

Scottish Older People's Assembly Newsletter March 2018

Welcome to the Assembly 2018 Newsletter from the SOPA Chair



This Newsletter provides details of SOPA's main event - the Assembly on 23 April in the Scottish Parliament. As you will see from the item below it should be a most lively and interesting event. I am looking forward to it immensely and to meeting as many of you as possible there.

A change in our funding has meant that SOPA has had yet another period of re-organisation. However, I am pleased that contributions from our sponsors - B&Q, National Federation of Occupational Pensioners, Big Lottery and the Police Mutual Local Community Fund has allowed us to continue to consult and represent the views of older people from around Scotland. We are pleased to have collaborated with Holyrood Magazine, Herriot-Watt University, Alzheimer Scotland and for generous support from Dundee City Council. More local events are planned, in

particular, an event on Citizens Basic Income with the Scottish Youth Parliament and Glasgow City Council. We are delighted to welcome several more older people's organisations to the SOPA planning group.

Tom Berney

Dundee's Civic Reception on 'Have your Say'



On 8th March in the City Chambers Dundee's Lord Provost Ian Borthwick hosted a successful reception involving a joint venture by Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA) and Alzheimer Scotland. 46 guests attended, mostly from Dundee and Tayside plus other parts of Central Scotland.



Archie Noone Chair of Alzheimer Scotland's Scottish Dementia Working Group (picture-right) emphasised the importance of people with dementia using their voice and experience to influence policy and service development.

Marcia Ramsay, Alzheimer Scotland's Director of Operations presented updates on new aspects of care and support for people with dementia and their carers.

Tom Berney, SOPA Chair gave information on its National Assembly to be held on Monday 23 April 2018 in the Scottish Parliament.

Everyone 'Had their Say' and raised a host of concerns in conversations on the Cost of Living, Care, Pensions, Support and Advice, Prevention, Citizenship and Age. These important matters of concern will be shared with Ministers and officials during SOPA's Assembly.

Information stalls were provided by B&Q, Action on Elder Abuse, Alzheimer Scotland and Generations Working Together. Participants welcomed the event and said it was friendly, inspiring, informative and challenging.

... " thoroughly enjoyed it and found it both educational and uplifting. Great venue and good interaction. ... I took a lot from it."

More events are planned during the coming months for Edinburgh, Stirling, Nairn, Dingwall and Glasgow.

Citizen's Income

CITIZEN'S

BASIC

INCOME

TRUST

In partnership with Glasgow City Council, Basic Income will be discussed by SOPA members, Scottish Youth Parliament and Annie G Miller (retired academic economist) on Friday 22 June in Glasgow.

"A Basic Income, Citizen's Income, Citizen's Basic Income or Universal Grant is an unconditional, automatic, and non-withdrawable income for every individual as a right of citizenship." (Citizen's Income Trust, 2017).

Scottish Older People's Assembly 2017/18

Scottish Parliament

Monday 23 April

Registration from 10.30 for 11.00.
Close 15.30



The Assembly will enable over 100 older people, from all parts of Scotland to air their experiences directly to politicians. They can comment on progress in improving policies and services on many topics, current concerns and ensure that older people are better informed of Scottish Government actions relating to its National Outcomes and Fairer Scotland Actions.

As the host for the 2017/18 Scottish Older People's Assembly, Claire Adamson MSP is very pleased to announce its 9th annual event.

The Assembly has an interesting programme of speakers and workshops, including Jeane Freeman OBE MSP, Minister for Social Security who will deliver the keynote speech.

To celebrate the Year of Young People, members of the Scottish Older People's Assembly, Scottish Youth Parliament, and Children's Parliament will join together to engage in an interactive discussion on Human Rights to examine its Benefits, Barriers and Breaches.

Themed workshops, such as Dealing with Funeral Poverty, Sustainability of Social Care, Preventative Interventions and Beveridge's 'Giant Evils'- Want, disease, ignorance, squalor and idleness - Where are we now?' will be held in Committee Rooms and address the concerns of older people and subsequent actions taken by the Scottish Government and other organisations.

The Assembly will culminate in an interactive Question Time with a Panel of MSPs.

Claire Adamson MSP states "I am looking forward to working with SOPA's Planning Group and bringing SOPA's members, guests, partners, politicians and officials together for debate, challenge and conversation"

Further programme details of the event are at www.scotopa.org.uk

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Scottish Older People's Assembly (SCO46520)

