



**Lambeth Pensioners Action Group**

# Newsletter July and August 2025

## Palestine

Members were clearly very grateful to Jan, Robyn and Torla of the Lambeth & Southwark branch of Palestine Solidarity Campaign for a most informative presentation at the June open meeting.

The Campaign's guidance on what to boycott is attached.

Jan has kindly provided a copy of the script of her talk about divestment and this also is attached. As well as giving the information to members who could not make the meeting, it contains more than Jan was able to tell us in the meeting. So, it should also be very worthwhile reading for those of us who were present.

Ellen has written on our behalf to the Chair of the Council's Pensions Committee adding our voice to the calls to divest from companies complicit in Israel's illegal occupation and the genocide.

**The next open meeting will be on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July from noon to 2.30pm.**

We hope to have Cllr David Amos as guest speaker on Lambeth's Service Standards Strategy and what progress (if any) is being made in improving services to the borough's residents. This will no doubt generate a lively discussion.

The meeting will be in Room 1 of Lambeth Town Hall, with the usual tea, coffee & biscuits. **Please bring prizes for a raffle.** We do not meet in August. Our usual 3rd Monday of the month meetings will resume in September.

## Libraries

As most members will know by now, Lambeth announced that it would reduce the cost of the service by a quarter while keeping all libraries open for the same hours as now and maintaining the Libraries Home Visit Service fully operational.

Over the past ten years, the service has been progressively streamlined to the point where it is very difficult to see how there could be any scope left for reducing costs or generating significant additional income. The librarians

through their union, UNISON, have nonetheless been talking with the Council in the hope of finding a solution which will be acceptable to library users and staff. After the talks got nowhere, the librarians decided to strike for a day at a time. The first strike was due to take place this Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, but the Council have become more reasonable as the strike day approached and the strike has now been postponed until 11<sup>th</sup> July. We must hope that a satisfactory deal can be done before then and the strike avoided altogether.

*Stephen Carlill*

## Street Stall

Your committee are pleased with how the stall outside Iceland in Brixton on 17<sup>th</sup> June went. David, Ellen, Hilary, Kwabena, Penny, Siji and Stephen all took part and between them had good conversations with dozens of passersby about older peoples' issues, LAMPAG and Age UK Lambeth's services.

The dates for further stalls will be decided at the open meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July. So, please bring your diary and be ready to volunteer for either one hour or two.

## Less Austere

Thanks to tireless campaigning by the National Pensioners Convention and Unite the Union amongst others, the Government has announced that the Winter Fuel Allowance will be paid in full next Winter to everyone of State Pension Age or older. The allowance will be clawed back through the tax system from recipients fortunate enough to have a yearly income of £35,000 or more.

Personal Independence Payments, which are meant to reduce the costs of disabled recipients resulting from their disabilities continue to be argued over. At the time of writing, the Government is promising not to reduce the payments to existing claimants, but to be much more parsimonious with new claimants.

### **LAMPAG'S elected officers are:**

Chair: Ellen Lebeth 020 7582 5063 [elebethe@talktalk.net](mailto:elebethe@talktalk.net)

Secretaries: Hilary Rock-Gormley [hilaryrockgormley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hilaryrockgormley@yahoo.co.uk)

and Stephen Carlill 020 7274 7008 [stephencarlill@gmail.com](mailto:stephencarlill@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Jennie Hall 020 8671 8752 [jenniekh@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniekh@hotmail.com)

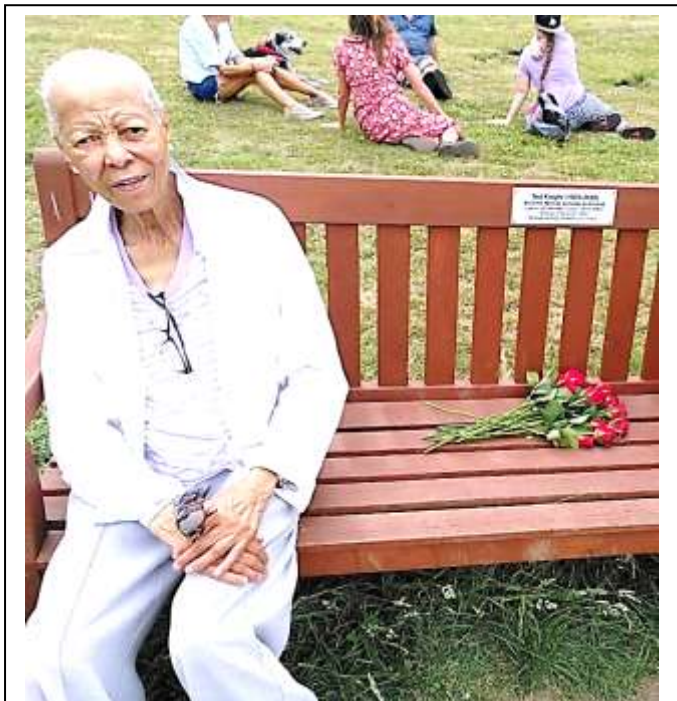
And our website is at [www.lampag.org](http://www.lampag.org)

**LAMPAG is affiliated to the  
National Pensioners Convention**

# Remembering Ted

Ted Knight will be remembered by many of our members as LAMPAG's inspirational Vice Chair in the years leading up to his death in 2020. An especially fond memory is of him leading us in an occupation of Lambeth Town Hall to prevail on the Council to restore our free use of a room in the Town Hall for our meetings.

To the wider Lambeth community, he will always be remembered as the Leader of the Council who, along with his fellow Labour Councillors, was surcharged and removed from office for defying the Thatcher Government's cuts, which would have impacted the borough's most vulnerable residents.



Ellen sitting on the bench in Norwood Park commemorating Ted. The plaque reads:

**Ted Knight (1933 – 2020)**  
**Socialist, Marxist, Comrade and Friend**  
Leader of Lambeth Council 1978 – 1985  
"Workers of the world, unite!  
We have nothing to lose but our chains!"

Ted was acutely aware of the injustices to older people, many of whom suffer poverty and loneliness. He believed strongly in the right of pensioners to dignity, respect, financial security and to have their contributions to society recognised. He was a fierce advocate for involving us in policies, practices and actions which affect our lives.

As well as his role in LAMPAG, Ted was active in the local retired members branch of Unite the Union, the London Region of the National Pensioners Convention and the Croydon Assembly. He was keen to unite not just pensioners but the whole community to combat attacks on their livelihoods and wellbeing.

Inspired by his socialist convictions, Ted was uncompromising in driving real change, whether this was in national campaigns to fight crippling Austerity measures or local campaigns to keep our libraries and children's services. He has left us all with an enduring legacy on which to build.

*Ellen Lebethe*



# Boycott advice from Palestine Solidarity Campaign

## BOYCOTT ISRAEL

### BUY LOCAL, BUY ALTERNATIVES!

**Boycott Israeli produce** like avocados, oranges, herbs and dates. When shops in Britain sell Israeli produce, they are profiting from the existence of illegal Israeli settlements on stolen land. Always check the label. If it says "Product of Israel", don't buy it!



**Boycott Coca-Cola** and its brands: **Schweppes, Sprite, Fanta, Innocent, Appletiser, Smart Water** and **Costa Coffee**. Coca-Cola violates international law by operating on stolen Palestinian land. Stop Coca-Cola profiting from the occupation.

**Alternative:** Gaza Cola, Palestine Cola, Salaam Cola, Karma Drinks Organic Cola, Whole Earth Cola, Green Cola, Fentimans Curiosity Cola.

**Coca-Cola are the world's worst plastic polluter, selling 100 billion single-use plastic bottles each year, with many ending up in landfills and the ocean!** [Greenpeace]



**Sabra** hummus and **Yarden** hummus and dips have recently removed their Israeli origins from their labels! Since coming out of the EU, it is no longer a requirement for manufacturers to disclose the 'origin' of the food.



**Israeli dates** are grown on stolen Palestinian land with stolen water – always check the label.

**Alternative:** Try Palestinian brands like **Yaffa** or **Zaytoun**

**75% of the world's Medjoul dates are produced in Israel.**

**UK is Israel's 2nd largest market worth \$24 million in 2023 (4k tons)**



**Avocados** have become one of Israel's most profitable crops and not just in Israel, but also in Morocco.

**Sainsbury's, Tesco, M&S, Waitrose, Lidl** – they all stock Israel's stolen food – make sure you check the label!



**NO**



**HERE ARE TWO EXCELLENT BARCODE SCANNING APPS THAT ALLOW YOU TO CHECK IF SOMETHING NEEDS BOYCOTTING!**