



## South Gloucestershire Over Fifties Forum

### *Campaigning for older people*

The South Glos Over 50's Forum  
The Clocktower, Tower Road North, Warmley, Bristol, BS30 8XU  
email: southgloover50s@gmail.com or call 0796 710 2414

### Summer 2018 News Sheet

Hello!

It was lovely to meet so many of you at our AGM and Conference as we celebrated 25 years of the Forum.

We were particularly delighted that James Freeman, Managing Director of First Bus West of England, came to speak and take your queries. One lady in an electric wheelchair shared her difficulty in getting on and off buses. True to his word she had a visit to ensure she was fully able to get on and off the buses. We will continue to get involved in transport issues.



I am pleased those who completed our evaluation forms found it useful. We will be following up on digital exclusion and hope that we will have a speaker at our area meetings soon. I am also awaiting news on the housing survey many participated in. I hope you are enjoying the summer. *Margaret Slucutt - Chair*

### **Working Aged Survey**

At the Conference we launched our working aged survey. People 50 plus don't feel old and cannot grasp the benefit of engaging with the Forum so we created a survey, with the help of Alice Payne and Annie Legge, Associates at CVS South Glos, to ask people living in South Gloucestershire within this age profile, 50-70 years, what they would find useful. We have been trialling evening meetings for this age group with the support of grant money obtained for this purpose. If you are in this age profile or you have family living in South Gloucestershire in this age range please ask them to complete the questionnaire. It can be completed anonymously at : <http://southgloover50sforum.btck.co.uk/>. We have also put paper copies in the Libraries and they will return them to us or they can be posted to our office or ring 07967102141.

### **Area Members Meetings**

We look forward to welcoming you to our Area Members Meetings.

- ✚ Wednesday 25th July at 10.30am Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, Castle Court, BS35 2AQ
- ✚ Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am Ridgewood Community Centre, Yate BS37 4AF
- ✚ Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2 – 4pm Hanham Community Centre, High Street, BS15 3EJ
- ✚ Wednesday 8th August 2pm Coniston Community Centre, Patchway BS34 5LP

As these area groups develop so they are raising local issues that we want answers to, so every meeting will not be exactly the same. However I will be having a discussion about how we move forward at each of these summer area meetings. Do come it is important your voice is heard.

### **Hearing the issues**

Many will be familiar with the National Pensioners Forum. Your Committee feel that we need to be more involved at a local level and is joining GAS. This is the Gloucestershire, Avon and Somerset Regional Branch of NPF. Darryl Collins, our Vice Chair, is already a member but this will enable us to get involved as a Forum.

## Healthy Lifestyles

Public Health is keen to hear your view on our plans for the healthy lifestyle service, and what we could do to ensure we are providing an effective healthy lifestyle and wellbeing service for everyone. To see the proposals and fill in the survey please follow the link to the consultations home page. <https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/HLWS18/consultationHome> Hard copies are also available throughout South Gloucestershire libraries and can be sent back freepost to the council.

## South Gloucestershire Council changes to Healthwatch Proposed from April 2019

Due to increasing demands on Council budgets, from April 2019 the Council is proposing to reduce Healthwatch South Gloucestershire funding by about 50% and jointly commission the service with Bristol City Council, and potentially North Somerset Council. This proposal is being considered as there is potential to prevent funding reductions to other services where a greater negative impact on individuals may be experienced. Healthwatch South Gloucestershire acts as a consumer champion for the patients and public of South Gloucestershire. The service hears the views of the local population and promotes the views to the relevant decision makers.

The public consultation on these changes is open from 30th April until 23rd July 2018. Find out more and have your say here: <https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/consult.ti/Healthwatch> or 01454 543402.

## Opportunity to Take Part in Research on 'Involving Family Carers in Older People's Home-based Reablement'

- Are you caring for a friend, neighbour, parent, spouse or relative aged over 65? Or have you done previously?
- Would you like to find out more about and even possibly be involved in a research study on 'Involving family carers in older people's home-based reablement'?

Come along for a fascinating tour of the Bristol Robotics Laboratory's Assisted Living Studio at UWE's Frenchay Campus and find out more about the opportunity to become a voluntary research advisory group member for this UWE Postgraduate Research Study. 1.30-3pm on Thursday 2 August. Please contact Caroline McAleese, Carers Engagement & Involvement Lead for more information or to book on: [carolinem@carerssupportcentre.org.uk](mailto:carolinem@carerssupportcentre.org.uk) 0117 958 9989.



**Inspiring Women** We must never forget the struggles women went through in order to get women the vote. The Representation of the People Act meant that women over 30 who owned property could at last have their say. It was a right that was fought for and won by the suffragette movement. It was a movement that began in Manchester. Its leader was Emmeline Pankhurst. It was 10 years later before all women over 21 got the vote.

As we remember Inspiring Women South Glos Council has been awarded a Lottery grant to explore the impact of the Second World War in South Gloucestershire, both during and in the post-war years. They are looking for stories, from men and women, about what it was like to grow up, live and work in South Gloucestershire during this time. They also hope to find stories from those who served in the forces during or in the aftermath of the war. If you would like to share your stories, which will be used to inspire young people and used more widely please contact Christina Wheeler on [christina.wheeler@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:christina.wheeler@southglos.gov.uk) or ring & ask for her via 01454 868006.

The Committee would be interested to hear from anyone who wants to be an active representative in promoting our activities and getting new members. Our telephone number is 07967102141 or email [southglosover50s@gmail.com](mailto:southglosover50s@gmail.com). We need your help in ensuring our future. Following our updating of the membership required by GDPR we have lost about 75% of members listed. We want to be a strong campaigning voice so it is important to grow again. I hope to see you soon. *Margaret*

Links to the above can also be found on our website <http://southglosover50sforum.btck.co.uk/>