free events taking place this summer in Trafalgar Square, as it celebrates its second year as London's new performance space.



For information on other Trafalgar Square Summer 2004 events go to [www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)

## NEWS FROM DEXTER HOUSE

The Mayor of London's Older People's Resource Facility at Dexter House, Royal Mint Court, has been open since April of this year.

The Facility, which was set up by the Mayor to maximise involvement with older people's organisations, is already proving to be a success.

Anna Roberts and I are now welcoming several groups and individuals into the Facility, and supporting them with tasks such as producing newsletters and information leaflets, and researching and gathering information.

We have also been running welcome sessions where groups have been visiting the Facility to hear about what support is available.

At these sessions Anna and I have heard about the common difficulties faced by older people's organisations, such as problems with securing ongoing funding, or understanding the process of applying for charitable status.

We therefore think it would be beneficial to run information-sharing sessions at the Facility where individuals with particular knowledge or expertise in areas of interest could give presentations to small groups.

We would be interested to hear from anyone who might be interested in running one of these information-sharing sessions.

To find out more about this, or using the Facility in general, contact Charlotte Smith on 020 7369 2689, or Anna Roberts on 020 7369 2690

**Charlotte Smith**  
**Senior Project Officer**



***LOPSG member Jacques Wilfrid uses the Resource Facility to research and gather information.***

## How to join LOPSG

As the principal forum for older Londoners' consultation with the Mayor, we are always looking to extend our membership, and particularly to encourage the involvement of representatives across the wide spectrum of London's communities and ethnic groups.

Membership is free, and is open to individuals, and representatives of London organisations. All members receive notice of LOPSG meetings, the quarterly newsletter *Strategy*, and documentation relating to Mayoral policy.

If you, or your organisation, would like to join please contact Graeme Matthews (Secretary) 01895 631905 or Anna Roberts (Project Officer, Older People, London Older People's Resource Facility) 020 7369 2690 or [anna.roberts@london.gov.uk](mailto:anna.roberts@london.gov.uk)

## Diary Dates

***Sunday 8 August***  
**Capital Age Festival**  
**Bernie Spain Gardens**  
**2 pm - 6 pm**

***Thursday 19 August***  
**LOPSG AGM**  
**Rooms 4 & 5, City Hall**  
**1.15 pm**

***Wednesday 8 Sept***  
**National Pensioners**  
**Convention Lobby of**  
**Parliament. A Pensioners'**  
**Manifesto**  
**1.00 pm**

***Thursday 28 October***  
**Third London Older**  
**People's Assembly**  
**City Hall**  
**10.30 am - 3.30 pm**

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