

NEWS FROM CARDIFF AREA BRANCH 144

Winter Fuel Allowance

As you are all probably aware the Chancellor announced on 29 July that she would be withdrawing the Winter Fuel Allowance (which varies between £100-£300 depending upon circumstances) from pensioners this autumn unless you are in receipt of Pension Credit or another means tested benefit. This will mean that only 1.4 million pensioners will now qualify. However, 850,000 pensioners in the UK are believed to be eligible for Pension Credit but have not submitted a claim. If you think you may be eligible please make a claim at www.gov.uk/pension-credit or alternatively telephone 0800 99 1234 where you can make your claim or request an application form. If you are successful, you may also qualify for other benefits, such as extra help if you are a carer or severely disabled and a free TV Licence if you are over 75.

Age UK also has a petition on their website calling for the Government to reverse this decision as it will severely affect those who do not qualify for Pension Credit and those who rely on the money to pay their energy bills. They can also be contacted for free on their advice line at 0800 169 65 65.

Suspicious Telephone Calls

Telephone companies will be required to block calls from abroad masquerading as a UK landline from January 2025, (this is known as spoofing), hopefully this will reduce the number of such calls we all receive. BT has been carrying out a voluntary exercise during a period of consultation with Ofcom which has resulted in the blocking of up 1,000,000 such calls per day. If you think you've been a victim of Caller ID spoofing, Ofcom advises calling Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Social Diary Dates

All members are invited to attend our monthly coffee morning at the Heath Community Hall off King George V Drive East on the first Tuesday of each month from **10.30 – 12.30**, any friends you may wish to bring will be most welcome. If you are interested in joining us on any forthcoming trip that may be arranged, please ring Sandra on the number below. It is often not possible to advise you at short notice by way of this newsletter of proposed trips so it is helpful if we have your phone number to enable us to contact you.

BRANCH CONTACTS

Mr Ed Connolly – Chairman/Secretary –07779 183784

Mrs Sandra Williams – Social Secretary 029 20215119

Mr David (DJ) Williams – Welfare Representative – 07894458225

Membership Number:

Joint Membership Number:

Issue: