



Newsletter

Issue 51

December 2008



This Issue Includes:

- [A few words from Eleanor](#)
- [Funding news](#)
- [Volunteer News](#)
- [Training opportunities](#)

Hi Everybody!

I can't quite believe that we are nearly at the end of 2008 and I have now been at AfOP for over a year. It's been a very busy and exciting year for all of us. We started with the move to new premises which has turned out very well. We certainly don't have any nostalgia for the old office with its leaks and lack of heating! Mycenae House has a very good atmosphere and very helpful staff and there are plenty of rooms that we can use when we need them.

As recorded in the Annual Report, we have worked with a lot of partners this year. We are finding that we are being called upon to do more and more crisis work, especially around debt and often with those in their 60s. This doubtless follows the current economic trend as well as changes in demographics in the borough. We have also set up a project running advocacy and reminiscence groups in 2 care homes which we hope to continue next year if we can get the funding.

We are all looking forward to continuing our work in the coming year and to developing the work that we do to reach an ever wider number of older people in the borough.

££££££££££ Funding news ££££££££££

We are now coming to the end of a number of three year grants and so the last few months have been an anxious time for us all with a lot of my time and energy being focussed on writing applications. However, some recent news has meant that things are looking much rosier now and I will be making a very positive announcement about funding later on in December.

Annual General Meeting

By the time you get this, the AGM will have taken place. We decided this year to hold a brief business meeting just to re-elect the Committee and agree the annual accounts. We intend to hold a bigger event next year, in co-operation with the Pensioners Forum where we can highlight older people's issues and raise our profile. We would like to include a number of organisations in this and hope to raise some additional funds to finance it.

Partners Christmas Lunch

Bert and Elaine Duffus are hosting this event for us again this year at the Charlton Park Rugby Football Club. It will take place on 18th December at 1.00pm and I am sure a great time will be had by all. It was a great event last year with the rugby teams helping to serve the food and look after everyone. This year there will be a choir from a local school who will sing carols and bingo!

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Volunteer Christmas Party



I hope all the volunteers have now received their invitations. We are meeting in the same venue as last year – [Pizza Express in Greenwich at 7.30 on Wednesday 17th December](#) --. Please let us now as soon as possible if you want to attend and if you want to bring someone as we need to confirm numbers by 10th December. We are looking forward to seeing you all and having a chance to thank you for your excellent work.

New volunteers

We have run two basic training programmes this autumn and now have a number of new potential volunteers who we will be hopefully matching with partners in the New Year. Welcome to all of you and we look forward to working with you over the coming months. We also have a new office volunteer, Florence, who is kindly giving us two days a week of her time and has been a great help so far.

Support sessions

I'm sorry that we have not been able to organise as many support sessions this year as we hoped though a number of volunteers have attended on external courses. In January, we will be sending out a programme of sessions for the year and are negotiating with other voluntary organisations in the borough to bring in external trainers on debt, welfare and housing issues.

In the new year, we will be contacting all volunteers who are currently without partners, to look to match you up with older people on our waiting list. Please let us know if you are still available for volunteering.

If you have any news or information that you would like us to include in the next newsletter, please contact Eleanor in the office. We are particularly interested in stories relating to your partners, any information that you feel would be helpful to other advocates or any events that are coming up.

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