

# Later Life Newsletter

## Later Life Newsletter

Now reaching over 100,000  
individuals and organisations

No 42 - February 2013

### New Older People's Day website

launched, and is available to help you organise an Older People's Day event on or around 1st October or at any time of the year. Features include a news section; the opportunities to post news, stories and add your comments, and promote your event by featuring your brochures, posters or links to your site. Add us to Facebook and Twitter (@olderpeoplesday and @opduk) [www.olderpeoplesday.co.uk](http://www.olderpeoplesday.co.uk)

**The Senior Citizen Liaison Team** from Avon & Somerset Police provide opportunities for senior citizens to benefit from crime prevention advice, victim aftercare, social inclusion events and much more. A link to their award-winning Senior Siren newsletter is attached. [read Senior Siren](#)

**Big Lunch 2013 packs:** the Big Lunch aims is to get as many people as possible across the whole of the UK to have lunch with their neighbours once a year in a simple act of community. If you are interested in learning more, the Big Lunch has launched packs with easy tips, handy resources and practical advice to get you started [read more](#)

**The Housing our Ageing Population: Plan for Implementation** (HAPPI 2) report reinforces the importance of a national effort to build new and better homes for older people. These can address problems of inaccessibility, high heating and maintenance bills, and the dangers of loneliness. If high quality, well designed accommodation that attracts older people to "right-size" can be created, we bring hundreds of thousands of family homes on to the market meeting needs of the younger generation as well. [read the HAPPI report](#)

**Statistics show resurgence in volunteering** New figures released yesterday show a sharp rise in volunteering and that people are actively coming together to drive improvements in their communities, Minister for Civil Society, Nick Hurd recently said. The Official Statistics published for the first time by the Cabinet Office show that the proportion of people volunteering at least once a year has now increased from 65% in 2010-11 to 71% in 2012, with an even bigger increase in the proportion of people volunteering regularly [read the Cabinet Office press release](#)

**Alzheimer's Society launches Dementia Friends information sessions** - people across England are now able to sign up for sessions to become a Dementia Friend. Just over 12,000 people have already registered their interest in becoming Dementia Friends and will attend information sessions to find out more about what it's like to live with dementia and then turn that understanding into action in their local community.

[New funding reforms](#) announced for **care and support** to ensure that the elderly and those with disabilities get the care they need without facing unlimited costs. The new measures are based on the recommendations made in 2011 by the [Dilnot Commission](#), an independent panel set up to look at the fairest and most sustainable way to fund care and support in England.

**Plans to simplify the state pension system** with the creation of the "Single Tier" pension have been published in a [White Paper](#). The reform will create a simple flat rate pension set above the means test and based on 35 years of National Insurance contributions. It will particularly benefit women, low earners and the self employed, who under existing rules find it difficult to earn a full state pension.

**Eligibility for the Warm Home Discount Scheme** Pensioners who have received a letter from DWP asking them to confirm their eligibility for the Warm Home Discount Scheme must call the scheme helpline on 0845 603 9439 by 13/03/13. To be eligible, on 21 July 2012 :  
a person under 80 needed to be getting only the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit (not Savings Credit) or  
a person aged 80 or over needed to be getting the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit.  
Also, they or their partner must be named on their electricity bill. For info: [GOV UK website](#)

To subscribe, or provide contributions to future Later Life Newsletters contact: [Simon.wilkinson1@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.wilkinson1@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)