

NPC

Campaign!

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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

We won Winter Fuel & Warm Homes battle! Now we must fight the welfare cuts

The National Pensioners' Convention welcomes a major win in our hard fought campaign to restore Winter Fuel Payments to the majority of older people. We are also pleased the government has given the go-ahead for a £13.2 billion Warm Homes Plan to enable long term energy bill savings for millions more households.

Now our biggest concern is the government's new Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Bill which will cut vital disability benefits and sickness-related universal credit.

The cuts in this legislation, designed by government to save billions of pounds, will not only hit families, and older and vulnerable people, but also their carers. The government's own impact assessment suggests the welfare cuts could push an extra 250,000 people into relative poverty. But disability campaigners believe the true figure runs into millions (see page 2).

Ask your MP to vote 'NO' to the PIP cuts on 1st July!

Peter Rayner

It is with deep sadness that we have learned of the passing of NPC Honorary Vice President Peter Rayner. Peter, 91, was a NPC member since its inception, alongside his friend, fellow trade unionist and our founder Jack Jones. A life-long campaigner, he was a highly respected expert on the transport sector following a distinguished career in the rail industry. Revered by his many friends and colleagues, Peter will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife Wendy and son Chris.



Delighted NPC & Unite members celebrate hearing news of the WFP U-turn at the gates of Downing St.

More than 100 Labour MPs plan to vote against the Bill at its second reading in the House of commons on 1st July—they have

instead signed an amendment to reject the Bill as it stands.

NPC is also asking everyone concerned about the Bill to ask their own MPs to vote 'No' next week.*

Jan Shortt, General Secretary of the NPC said: "We fear the government is about to take away any relief we feel over the WFP and Warm Homes Plan, through the proposed cuts to PIP. Our priority right now is to halt Work & Pensions Secretary Liz Kendall's cruel cuts to these welfare payments. That's why we are asking everyone to contact their MPs and request that they vote against her Bill in Parliament on 1st July."

You can also add your name to the petition launched by Richard Burgon MP calling for a 'Wealth Tax - not disability cuts.' More than 70,000 people have signed—join them at: www.change.org/p/tax-wealth-don-t-cut-disability-support

***To find & contact your own MP visit:**
<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

'A massive thank you to all of you who fought with us for the WFP..' Page 2

Want action on climate change? **Join the UK's biggest Mass Lobby of MPs**

NPC members will be among the thousands supporting the UK's biggest environmental lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 9th July — and there is still time to join us!

So far, more than 3,200 people — travelling from 500 UK parliamentary constituencies — have signed up to attend the Mass Lobby of MPs organised by The Climate Change Coalition (TCC).

NPC will host a stand in one of the three main Westminster venues, the QEII Hall, which from 9.30am to 4.30pm will feature lots of activities, including talks and presentations on the aims of the 'Act Now Change Forever' lobby. There will also be a Mass Lobby picture opportunity in Parliament Square at 11.30am—get details of how to be in the pic when you arrive. The event gives people concerned about climate change the chance to meet their MPs on the day, to ask if they can support more government action on conserving our

precious environment.

TCC is asking MPs to back bold, practical action by committing to:

Vital funding for communities hit hardest by climate change;

cutting bills, backing UK jobs, and securing a greener fairer future for all; as well as

restoring nature to create a safer, healthier future. When you register to attend, TCC will explain how you can invite your MP

Register now for 9th July
Travel expenses available!

for a meeting on the day. You can go along without arranging to meet your MP but if you would like to, and want more guidance on the issues, TCC have information webinars online.

Register for the Lobby & more details now at:

www.theclimatecoalition.org/act-now-change-forever?organization_name=national-pensioners-convention

***NB: If you'd like help with your travel expenses, TCC can help—inquire when you register!**



Thank you for supporting our WFP campaign!

The government's decision to reinstate the Winter Fuel Payment to nine million older people was a victory for all your campaigning and the support of so many people and organisations who fought alongside us.

We want to sincerely thank everyone—particularly our members in regions and affiliates around the country, Unite Retired Members, and of course all the MPs who listened to us, including those who attended our Lobby of Parliament last November.

Particular thanks to John McDonnell MP who hosted the Commons Lobby on our behalf.

While 75% of all older people will now receive this vital help with fuel bills next Winter, worth between £200-£300, NPC still wants all



Neil Duncan Jordan MP and Rachel Maskell MP at our Commons Lobby.



John McDonnell MP

pensioners to get the payment, tax-free without means testing, and backdated to last year - because millions went into debt when WFP was axed. Jan Shortt, NPC General Secretary said: "We welcome the change in direction over the winter fuel payment, and sincerely thank all who backed this campaign. But there's still no recognition by the government of the devastating impact of the cuts on older people."

DPAC plan PIP demo

The action group Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) are planning to protest against the government's welfare cuts Bill outside Parliament on Monday, 30th June — the day before the crucial MPs vote (see p1). DPAC believe MPs are not being told the true scale of the impact of the cuts before the vote. A spokesperson said: "MPs will be forced to vote on the cuts without all the information, and based on the misleading figures that have been reported. The total planned disability benefit cuts are at least £9bn and not £4.8bn. The number of households plunged into poverty by PIP cuts alone is at least 350,000, with 1.5 million deaf and disabled people impacted." For more about the demo visit www.dpac.uk.net

For **CONTACT DETAILS**
of the Nations &
Regions visit:
www.npcuk.org/regions

NEWS FROM THE NATIONS & REGIONS

NPC Wales



NPC Wales plan further discussions with the Senedd over additional support for older people despite news of the partial reinstatement of the Winter Fuel Payment.

Members in Wales mounted a strong campaign alongside Unite in Wales for full restoration of the universal WFP, citing the disproportionate number of pensioners affected in Wales when compared to other regions of the UK.

The Joint NPC Wales & Unite Wales campaign has long argued that the UK Government failed to consult with both the Senedd and thereby the Welsh public before cutting the universal WFP. They also criticised the government for not undertaking an adequate Impact Assessment of the cuts prior to their implementation.

NPC Wales and Unite contend the cut in Winter Fuel Payments is in fact a health issue and therefore something that the Senedd should directly manage given that health is a devolved responsibility. **A delegation from NPC Wales and Unite**

(pictured) met Senedd Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice Jane Hutt (third left) just prior to the government's policy U-turn – and they plan further meetings in the near future. Bryan Godsell, Chair, NPC Wales said: "Our older people in Wales deserve better. We will leave no stone unturned in discussions with the Senedd to explore ways in which additional support might be provided."

The picture shows (left to right): Bryan Godsell, Chair, NPC Wales; Gareth Parsons, Vice-Chair, NPC Wales; Jeff Richards, NPC Wales; Jane Hutt; Josh Berlyne, Organiser, Unite the Union; and Jo Galaz, Women's Equalities Officer, Unite Wales.

Charity calls for action to end later life poverty after shock poll

Independent Age is calling for a government cross-party review of what ought to be an adequate income in later life.

In their new report – Together Against Poverty in Later Life—the charity drew upon the findings of a specially commissioned public opinion poll which found that the majority of the public think older people ought to get more Government support. Nearly 4 out of 5 surveyed said older people in poverty is a big concern.

An overwhelming 82% said they must get more help, while 81% said policies backing older people would influence their vote in a general election.

The charity has recommended that the government develop a new take-up strategy to ensure older people receive benefits they are entitled to, It also calls for a Commissioner for Older People and Ageing in England—a campaign policy shared by NPC. The poll of 2,014 UK adults was carried out in April.



Yorkshire and Humber Pensioners Convention elected a full complement of officers and committee members - 10 in all – at their annual general meeting this spring.

Three of those elected were new to the committee including a WASPI campaigner. The meeting included a workshop session where we asked the more than 30 attendees to agree what priorities we should focus on over the coming year.

Concerns over digital exclusion were expressed by each of the six small break-out groups. Other key issues were around pensioner poverty, the NHS and transport. All agreed the region needed to be involved in public campaigning activities to increase awareness of the YHPC. Many people were enthusiastic about this opportunity for discussion and involvement in decision making. It is an approach YHNPC will use again, particularly around the consultation process on the new NPC structure.

YHNPC had a campaign stall at the Banners Held High event in Wakefield last month. The event was well attended, and they attracted a lot of interest and signed up new supporters.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONS & REGIONS

CONTACT THE REGIONS:
www.npcuk.org/regions

East Midlands NPC joined with Chesterfield NPC to

East Midlands

mark the 40th anniversary of the Miners' Strike of 1984-5 at their 5th Chesterfield May Day.

Clare Wilkins reports: 'Both our banners were on the march. and we both had stalls in the Market Square as usual. Chesterfield NPC did brisk business on the tombola and selling books, DVDs and bric-a-brac. The East Midlands NPC stall was very busy too. Five years ago, no one knew who we or NPC were in the area, but now people talk to us about the Winter Fuel Payment campaign, and comment on seeing NPC in the press.

Younger People

They say that it is good to see us again, talk to us about pensioner and other issues and are very interested the NPC literature that Jonathan sent from head office for the stall. We met NPC members, pensioners and interested people from all over the country. More younger people came to talk to us as well as pensioners. Frank Harrison, an NPC member from Hartlepool came to say hel-



EMNPC at Chesterfield 2025 May Day celebrations.

lo again, after missing out on the event in 2024. The Better Buses East Midlands banner was also on the stall along with the petition and David Widdowson talked to lots of people and got many signatures. The campaign is in the East Midlands Combined County Authority for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Since 2020, Chesterfield NPC has grown from a very small group with few members, to 20 members due to its active campaigning on many local issues, and particularly on bus services.

The June meet-
ing of the Lon-

London Region

don Region will feature a talk by Martina Kane, Head of Policy and Research at Independent Age. Martina, pictured



right will discuss the charity's new report – Together Against Poverty in Later Life – which highlights the increasing struggle older people face in trying to make ends meet. In-

dependent Age, supported by of TSSA, as well as the NPC's Structure Working Party and Transport Working Party. The meeting will also discuss the next steps in the NPC's Need for Change consultation.

NPC and others, is

NPC celebrates Pride Month 2025

To mark Pride Month 2025 the NPC has issued a new statement:



'The NPC supports Pride Month by celebrating the diversity and inclusion of our LGBT members and all those with protected characteristics. Everyone has a right to feel safe and comfortable living their daily lives.'

**NPC
250
Club**

Support NPC's work today

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. You can join up at: www.npcuk.org/post/npc-250-club OR: Write to the NPC office address on Page 1.

It's so EasyFundraising!

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising cash for NPC with EasyFundraising? It won't cost you a penny extra. Over 8,000 retailers are on board, including eBay, Argos, ASDA, Tesco, M&S & Booking.com and many others. To find out more and join for free visit: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nationalpc

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