



Fr. Anthony Atherton



Paul Brownlow



Elizabeth Nwawudu



Stella Amogbokpa-Nortey



Dr Lurliene Miller

Trustees elected to serve from November 2019



Anne Schuman



Bridgit Sam-Bailey



Barbara Moore



Joyce Jacca



Leonie Nwawudu



Kelvin Wheelan

Annual Review 2019-2020

Including an extract of the Trustees' Annual Report (TAR) as submitted to the Charity Commission. See the LPF Constitution for a statement of its aims and objectives.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The year started with a bit of an experiment—rather than just one big Membership Day in St Mauritius House, we moved around the borough and had different days in **different venues, but more of that in the Manager's** report. The next events we held, the May and July Forum meetings, were about inequalities which highlighted some of the main differentials we experience. This has always been my pet peeve and I have penned many papers on the topic, because **I've lived with it. Even during** this pandemic the inequalities are visible—in levels of remuneration, in standards of living, and in succumbing to the virus with BAME deaths exceeding the average.

In Pensioners Day in October 2019, we celebrated diversity which is so evident in this borough.

We have held other events which I feel certain our Manager, Tracey, or others, will highlight. With only two members of staff we have garnered immense strength if not physically, mentally and socially. We have brought in National Speakers who are always willing to present with us, because they feel the energies we emit.

The financial year 2019-2020 began to draw to a close when in January we held our Annual Health Fayre. This was the usual resounding success—what these all day winter events have been ever since Tracey has joined us and (to fast forward to the present) we are planning to do something again this year—virtually, and are endeavouring to make this one equally successful.

In my many years with LPF I've seen the changes that have taken place as we grew older together, achieving more, welcoming new members, and seeing some move to other parts of the country, but have continued to keep in contact with us, because they value what we did, and what we still do. We promise to continue to strive to serve you in whatever way we can, as we move forward into the unknown. Please take good care of yourselves, and your loved ones. Be blessed.

Bridgit A. Sam-Bailey

FINANCE REPORT 2019-2020

Treasurer's Report year ending March 2020

During the year, LPF were successful in receiving a grant from London Borough of Lewisham in the latest bidding round, applied for in the previous year. The amount allocated is a small increase on the previous grant and is now £35,000 per annum until March 2022.

Even so, as in prior years, the grant is insufficient to cover the core costs of running the Forum. The accounts now show that the previous surplus in unrestricted funds had been spent during the year to maintain services at the same levels.



Additional grant funds came from SELCE and, during the year, LPF spent the balance of small grants received the previous year from Lewisham Central Assembly and Hyde Housing.

To ensure the prudent management of reserves, the Trustees took the precautionary step of reinstating as restricted funds monies sufficient to cover potential future costs that might be incurred in the event of significant restructuring that might become necessary if supplemental core funding cannot be raised as planned. Such expenses might be staff redundancies, long term liabilities and other costs related to relocating or closing the Forum office premises.

As part of the annual review the Independent Examiner asked that reserves be updated. Historically a sum of £20,000 was allocated to these designated reserves. (With an earlier switch to cash reporting this reserve had been omitted from the reports in the intervening years.) During the year under review, the Trustees allocated an additional £7,509 to this fund to comply with their Reserves Policy.

Barbara Moore

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Reviewing 2019-2020 and taking things forward

Our penultimate trip of this year was an outing to the Greenwich Auction house, with Elizabeth and a few others, including my son, not a member, but keen to experience the auction - and gain some mirrors.

The event was held in a warehouse without any real heating on a cold January day, but with the sun shining, and little did any of us imagine the changes which would affect us in the days ahead.

The Monday project was doing really well all through 2019-2020, with plenty of enthusiastic members attending regularly, and the Forum had held its usual bi-monthly meetings in the Civic Centre, and then Covid struck and everything appeared to screech to a halt.

Obtaining funds in April 2020 to produce splendid and more frequent newsletters has helped to keep the members involved, and extend our outreach to new readers, even though our regular public meetings had to be discontinued. We have also been able to promote two projects dear to my heart—the creation of a wall hanging featuring landmarks along the London Thames and a second **Friendship Quilt celebrating the Borough's diversity.**

A month into the first lockdown the Executive Committee decided to meet on Zoom, and each of the Trustees who were online were engaged in learning how to join such a meeting, and take part in the discussions. Dealing with a new way of working and ever changing circumstances it seemed necessary to hold the meetings at weekly intervals,

just to keep abreast of things. Thanks are due to LPF Vice Chair, Fr. Anthony for his efforts to get this system working. I continued as the Secretary to produce notes of the discussions, circulated as Minutes and to be signed by the Chair in person when this became possible once again.

Unfortunately, when my elder son was diagnosed with a cancer, and became very ill, I felt unable to continue with the attendance at these frequent meetings and the time involved in producing the notes, and tendered my resignation from the post of Secretary following the meeting of 9th September.

The Forum continues to support Lewisham Pensioners—and we look forward to proper meetings in the New Year, and to renewing old friendships, and getting on with the projects on the Mondays in St Mauritius House.

Anne F Schuman

MANAGER'S REPORT

LPF have remained true to our constitutional objectives, reflected in the activities carried out through 2019-2020: preventing or relieving poverty, advancing education, and life-long learning, promoting good health and well-being of older people, and promoting social inclusion, by proactively engaging with older people, living, working and visiting the borough of Lewisham, regardless their age, gender, sexuality, race, culture or religion.

Our success in acquiring main grant funding has meant that we have been even more committed in providing a borough-wide strategic approach in engaging with our cohort, partners, and networks:

- identifying and developing a programme that addresses inequalities issues impacting negatively on the elderly;
- providing a voice of older people in Lewisham, ensuring that they are heard and represented leading to improved understanding of older people's issues in the wider population; and
- engaging and ensuring older people are better connected, more able to access services and are aware of opportunities opening for them.

The year started with delivering our Membership Day across the borough in four different locations. We made valuable connections with partner organisations and were able to meet a few new people – but the main focus was the initial event in St. Mauritius House and it was very disappointing not to be able to do the same for 2020.

The Forum meetings in May and July focused on inequalities and in June an LPF delegation attended **the National Pensioners Convention “Pensioners Parliament”, a three day event in Blackpool**, contributing though events and workshops to the national picture. Closer to home we contributed to events addressing the long-running inequality of

how the Windrush Generation are being treated and, entwined with this, the threat to the Calabash Day Centre.

We were also busy taking our table and presence to summer Saturday events in Bellingham and Hilly Fields. Our regular twice monthly Riverdale table manned by our EC members and staff has also been instrumental throughout the year in allowing us to talk face to face with the general community about the issues that concern them the most, as well as signing up many new members.

Pensioners Day in October was in celebratory mode. Drawing upon the fabulous cultural diversity of our borough the entertainment hour showcased talent ranging from traditional Indian dance and Caribbean music to Jim Radford, shantyman, singing elegies for the dead of the D-Day Landings, 75 years ago, and the injustice meted out to Stephen Lawrence.

Interval music was provided by Forum member, Michael Beer, playing as usual for us on the **Broadway Theatre’s** cinema-style organ.



Michael Williams, Michael Beer and Jim Radford who have passed away in 2020 and will be greatly missed at our future events.

Our November AGM was able to proceed as usual (unlike this present year) and, as mentioned in the **Chairman’s Report**, in January we presented our Health Fayre – bigger and better than before – covering the twin issues of cancer awareness and “caring for the carers”.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all speakers and partner organisations who facilitated and contributed to our events, and to thank our membership and the wider public for attending and making them such vibrant occasions.

There was one final opportunity to engage with the **public in March at the GCDA “Be Inspired” event** in the Glassmills Leisure Centre, troubled by the gathering cloud of C-19, and then lockdown.... However staff and Trustees have risen to the challenge – we are doing things differently but pursuing the same core objectives – and the Annual Review 2020-2021 will present the charity with new **skills working towards a “new normal” but with the basic philosophy unchanged.**

During Forum meetings, Pensioners Day and our Health Fayre we have addressed a wide range of issues, and have had many different speakers and contributors, but let us not forget our volunteers without whom we could not do this work. Thank you, and thank everyone once again for your support.

Tracey Jarrett

REPORT ON GENERAL ACTIVITIES TAR April 2019-March 2020

In 2019-20, the period under review, LPF held a number of public meetings to which there was general and free access. These were advertised throughout the borough via a number of regular channels, including public libraries, sheltered housing schemes and various websites.

These public meetings planned and held included:

22nd May – Forum meeting – Addressing Inequalities (Part 1)

24th July – Forum conference – Addressing Inequalities (Part 2)



2nd October – Pensioners Day in the Broadway Theatre

27th November – AGM

28th November – General Election Hustings

29th January – Health Fayre

March meeting on Scams postponed to 1st April – cancelled due to C-19

In June LPF organised a delegation from the borough (with four guests from north London), a total of 27 people, journeying by bespoke coach to Blackpool for the National Pensioners Convention annual Pensioners Parliament. More than two days of seminars, talks, discussions and events, meeting up with fellow campaigners from all over the country.

At the end of June we worked with Arthur Torrington of the Windrush Foundation promoting a celebratory event in the Broadway Theatre and also promoted to LPF membership the public meetings held by the local authority on the government compensation scheme. Allied to this activism was a campaign concerning the closure of Day Centres and the effect, in particular, on the Calabash Centre in George Lane.

Throughout 2019-20 the LPF retained a regular public presence in St Mauritius House (a sheltered housing scheme in central Lewisham) which included continuance of the regular weekly meetings (except public holidays) of the Monday Project, providing educational and social activities including 1-2-1 support for IT use such as smart-phones, tablets and other digital devices; knitting and crochet; ukulele practice; cards, games and puzzles. LPF also established a link with the Greenwich Community Development Agency (GCDA), hosting a starting point in this venue for one of their series of weekly “healthy walks”

Funding was maintained for the continued provision of free “Seated Yoga” sessions on a weekly basis, also in St Mauritius House.

During the year, LPF arranged a dozen social outings across London and the Home Counties although the last one in March had to be cancelled as lock-down loomed.

April – Greenwich Peninsular Ecology Park

May – Cinema Museum

June – Kentwell Hall, Suffolk

July – Old Bailey Insight Tour

August – Broadstairs, Kent



Photo Credit: Andy Hillier Isle of Thanet News

Bethlem Museum of the Mind (joint event with Lewisham Local History Society)

September – Essex Nature Reserves and the antique shops of Battlesbridge

October – Iron Foundry

November – Leeds Castle Christmas Market

December – Christmas lunch

January – Greenwich Auction

February – Bank of England Museum

March – Dulwich Gallery (cancelled due to Covid-19 lockdown)

Throughout the year, LPF continued to produce bi-monthly editions of the LPF Newsletter, which are circulated freely to sheltered housing units, libraries and partner agencies across Lewisham.

To enhance outreach and to raise public awareness, LPF members staffed an information stall in Lewisham Shopping Centre on alternate Fridays throughout the year.

LPF representatives attended meetings of the local hospital trust and CCG, also as observers at various council meetings throughout the year.