

NPC Campaign!

OUR NEW ADDRESS

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WANT TO JOIN NPC?

Do you care about issues affecting older people? Then join us as an individual, or as an affiliate group. We are the biggest UK campaign group run for and by older people. Contact us and get involved. Details above.

Fighting for the rights of older people

NPC ANNUAL CONVENTION 3rd & 4th September 2024

The 2024 NPC Annual Convention is returning to Blackpool. Our most important event of the year will be held at The Imperial Hotel on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th September—just after the famous Blackpool Illuminations switch-on. This year’s conference promises a packed programme and many

more opportunities for our members to participate and share their views. Tickets are priced at £15 for two days, and £10 for one day. We will be sending out more details of programme soon. Meantime booking as early as possible is advised. See our booking form details on the back page of this issue of Campaign!

JOIN US IN BLACKPOOL
 TUESDAY 3RD & WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2024
 TICKETS ARE £15 FOR 2 DAYS OR £10 FOR 1 DAY

ANNUAL CONVENTION



NPC



MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT ON 4th JULY

We have rarely faced a more important General Election for older and retired people than the ballot on Thursday, 4th July 2024.

Despite a rapidly ageing population – 1 in 5 of us is over 65, and within two decades that will rise to 1 in 4 – there is huge uncertainty around so many key factors that determine the quality of later life in the UK. In the current economic crisis, everything from our pensions and our healthcare, to our homes, and public transport seems under threat. Pensioner poverty is on the rise with 2.1 million now living below the breadline, while the availability of often costly care is falling. And this is all complicated by an increasingly digital world with almost everything having to be conducted online where the threat of scams against older people is scandalously prevalent.

Despite their pre-election promises on keeping the Triple Lock to safeguard annual pension rises, most experts agree that whichever political party forms the next government will still want to review the measure. That’s why we must make our views known to the candidates and use our votes wisely

to ensure a safe and secure future for today’s and tomorrow’s older people.

The NPC will be publishing our Manifesto within days, outlining the aims and policies that we would like to see the incoming government implement. The Manifesto will provide our members with a reminder of these key policies that you can use to measure how many

match those of your local candidates.

NPC General Secretary Jan Shortt said: “The General Election is an opportunity for all our members to use our Manifesto for Older People as a guide to making positive changes to our lives. Older people have suffered enormously through COVID, ageism, lack of healthcare; services we rely on disappearing and the cost of living being at the highest level for decades. Make sure you have the right Voter ID, or a postal vote to allow you to vote. Our Manifesto looks to the future and a better deal for all older people now and for those retiring from work in future. Please share it widely when it is published.”



GENERAL ELECTION 2024

INSIDE: What you need to know about the Vote & The Big Energy Credit Claim Back

Our new President says the NPC has vital role to play

President Norman Jemison is committed to the future of the NPC and its members.

As a lifelong campaigner and activist, Norman was delighted to be elected as President at our Biennial Delegate Conference (BDC) in March.

A retired Teeside senior college lecturer and former President of the UCU and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, he has been active in the NPC for two decades, serving in the NPC Northern Region and a long term NPC Vice President, and member of our working parties. He has supported the NPC as it successfully

campaigns for free bus passes for older people, and is passion-



President Norman Jemison.

ate about retaining and extending the passes to be a 24 hour all-transport ticket.

But his biggest passion is the NPC's campaign for a National Care Service.

He said: "The NPC is the best campaigning organisation for older people in the UK—without a doubt. It works tirelessly for older people's issues, and gives us a voice at all levels. NPC leads the way in campaigning for a National Care Service, and I will do all I can as President to enable our work in this and all other policy issues."

Norman, who is 81, and a father and grandfather, has one other passion—his football team.

I've promised not to name it, but I think many of you will guess...



Are you ready to Vote? A few updates & reminders...

The 2024 General Election will ask us to vote for Members of Parliament to represent each of the UK's 650 constituencies in the House of Commons. Registered voters in each constituency vote for their preferred candidate in their local polling station, or you can arrange to vote by post in advance.

WHAT'S YOUR CONSTITUENCY?

This election will be fought on new constituency boundaries, redrawn to reflect population changes and to try to even out voter numbers in each area. The BBC offers a very useful tool to find out which constituency you are in: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-62064552 OR contact your local council or library for help.

Anyone on the electoral register aged 18 or over on polling day can vote in the general election as long as they are a British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen or a Republic of Ireland citizen with a UK address.

DEADLINES TO REGISTER?

The deadline to register to vote in the general election is 23:59 BST on Tuesday 18 June. You can register and also find out about postal voting (say, if you are on holiday) and other voting options such as proxy votes (getting someone

else to vote on your behalf) here:

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

The deadline to apply for a postal vote for the general election is 17:00 on Wednesday 19 June.

Polling stations are open between 07:00 and 22:00 on election day.

DO YOU HAVE ID?

You will need to prove your identity when applying. Since May 2023, voters have to show a valid

GENERAL ELECTION 2024

form of photo ID at polling stations to vote in person at a general election. There are 22 acceptable forms of ID including: Passports, driving licences, Older or Disabled Person's bus passes, and Oyster 60+ cards. You can even use out-of-date photo ID as long as you look the same. Voters in Northern Ireland can use the Electoral Identity Card. Alternatively, anyone registered to vote without the correct ID - or who no longer looks like their photo - can apply for a free document called a voter authority certificate.



Are you in credit with your energy bill?

You could claim it back from the £3bn held by UK energy firms

Householders are urged to join a mass action to claim back billions of pounds in unused credit held by their energy suppliers. The NPC is among a collective of UK organisations and charities calling on the public to join their Big Energy Credit Claim Back campaign.

Experts like Martin Lewis say while it's sensible to build up credit in the summer to pay for higher energy use in the winter, customer credit balances have become too high.

Currently UK energy suppliers are sitting on over £3bn worth of customer credit, with nearly a third of households (32%) in the black all year. Figures suggest the combined bank interest suppliers likely earned from customer credit balances was at least £159m in 2023 alone. More than 12,000 bill payers - supporters of Warm This Winter and 38 Degrees - are already set to reclaim unused customer credit in protest at Britain's broken energy system.

The campaign – which unfortunately cannot apply in Northern Ireland - is now calling on people across to join in the mass claim-back—particularly as early summer is the ideal time to reset energy bill direct debit payments for the year ahead. However, the campaign will make it clear that



customers should not cancel their direct debits as this could lead to higher unit costs being imposed on households. Research by Opinium suggests that 38% of those in permanent credit live in low income households and may have cut back on energy use or other essentials because their direct debits are set far too high.

Jan Shortt, NPC General Secretary said: "People have been struggling to pay their energy bills, so it is shocking to learn that these bills may have been set far too high.

Some energy suppliers will act and give credit back, but most don't so consumers need to know how to get their credit back. This campaign gives householders the chance to take action, and send a powerful message to the energy industry."

Fiona Waters of Warm This Winter said: "Energy companies are sitting on over £3 billion of bill payers' money whilst providing an appalling service in many cases and making billions in profits. The Big Energy Credit Claim Back is a way people who pay by direct debit can issue a wake up call to companies that they are not prepared to be ripped off anymore." To find out how to make a claim: www.warmthiswinter.org.uk/big-energy-credit-claim-back OR write to the NPC (address on P1)

Older people's groups present petition for our own Commissioners to No 10

NPC General Secretary Jan Shortt praised the campaign that saw the UK's four leading older people's organisations take a call for our own Commissioners to Downing Street. Jan and NPC members

joined the leaders of our organisations to deliver a petition with more than 36,000 signatures calling for the appointment of a Commissioner for Older People and Ageing. The NPC and Independent Age, Age UK, and the Centre for Ageing Better want an independent Commissioner to focus attention on the issues people in later life face. Foremost of these is the hidden issue of pensioner poverty which affects one in six older across the UK. They



also flagged the difficulty accessing social care, as well as the loneliness and

social isolation they suffer. Jan said: "We hope the next government takes heed of our call for a much-needed independent voice for older people today, and tomorrow. Our ageing population has never needed representation so much. The petition is just a step in our joint campaign to secure Commissioners for England, and Scotland." With one in four due to be over 65 within ten years, a Commissioner could facilitate the long-term planning.



Pictured: Jan Shortt, NPC; Ellen Lebethe, NPC; Joanna Elson, Independent Age; Caroline Abrahams, Age UK; Jo McGowan, Ageing Better.



The NPC Annual Convention returns to Blackpool on Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th September 2024 for two days of discussion and debate. Tickets are just £15 for both days or £10 for a single day. Tickets are limited, so get yours now to avoid missing out. To book places for the event, please return the below form with payment.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email _____

Telephone / Mobile _____

Number of 2 day £15 tickets _____

Number of 1 day £10 tickets _____

Cheques - payable to National Pensioners Convention at the address below.

BACS - use the reference **#AC24** ensuring you send us the completed form. Account Name: National Pensioners Convention, Account No: 65809877 / Sort Code: 08-92-99

Cash - accepted on the day (if tickets are still available)

POST: NPC, Unit 2.4, 225-229 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2DA

TEL: 020 7837 6622

EMAIL: info@npcuk.org

WEB: www.npcuk.org

SOCIAL MEDIA: @NPCUK



NPC ANNUAL CONVENTION '24



To join us in Blackpool for the 2024 Annual Convention on 3rd & 4th September just complete and return this form. NPC members will hear from leading experts and discuss the most important issues affecting older people today. Look out for more details coming soon.

JOIN US IN BLACKPOOL

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NPC Member Offers

Your favourite tippie as a long term investment?

NPC member benefits offer supporters and affiliates discounts when purchasing goods and services which in the process can raise money for the NPC. Vintage Acquisitions offers Scotch Whisky Cask Investment, which they say has shown a remarkable resilience to economic downturns, often appreciating in value over time. To find out more visit: www.vintageacquisitions.com/npc/ The VA team is ready to answer all your questions. *NB: Fees apply. Investments can go down as well as up. NPC does not offer advice on investments and takes no responsibility for personal decisions.

NPC 250 Club

250 Club - Latest News

Join the NPC 250 Club and you could win cash and help the NPC! For just £2 a month or £24 per annum, you will be entered into the NPC 250 Club prize draw. Half of the income goes into the monthly prize draw, and the remaining 50% will go to the NPC to support our work for older people. **Sign up at:** www.npcuk.org/post/npc-250-club *OR: Write to the NPC address on Page 1. Results of the Easter Draw: 1st Prize: £71.00 - Bill Dale; 2nd: £42.60 - Chris Mason-Ryan; 3rd: £28.40 - Steve Whitehead. The 250 Club Draws for the next three months, will take place as follows: April Draw: at NEC, 28th May; May Draw: at FWP, 17th June; June Draw: at NEC, 30th July. Good Luck!