

LOPSG

London *Older People's* Strategies Group
Registered Charity No. 1109128

Annual Report 2008

August 2008

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Further Information

This report was presented to the LOPSG Annual General Meeting on 28th August 2008.

For further copies, contact Anna Roberts (Senior Project Officer, Older People, London Older People's Resource Facility) on 020 7785 3870 or anna.roberts@london.gov.uk

You may download a copy from the LOPSG website at www.lopsg.org.uk

For further information about LOPSG visit the website at www.lopsg.org.uk

Message from Eileen McNally, Chair of LOPSG

There have been significant changes over the past year.

We have intensified our efforts to enable as many older people as possible to contribute to the discussion on the various topics that have been raised. The changed format of the Participants' Meetings has allowed all present to put forward their views. We will now be proposing changes to the format of the Older People's Assembly to ensure that event also is as open as possible for participants to have a greater opportunity for discussion.

To keep our membership more in touch with what we do, it is intended to produce a brief newsletter which will be circulated between issues of *Strategy*. We are also considering ways to help people, including the housebound and sheltered housing residents, to use the internet to put forward their views on issues being discussed at our meetings.

A major event in London this year was the change of Mayor.

We are very pleased at the positive response we have received from the new Mayor, Boris Johnson, and his office. The Mayor attended part of this year's Older People's Assembly. Richard Barnes, Deputy Mayor, has met the Management Committee, opened this year's Capital Age Festival, and has agreed to discuss the way forward at a future meeting with LOPSG Officers. We look forward to working positively with the new Mayor and his team.

I would like to thank all LOPSG officers, the chairs and members of the working groups and all members of the Management Committee for all the hard work they have put in over the year, and to thank our partner organisations and all of our members for their continuing support throughout the year.

Last, but not least, my thanks to the Project Officers at the Mayor's London Older People's Resource Facility, Anna Roberts and Nabilla Stelter, who have given us considerable support and helped many other older people's organisations to acquire new skills.

I send everyone my very good wishes and hope the coming year will be a great success.

Eileen McNally

Membership of the Management Committee

1. Elected Members

The following were elected at the 2007 Annual General Meeting to serve on the Management Committee for 2007/08.

Chair	Eileen McNally
Vice-Chair	Kurban Haji
Secretary	Graeme Matthews
Assistant Secretary	Mohamed Aslam Khan Lodhi
Treasurer	Mark Windisch

Committee Members

Anne Bryant, David Gardiner, David Jones, Ellen Lebethe, Gulnahr Khan, Joan Bennetto, Les Evans, Myra Garrett, Shu Pao Lim and Stan Davison

2. Co-opted Member Caroline Bernard, Counsel & Care

3. Representatives from partnership organisations

AGE Concern London, Gordon Deuchars
Help the Aged, Mervyn Kohler and Gerry Mahaffey
The Greater London Forum for Older People, Lynn Strother
The Greater London Pensioners' Association, Joy Moss
The NPC Greater London Region, Dot Gibson

Biographies with photographs of Management Committee members can be found on the LOPSG website at www.lopsg.org.uk/committee.htm

Secretary's Report

LOPSG has 250 groups and organisations on its database representing a wide range of London's diverse communities. We also have a number of individual members who receive information about our activities. Both types of membership are steadily increasing.

During the past year we have continued to work to support older people in London by creating opportunities for members to come together to discuss a wide range of issues, and by vigorously representing their views on these issues of older people's welfare to the Mayor.

Participants' Meetings

The new Management Committee elected at the 2007 AGM agreed that the conventional format for Participants' Meetings of taking questions to the main speakers from the floor was providing much frustration among members and little useful feedback.

A new approach was adopted. Participants are now seated in small working groups with a facilitator to discuss the issues presented and record their questions and comments. This has given everyone the opportunity to participate fully and has produced an impressive record of the range and quality of responses. This is most valuable in enabling us to plan future work.

Meetings have attracted between 90 and 100 attendees.

The 23rd November meeting, with the theme "Older People and the Olympic Games", was held in partnership with the 2012 Older People's Forum with Sebastian Coe as the keynote speaker.

At the 11th February meeting on "Health and Social Care" we were pleased to have Caroline Bernard (Counsel and Care) and Sue Collins (Joseph Rowntree Foundation) as speakers.

At the 28th May meeting on "Combating Loneliness and Isolation" we were pleased to have as speakers, Joan Barker (Silver Surfer of the Year 2007), Brian Eisenburg (Digital Unite), Larry O'Mahony (Cara Irish Housing Association), Joan Bennetto (Capital Age Festival) and Janice Telfer (Contact the Elderly).

London Older People's Assembly

The sixth London Older People's Assembly, "Positive Ageing and the City; Health and Social Care for Older Londoners" was held at City Hall on 7th August. The Assembly was prepared for to some extent by our February Participants' Meeting.

We were privileged to have as our morning speakers Stephen Carr, Leader of Bromley Council, Steve Reed, Leader of Bromley Council and Sue Collins from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The afternoon was dedicated to four related workshops. We were fortunate to have representatives of the following organisations as panel members, Department of Health, Help the Aged, London Plan, Peabody Trust, Guys and St Thomas' Hospital, Lewisham Carers, GLA Health Inequalities Team, Merton and Morden Guild, Morley College and the Green Gym.

We are grateful to Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, for hosting the Assembly at City Hall and pleased that he was able to come and address the Assembly and answer questions.

Social/Networking evening

A well-attended evening meeting held on 11th December proved to be a relaxing and enjoyable way of rounding off the year.

Information and Skills Sharing Sessions

Our programme of information and skills sessions, planned and presented in partnership with the Mayor's London Older People's Resource Facility, continued throughout the year.

The Senior Project Officer will include details of these sessions in her announcements to the Annual General Meeting.

LOPSG Office

While our communications with the GLA are conducted through the Mayor's Older People's Resource Facility at No 1 London Bridge, one of the main roles of the Secretary is to maintain a LOPSG office as an essential base for our administration and a point of contact for our members and partnership organisations.

Joint Working

During the year a number of professional organisations and voluntary groups have worked with LOPSG on a range of activities. I wish to express my thanks to them and look forward to a continuation of our fruitful joint working.

The London Older People's Resource Facility

The Management Committee wish to thank the Mayor's London Older People's Facility Project Officers for their unfailing support for our work and for the help they provide at the Facility for a wide range of older people's groups.

Graeme Matthews
Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Summary

LOPSG ended the year with a balance of £1,170.29, more than £100 up on the previous year. At the time of writing we have not been successful in finding a funding source other than donations received from a few generous members of LOPSG.

A total of £1,500 was received in this financial year from a grant application to Trust for London made in the previous financial year and a further £270 was received from members of LOPSG.

The Mayor has always been very generous in giving us free meeting space and providing the excellent support of the two GLA officers at the London Older People's Resource Facility.

Owing to a clear indication that funding would prove difficult, the committee officers have been very sparing in making any claims. The bulk of the expenditure has been to maintain LOPSG office facilities in terms of stationery, printing, telephone, postage and IT.

Expenditure	Year Ended	
	31/7/2008	31/07/2007
Postage and Telephone	£361.25	£380.04
Travelling Expenses	£229.00	£227.80
Journal	£0.00	£0.00
Stationery and Printing	£862.02	£883.39
Meetings	£29.69	
IT Equipment and other including services	£193.78	£1,909.58

Total	£1,675.74	£3,400.81
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Income

Carried forward		£1,325.84
Contributions	£270.00	£476.00
Grant	£1,500.00	£2,675.00
Other		

Total	£1,770.00	£4,476.84
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Balance	£1,076.03	£1,076.03
Interest	£0.00	£0.00

Cash Position	£1,170.29	£1,076.03
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General Statement

Members are asked to note that LOPSG has only one bank account and all income and expenditure goes through this account. Bank statements, cheques and paying-in books are submitted each year to an independent examiner. Although, because of our small turnover, as a Charity we are not obliged by law to have the accounts examined, the Management Committee have decided to do this each year on a voluntary basis.

The Future

It is clear that identifying and obtaining future sources of funding is a priority which must be addressed.

Full Financial Report

Copies of the full financial report for the year 2006/07 signed by the Treasurer and by the independent examiner will be tabled at the LOPSG Annual General Meeting on 28th August 2008.

Mark Windisch
Treasurer

Capital Age Festival (CAF) Report

1 Capital Age Festival 2008 – The Big Chair Dance

This year's festival was held in the Royal Festival Hall in the afternoon of Friday 11th July. An estimated 3000 people attended.

The programme, an elegant A4 size, contained not only the programme for the day but also valuable information about the changes made to this year's festival. Included in this larger programme was a map of the new venue, the Royal Festival Hall Level 2 and the Clore Ballroom. Also included were details of Entelechy Arts and East London Dance, both of which companies were commissioned to organise and develop the artistic programme for CAF. Additional information listed the performing companies, the artists involved and the groups participating in the Big Chair Dance.

The event was hosted by Caribbean diva Totlyn Jackson, and included jazz from the Matt Ross Quintet, the Hoxton Singers, dance from the Company of Elders, tap legend Will Gains, Elsa Perez and dancers, street music from Eric Quillam & Lennard Moore, Nostalgia and much more.

CAF was delighted to have the support of the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson and to welcome Richard Barnes, Deputy Mayor, to launch the Festival.

At the heart of the Festival was the Big Chair Dance featuring more than 200 older Londoners led by Tunde Jegede. They were an outstanding success and demonstrated superbly that advancing years are no barrier to creativity.

At the South Bank Centre Information & Help Point, Help the Aged, the Metropolitan Police Service and the GLA, LOPSG and CAF set up information and sales stalls.

2 Changes to this year's festival

Historically, Capital Age Festival has been based on the Coin Street site and has provided from 2004 until 2007 a brilliant open air venue at the heart of the city.

This year, in pursuit of its objectives, CAF wanted to establish creative new opportunities for the huge number of active older people already engaged in the arts as artists, participants and audience members. We wanted also to design a festival that was able to evolve and transform in response to the interests, passions and needs of older Londoners. A key feature of CAF 08 has been the inclusion of often neglected groups. In order to achieve this, CAF opened up the event to twelve sites across the capital. These satellite areas were linked to one central CAF performance event, the Big Chair Dance.

From the beginning of June workshops were held on a weekly basis in the lounges of sheltered housing units, local church halls and day centres. Chorographers, professional dancers, local managers, staff, older dance mentors and CAF volunteers all teamed up to ensure the chair dancers' utmost enjoyment and safety. More than 200 older Londoners, some quite physically frail, were enabled to take part in gentle dance sessions for performer and chair, achieving by July their own mini CAF festivals in each locality.

At the end of June large numbers from the satellite areas, accompanied by staff, came to the Royal Festival Hall for a grand rehearsal of the Big Chair Dance with their hosts, the CAF volunteers LOPSG members, the arts director, arts organisers, dancers and musicians.

3 Big Chair Dance Workshops

Workshops took place in June and July in Newham, Hackney, Hounslow, Haringey, Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, Tower Hamlets and Merton.

In mid July the Council of Asian People in partnership with Capital Age Festival held a very successful musical event at the Asian Centre in Haringey, attended by Entelechy Arts and the Arts Council.

It is CAF's intention to do follow up work with all these groups.

4 Funding

CAF is grateful to the following organisations that made the festival possible with generous financial support totalling £128,600.

The Arts Council, South Bank Centre, GLA, City Bridge Trust, Help the Aged, Well London and the Metropolitan Police Service.

5 Partners

CAF gives particular thanks to the Mayor of London for his support, David Slater, Entelechy Arts, for his artistic direction, East London Dance for the superb work of their choreographers and dancers, the South Bank Centre for taking up the challenge of an older people's event, the GLA Design & Publicity Department, Big Dance, Hayley Madden, photographer, and to the Mayor's London Older People's Resource Facility Project Officers for their ongoing encouragement and support.

We thank all the artists, arts companies and volunteers who took part and gave so much time to preparing for the event and to rehearsals.

CAF is fortunate to have the help of Clare Douglas, our new Volunteer Organiser. Together with volunteers, committee members, the Arts Director, Nabilla Stelter from the GLA, and Alex Fairbairn from Help the Aged, Clare visited all the satellite groups and took part in exercise and dance rehearsal sessions.

Finally CAF gives particular thanks to all the members of the LOPSG Management Committee for their support and willing commitment at all times.

5 Other Factors

It was vitally important that, with so many elderly people involved, full risk assessments were carried out and that every aspect of the workshop training, transport, arrival, stairs, lifts, seating, toilets, and refreshments was properly monitored.

6 Feedback

Feedback forms told us that the Royal Festival Hall is appreciated as a superb indoor venue. The festival in this new form has created a buzz

of excitement and audience members have given us a wide range of opinions on all aspects of the festival. This is heartening and enlightening for the organisers.

As well as festival regulars, there were large numbers of passers-by, who were amazed and thrilled to come across such an innovative performance by older Londoners.

7 Evaluation, Assessment and further information

There will be a full appraisal and assessment, involving audience, participants, satellite groups, artists, arts companies, funding bodies and partner organisations.

A comprehensive evaluation report based on monitoring and evaluation forms returned at the Festival is available from Capital Age Festival c/o Nabilla Stelter (Project Officer, Older People, London Older People's Resource Facility) on 020 7785 3873 or Nabilla.Stelter@london.gov.uk

Further information is available at the Capital Age website at www.capitalagefestival.org.uk

Joan Bennetto
Operational Director CAF

Editorial & Communications Report

We produced two six-page issues of the LOPSG Newsletter *Strategy*, in December and June.

For the June issue, in response to feedback from readers, we changed the masthead and made some changes to the format to improve the appearance and readability.

It is hoped to produce an additional edition of *Strategy* during the coming year.

It is also intended to produce two single sheet newsletters during the coming year.

We have recently carried out a further review of the website, and plans are in hand to make improvements. This will include changes to make

the site more interactive, which will also enable older people who are unable to physically attend Participants Meetings to take part.

An application is being submitted for a Talk Talk innovation in the Community Award. The awards are to enable charity and community groups to harness the power of the Internet. Winners receive cash grants of £2,000 each to fund technology related projects, as well as technology equipment to help them make the most of the Internet.

David Jones
Strategy Editor

Equalities & Diversity Report

The objectives of the Equalities & Diversity Group, agreed by the Management Committee are

- To reinforce the understanding of Equalities and Diversity issues and their implications for LOPSG.
- To ensure that the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination are enshrined in LOPSG's own work.
- To monitor and assess the planning and delivery of LOPSG initiatives, practices, projects and strategies in the light of our Equal Opportunities Statement.
- To measure the impact of the above on the strategic developments of LOPSG.

Equalities & Diversity issues are a standing item on Management Committee meeting agendas.

The monitoring data from LOPSG meetings during the year shows that Black and Black Asian people are increasingly well represented at our meetings.

The data also shows that we are not attracting people under 60, and that the majority of people attending are in the 70 – 79 age group.

A further well-attended introductory Equalities & Diversity Workshop was held at the London Older People's resource Centre as part of the series of Information and Skills Sharing programme. However, arrangements for a follow-up workshop "Making Diversity Happen: Developing an Equalities and Diversity Strategy for your Organisation", and a workshop for the Management Committee had to be abandoned

owing to circumstances beyond our control. It is hoped that these two events can be held soon after the Annual General Meeting.

A draft revised LOPSG Equal Opportunities Statement is being prepared for consideration by the new Management Committee.

A report with recommendations for extending the membership of the Equalities & Diversity Group and for capacity building for the Group is also being prepared for consideration by the new Management Committee.

During the year contact has been made with the Chinese Community Centre in Soho and the Neasden Temple.

A LOPSG stall at the Eid in The Square festival to be held in October is being arranged.

Ellen Lebethé and David Jones

Transport Group Report

We have had six meetings this year where a variety of items were raised.

- Buggies and prams on buses and the health and safety issues arising from this
- Crime and disorder - anti-social behaviour and what can be done about it
- Cleanliness on buses and whose responsibility it is to keep them clean
- Buses not completing their full destinations and doing diversions when none are necessary
- Fare evasion
- Toilets and wheelchair access both at underground stations and on buses
- Dial-a-Ride
- Traffic congestion, reasons for it and what can be done about it
- Drivers not stopping at bus stops and possible retraining of drivers
- Buses parking properly at stops and trying to get ramps lowered to help older and disabled passengers to alight easily
- Buses being badly designed re sighting of bells
- Bendy buses not being the main cause of accidents. The majority are caused by ordinary buses

These points are part of what we have been doing. Some are obviously still ongoing where we continue to put pressure on Transport for London (TFL) to act more quickly.

Anne Bryant **Transport Group Chair**

New Members

The following organisations have joined LOPSG during the year.

Camden Chinese Community Centre, Caribbean Quadrille Dancers, Caribbean Over Fifties Association, Eritrean Elderly Association, Over 50 Bangladesh Society Enfield, and O"-Bay Community Trust Enfield.

Donations

We thank the following organisations and individuals who have made donations during the year.

Ada Varley, Age Concern Harrow, Age Concern Sutton, Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance, Eileen McCormack, Islington Pensioners' Forum, Joan Grant, Merton Seniors' Forum, Mr A S Virani, Morley College, The London Friendship Centre, Trust for London, and U3A Greater London Region.

Conclusion

The Management Committee wish to thank all those organisations and individuals who have contributed to our work during the year.

We commend our report to the Annual General Meeting.

August 2008