

# Senior Citizens Forum Newsletter June 2019

## Message from the Chairperson, Celia Steventon

Hello again, what a brilliant success our April Forum with Veolia was, we had a great number of people attending and we were able to find out more about recycling, what happens to our rubbish and how we can do our bit to help save the environment.

We have also had an event in conjunction with Independent Age regarding care in later life. We are hoping to follow this up by running our own event at some point, to help everyone gain more information regarding the provision and payment of care in the future.

Our Health and Care Action Group has met a few times and is beginning to formulate what the priorities are in the Telford area. If you are interested in getting involved in this group please let us know.

We have a busy time ahead, two Celebrating Age events, our AGM and we are even booking our Christmas lunches!!! (Tickets on sale in September)

Thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at the Forums and other events.

## Celebrating Age 2019

### Keeping Fit & Active

Wednesday 19th June, 10am - 2pm, the Place, Oakengates, TF2 6EP

You'll have the chance to try out a range of activities, talk to the group leaders, meet other people, and have an enjoyable fun day!

We hope to have bowling, table tennis, curling, yoga, (men's yoga too), Banghra dance, cycling, walking, salsa, seated exercise and much more!

The Forum are once again working with Celebrating Age partners Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin, Wrekin Housing Trust and Telford & Wrekin Council to give you the opportunity to find out more about the huge range of regular activities on offer in the area, helping you to keep fit, active, and connected to others.

There'll be musical entertainment provided by Side by Side Ukes and Paul Wallace, free tea & coffee and a free light lunch.

No need to book, just drop in, everyone welcome (over 50's).  
Please wear suitable clothing and footwear.

To find out more call 07552 975676/07932 828333,  
email [info@celebratingagetelford.uk](mailto:info@celebratingagetelford.uk)

And in October....

## Art, Music, Dance & Hobbies

Wednesday 9th October, 10am - 2pm, Whitehouse Hotel, Wellington, TF1 2NJ

Our second Celebrating Age 2019 event offers a chance to come along and find out about (and try your hand at) a range of arts, crafts, hobbies, dance and music.

If you are a local group holding regular sessions relating to these activities and you're interested in taking part in the event and promoting your group, please contact us on 07552 975676/07932 828333, email [info@celebratingagetelford.uk](mailto:info@celebratingagetelford.uk)

Again, there'll be music, tea & coffee and a free light buffet lunch.  
No need to book, just drop in, everyone welcome (over 50's)

## Looking for a regular activity, something to join, a chance to meet new friends?

As well as coming along to our two exciting events, you can search the Forum's online directory of local groups, activities, clubs and classes. Visit: [twseniors.org.uk/activity-directory](http://twseniors.org.uk/activity-directory)

We'll be on hand at both events to help you use the directory to search for a local session.

You can request a printed copy of the whole directory (£4.00 to cover print & postage), or you can request a free sheet, listing activities in your area or listing a certain type of activity eg arts & crafts. Contact us on 07552 975676/07932 828333

## Environment & Transport Action Group by Dave Wright, Chair of ETAG

At our last ETAG meeting we had an update on the new ground and cleansing contract from the council's Service Delivery Manager.

The new 10-year contract started on 1st of April and has been given to leading grounds specialist, Idverde. The company will provide regular road sweeping on all roads where a sweeper can operate. Litter picking on all estates, parks and green spaces, footpath sweeping and additional grass cutting in residential areas will also be introduced.

Hopefully you should no longer come across overflowing bins however, if you do spot one, please report it and the Idverde crews will aim to get it emptied in 4 hours. If you report fly tipping the company should clear within 2 days and any reported street litter, by the next working day (in most instances).

They will also remove any offensive graffiti within a few hours. You may have already seen the motor bike going around with the rider spraying the kerb side weeds. The company will appoint a Community Development Manager to link up with our town and parish councils and local community hubs to develop a community-focussed approach to serving the Borough.

## The DVLA is clamping down on vehicle tax evasion Tax it or Lose it!

The DVLA is targeting the 11 locations of the UK where vehicle tax evasion is highest. In 2018, it took enforcement action – ranging from fines to clamping – on more than 464,000 vehicles in these areas.

There really is no excuse, it's never been easier for motorists – on GOV.UK you can tax your vehicle 24 hours a day and if you are not sure when your tax is due, you can check your vehicle tax is up to date. You can even check on Amazon's Alexa or check on Google Home if you want. All you need is your vehicle registration.

## The Forum has raised the following issues in response to Shropshire County Council's proposals to reduce subsidised bus services.

The Forum's ETA group has expressed its concern that the cuts might impact those who rely on buses to get to and from work, and also to hospital appointments.

The following changes are proposed:

Service 115,116 Telford – Bridgnorth, withdrawal of Saturday service.

2. Service 8, Telford - Broseley – Bridgnorth, removal of 6.10pm and 8pm services from Telford and 7.15pm from Bridgnorth.

3. Service 524, Rodington – Shrewsbury, removal of 6.59am and 7.20am services, Mon - Fri.

4. Service 19 Telford - Ironbridge – Shrewsbury, reduction to services.

5. Shrewsbury Park & Ride - withdrawal of the group ticket and increase of the per person ticket to £2 return, including bus pass holders. Whilst Park and Ride will remain attractive for single occupants for all day, the outer car parks become financially better options for part day parking for 2 or more people (£4 all day), provided there are spaces available and people are able to walk the extra distance. This will attract more cars into the town which does little for traffic congestion, and is certainly not going to improve the environment or reduce air pollution.

6. There are no changes proposed to Shrewsbury Town service No. 11 Shrewsbury Bus Station - Hospital - Gains Park. We have asked to be consulted about any future changes proposed as this service connects the Railway Station and the direct X4/X5 bus service from Telford to the Hospital.

Let us know if any of the above service changes would affect any journeys that you take regularly. (Contact details on page 2)

If you are concerned about an environment or transport problem please let the ETAG person know and we will take up on your behalf with the correct authority. Look for the ETAG presentation board at our Forum events or get in touch (see contact details on page 2).

## Senior Social @The Wakes, every Thursday at 1.30pm

A weekly session, with a varied programme including activities, films, talks and food.

13th June	Gentle Chair Yoga with fresh fruit salad	FREE
20th June	Film with tea & cake*	£2
27th June	Therapy Dogs with tea & biscuits	FREE
4th July	Tea Dance with afternoon tea	£2
11th July	Coach Trip to Ludlow (leaves 9.30am)	£2
18th July	Film with tea & cake*	£2

All activities will come with complimentary tea & coffee.

Booking essential for films, lunch and coach trip.

Please call in at The Wakes TF2 6EP or book online at [www.thewakes.org.uk](http://www.thewakes.org.uk)

Enquiries 01952 567502//07552 975676

A joint initiative between the Forum and Oakengates Town Council.

## Men Aged 65 Plus - Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

A simple scan can tell if you have an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm. This is an enlargement of the main blood vessel in the abdomen and if left untreated it can be fatal. Men aged 65+ are most at risk. NHS screening invitations will be sent to men aged 65 this year and those over 65 can request a scan.

Contact the Shropshire AAA Screening Programme:

Call 01743 261048

Talk to your GP

Email: [sath.aaa@nhs.net](mailto:sath.aaa@nhs.net)

Visit: [www.sath.nhs.uk/wards-services/az-services/aaa-screening](http://www.sath.nhs.uk/wards-services/az-services/aaa-screening)

It's a 10 minute appointment, and a quick non-invasive ultrasound scan. Results are given straight away and if everything's normal it's a one-off scan. If we find weakening or widening then we will offer surveillance and refer at the appropriate threshold for treatment options.

Any gentleman aged 71+ WILL NOT have been routinely invited for a scan because the programme only came into practice 6 years ago.

Women can get aneurysms in the abdominal aorta however it's 6 times less likely, therefore unless there is a hereditary connection you would not be offered a scan. If you wish to be screened then you must ask your GP as it requires a referral into the Vascular Ultrasound Department within the hospital.

## Forum Computer drop in sessions (free)

Butter Cross Court, Stafford Street, Newport, TF10 7UD, Wed, 11am – 1pm

Hartshorne Court, Burton Street, Dawley, TF4 2BY, Wed, 10am - 12noon

Oliver Court, Ladycroft, Wellington, TF1 3BU, Wed, 2pm - 4pm

The Hub on the Hill, Southgate, Sutton Hill, TF7 4HG, Mon, 2pm - 4pm

Call us on 07932 828333/07552 975676 for more details.

At the drop-in sessions we can help you learn to get more from your device, whether it's a laptop, tablet or smartphone.

Learn about email, video calling, social media, searching online, shopping, managing and sharing photos, typing letters and much more.

We provide the opportunity for you to practice, gain more confidence and chat to others.

We also help with problem solving, online safety advice and computer clean up. No need to book, just turn up!

## Forum Health & Social Care Action Group

A special thank you to everyone who has expressed interest in our new action group and to those people who have attended our first few meetings.

We are still happy to welcome new members to the group, so if you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact us. (Contact details below.)

There are so many items of concern within health and care, however to begin with, members have discussed the possibility of carrying out research in relation to GP appointments, and the variation across the borough between the different practices when it comes to making an appointment or accessing a GP.

If you have any particular concerns regarding health and care services that you would like the group to look into, please let us know.

Tel 07552 975676 or 07932 828333, email [enquiries@twseniors.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@twseniors.org.uk) or write to the address on page 2.

## Low uptake of women having smears – improving the rate locally

In Telford & Wrekin the number of women having their cervical screening (smear) has dropped, this follows the national trend. In particular, cervical screening attendance among 50-64-year olds is low. (BMC Women's Health – June 2018)

Over the years research has been done to try to find out why women do not attend for their smears and Telford & Wrekin CCG would like to find out why this might be locally.

We welcome any comments/suggestions from women between the ages of 50-64.

You can contact us at:

Email – [twccg.patientservices@nhs.net](mailto:twccg.patientservices@nhs.net)

Telephone – 01952 580478

In writing – FREEPOST NHS T & W

Thank you

Sharon Smith, Patient Engagement Lead, NHS Telford & Wrekin CCG

## Independent Age

Representatives from Independent Age joined us on 29th April at the Wakes to tell us more about the work of the charity and also about its recently launched campaign for free personal care for all older people. The aim of the campaign is to give older people the help they need with simple activities like getting dressed and getting washed.

The campaign is seeking free care for everyone, whereas currently, more than a million are going without the care they need. The present system is unfair and creates financial disadvantages for many people. Free personal care would enable older people to live in their own homes for longer.

Oliver Steadman, Independent Age:

“It was really great that so many of the people at the event signed the letter to the local councillors. If anyone else would like to sign the letter, this can be done by following this link:  
[www.campaigns.independentage.org/contact-your-councillors](http://www.campaigns.independentage.org/contact-your-councillors)  
I’ll keep in touch as the campaign progresses.”

More details can be found on their website at [www.independentage.org/lets-get-personal-for-free-personal-care](http://www.independentage.org/lets-get-personal-for-free-personal-care)

## What does Independent Age do?

A charity founded over 150 years ago, as well as offering regular friendly contact and a strong campaigning voice, Independent Age can provide older people and their carers and families with clear, free and impartial advice on the issues that matter: care and support, money and benefits, health and mobility. Advice and guidance on a wide range of issues can be found at [www.independentage.org/information](http://www.independentage.org/information)

The charity also offers a befriending service across the country. People can refer themselves for this or a friend or relative. You can also sign up as a befriender to offer either face-to-face or phone contact. Anyone interested in this can call the helpline number below.

Call the freephone Helpline on 0800 319 6789

for information, to arrange free, impartial advice from an adviser, or to order one of the free guides.

## Recycling

Veolia UK's Communications & Engagement Officer, Ruth Jones, joined us on 15th April to take questions about household recycling. Ruth explained the following services as well sharing interesting information about what happens to our recycled items.

Non-recyclable waste in our red top bins is now diverted from landfill and is treated in controlled conditions to create green energy. Recyclable paper, cardboard, plastic and cans are sent off to be made into new items.

Visit [www.telford.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.telford.gov.uk/recycling) or call 01952 384384 for:

Replacement bins - you can order new or replacement bins and blue bags and you can also request additional containers.

Help with putting out your bins - you can request a free assisted bin collection service if you're not able to put the bin/container out for collection yourself.

Checking what can be recycled and which bin to place it in, looking up your collection day and reporting a missed collection or problems with the service.

Larger items can be taken to the Household Recycling Centres at Hortonwood, TF1 7AA and Halesfield, TF7 4LN, 9am - 5pm every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.

Bulk collections - you can request a collection of bulky items from your home. It costs £18 for 1 - 3 items, however Telford residents over 65 and those with a disability can request one free collection per year for up to 6 items per household.

Black plastic - although black plastic is not currently recyclable, you can place it in your purple topped bin for collection.

Clothes and fabrics can be put out for collection in clear plastic bags.

Clean out plastic and glass containers as well as you can and avoid putting recycling items in plastic bags.

A weekly food collection service for residents will be introduced in 2019.

## Scam Update - Fake Lottery Winnings

National Trading Standards are recording more incidents of fake lottery mailings in recent months.

A letter or email will arrive stating that you have won a large amount of money on a foreign lottery, Spanish, Irish, Australian and Canadian are the most common. However, in order to release the winnings, you need to pay a fee, usually around £40.

If you have received these letters, please report them immediately to Action Fraud, 0300 123 2040 ([www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)) and send them on for investigation.

Remember you cannot win a lottery you have not entered, and no legitimate company would ever ask for money to release winnings.

## Things to Do....

### Menoga

Gentle yoga for men of all ages, £2.50 per session.  
Tuesdays 10am – 11am The Wakes, Theatre Square, Oakengates, TF2 6EP  
Contact 07734 107383 - [yogawithannemarie@gmail.com](mailto:yogawithannemarie@gmail.com)

### Chatty Table

Looking for someone to chat to over coffee? Then next time you are in Forge at The Wakes, Oakengates, TF2 6EP, why not sit at the Chatty Table. The Chatty Table is a social table, a place to sit and chat with others at any time the cafe is open, 9 -3pm, see you there.

### Bhangra Dance & Fitness

A new session at Brookside Central, Bembridge, TF3 1ND  
Weds 7.15 - 8pm, contact Jee 07851 270409 to book or for more information.

### Short Mat Bowls

at the Sambrook Centre, Stirchley, TF3 1FA  
Monday 1.30pm - 3.030pm, everyone welcome  
Call 01952 567140, email [enquiries@sbpc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sbpc.org.uk)

### Telford's largest craft fair

2nd Saturday of every month, Meeting Point House, Southwater, Telford Town Centre, TF3 4HS.  
The next craft fairs are on June 8th, then July 13th and 10th August 9.30am-3.30pm. It's free entry and showcases very talented and high quality local crafters and artists. The one site café serves cooked breakfasts, daily specials and afternoon teas daily.

### Learn to Play Bridge

Course starts Wed 18th Sept 2019, 7.30 - 9.30pm, Only £3.00 per lesson.  
Lawley Community Centre, Arleston Lane TF4 2PR.  
Come along and meet new friends, no partner required.  
For further details and to book your place, call Peter on 07583 453125  
[www.telfordbridgeclub.com](http://www.telfordbridgeclub.com)

Tutor: Peter Seager. The club meets: Tuesday evenings at Wrockwardine, Thursday evenings at Lawley

## What is a Will?

Most people have heard of Wills and understand that a Will is a document that will give directions on what is to happen to their estate when they die. However, many people think that there is no need for them to make a Will as they believe it will be easy for their family to sort their affairs after their death.

### Why a Will is important

In reality, it is important to make a Will so that you have chosen who will administer your estate (your Executors) and have set out your wishes on who is to inherit when you die. You can also specify any particular wishes such as funeral choices and particular gifts you would like to leave to your chosen friends or family or to a charity.

### If there's no will

If you do not make a Will, the Rules of Intestacy will determine who will benefit from your estate. Under these rules, only a spouse or civil partner and certain blood relatives will inherit and these may not be the people you would otherwise have chosen to benefit on your death.

### Co-habiting couples

If you are in a relationship, co-habiting with someone but are not married, your partner is not entitled to any share of your estate under these rules and you would need to make a Will to ensure they are provided for. Also, if you have children from a previous relationship it is important to make a Will to ensure that you have made provision for them.

### Jointly owned property

Please note that a jointly owned asset can pass to the other joint owner automatically on death depending on how it is held. For example, there are two different ways to jointly own a home: beneficial joint tenants and tenants in common.

If you own a house as beneficial joint tenants, the surviving owner will automatically inherit the other owner's share of the property. However, if the house is owned as tenants in common, the surviving owner does not automatically inherit the other owner's share and it will pass under the terms of their Will or the Rules of Intestacy if there is no Will in place.

### Probate

Many people coming in to see me to make Wills are under the impression that there is no need for Probate to be obtained to administer their estate when they die as they have made a Will. This is of course not correct as having a Will in place does not mean that Probate is not required.

The value of the assets in the estate and how they are owned with any joint owners will determine whether Probate is needed or not. However, having a Will in place can make the Probate process easier as the Will sets out who the Executors are and they are the people who will be entitled to obtain Probate and deal with the administration of the estate.

It is advisable to make a Will to ensure that your wishes will be carried out on your death and to try and minimise any risk of arguments or uncertainties amongst your family and friends after your death.

Article provided by: Rebecca Sharwood, Solicitor at Donn & Co, Newport

## Did you know...

You can get help with your water bill if your income is low but your usage is high.

The WaterSure scheme is for customers on a water meter who are receiving benefits such as Pension Credit, and either have three or more children under 19 or have a medical condition requiring the extra use of water, including desquamation (flaky skin disease), weeping skin disease (eczema, psoriasis, varicose ulceration), incontinence, abdominal stoma, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, renal failure requiring home dialysis, in fact any medical conditions requiring significant water use.

The Priority Services Register is a list of customers who require additional support and help, for example:

If Severn Trent need to turn off the water supply or lower the water pressure in an area to carry out repairs and that might impact on any medical treatment you receive.

Having your details on the register helps Severn Trent to plan maintenance work around things like medical treatments that require a water supply, such as dialysis.

It also means they're able to quickly locate you if you need extra help during an unexpected incident such as a burst water main.

For more information visit [www.stwater.co.uk](http://www.stwater.co.uk) and click Priority Services or telephone 0345 750 0500.

## A day in the life of a Home Support Worker

Through a well-regarded and popular Help at Home service, Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin provides day to day practical help in the home, enabling older people to remain independent for as long as possible.

A team of 180 home support workers assist more than 1100 older people across the region with all manner of domestic duties: from cleaning to shopping, cooking to gardening, laundry to dog walking and many other tasks, at the same time providing regular companionship. They also keep an eye open for signs of problems or issues that may require attention, helping to keep people safe in their own homes.

An Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin home support worker recently shared some insight into her typical day:

My first customer of the day, a wonderful lady recently diagnosed with dementia, is in bed when I arrive, so I take her a cup of tea, then set to in the kitchen, washing dishes and generally cleaning. Over a second cuppa we sit and chat about her memories of the war and life in general; we laugh a lot. Then I sort out the recycling before changing the bed and making another drink. Two hours flies by!

Onto my second client. At the first visit, this gentleman was very reluctant to have any help. Happily, we got on really well and before I left I asked him if I could visit again: 'You certainly can!' he said. Today, I take him shopping, then cook a meal, as he hates ready meals. Sausage and mash with gravy is his favourite.

My third visit involves a lot of hoovering as the owner's brown carpet is covered in white dog hairs (shed by a much-loved pooch). I'm soon warmed up and ready to defrost the freezer.

I love my job. No two days are the same and whatever the challenge, helping older people to remain independent in their own homes and within their local community gives me a great deal of satisfaction.

If you think you need some help at home and would like further information about Shropshire Telford & Wrekin's Help at Home service, please contact Age UK (details below).

If you have any spare time, enjoy interacting with others, are happy to undertake some domestic duties, provide a listening ear, companionship, warmth and understanding, please call Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin on 01743 233788 or email [enquiries@ageukstw.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ageukstw.org.uk)

## TV Licences – sign the petition

Age UK is calling on the Government to urgently take back responsibility for the funding and administration of the free TV licences policy.

Heather Osborne, Chief Executive of Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin said: 'One in six pensioners are living in poverty in the UK. Paying a hefty extra bill would simply be impossible when many are struggling to pay for their heating and food bills. For an estimated 10,000 older people suffering from isolation and loneliness, the TV is sometimes the only means by which older people gain enjoyment and entertainment.'

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin is urging people to support the campaign, by signing Age UK's national petition - [www.ageuk.org.uk/tvpetition](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/tvpetition) - and by sharing their views via social media and word of mouth.

## Volunteers needed

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin is urgently seeking volunteer retail assistants, van drivers and van drivers' mates to ensure the continued success of its donated furniture shop in Walker Street, Wellington.

Please contact Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin's volunteer recruitment team on 01743 588570 for further information and an application pack or email [volunteering@ageukstw.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ageukstw.org.uk).

## Art exhibition at Wellington Methodist Church

The Art Group at Wellington Methodist Church are busy preparing for an Art Exhibition of work created by their group members, and as previous years is also open for local artists to exhibit their work.

If you're interested in exhibiting work please call Barbara Murray for an Entry Form on 07592 881108.

The last date for entry forms to be submitted is 14th June, and 3rd July for artwork to be delivered to the church.

The exhibition will be held at the Church on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th July, 10am till 4pm each day.

Refreshments including home-made cakes will be served at the exhibition on both days and there will be the usual coffee morning on Saturday morning. Do come along to see the display, entrance is free.

Wellington Methodist Church, New St, TF1 1LU

## Friday Friends Dementia Café at Donnington Community Hub

Every 2nd Friday of the Month, 11.30am - 1.30pm

Activities & 2 course lunch, £8 for 2 meals

Contact Richard 382202 to book your place.

Donnington Community Hub

St Matthews Road

Donnington

Telford TF2 7PR

## Telford Healthy Hearts

Whilst the death rate in Telford & Wrekin has improved in recent years, too many people continue to have strokes and heart attacks that could be preventable.

NHS Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is working with local GPs, hospital specialists and the wider NHS to identify ways to help.

Over the next year GP's will be working to identify any patients who are 'at risk' of a heart attack or stroke. This will include patients who have or are at risk of having high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, abnormal heart rhythms and heart failure.

The GP will send a letter to identified patients which will contain information and advice on the steps they can take to reduce their risk.

The GP may recommend that a patient starts taking medication, such as statins. If a patient is already taking medication to reduce their risk, the GP may increase the current dose or switch to another medication.

If you receive a letter from your GP make sure you open it and follow the advice – it could save your life.

You can reduce your risk by exercising regularly, healthy eating, cutting down on alcohol, reducing stress levels and giving up smoking - all of these things will help improve the health of your heart and lower your blood pressure.

For help with giving up smoking, losing weight and getting more exercise call the Healthy Lifestyle Team on 01952 382582 or email [healthylifestyles@telford.gov.uk](mailto:healthylifestyles@telford.gov.uk)

Find out more about Telford Health Hearts by visiting: [www.telfordccg.nhs.uk/healthy-hearts](http://www.telfordccg.nhs.uk/healthy-hearts)

## THE YEAR 1799 - Income Tax by Dave Wright

In the last edition we continued with major events and inventions in the year 1919 arising after the Great War, however in this edition we want to go back 220 years to 1799.

William Pitt was running the country and importantly we were at war with France and Pitt's government needed funds to fight the war, so they introduced Income Tax. Pitt pointed out that those currently paying some form of tax often didn't pay, so a tax on income would be fairer all round. It then took 4 years for the final form of the income tax system to be embodied in the Act of 1803.

The need for this new tax arose from the unprecedented high expenditure of the British armed forces and on subsidies we were giving to our allies. Also, interest payments on the national debt had increased due to the Government raising more and more loans.

Many people thought that the tax would only be temporary due to the war expenditure. In fact Parliament did repeal the act in 1816, ordering the commissioners for affairs of taxes to destroy all their records. Of course, being careful commissioners, they kept duplicate records.

Raising revenues continued to present problems for the Chancellor

of the Exchequer with the move to free trade which led to the abolition of many indirect taxes on goods and services.

This was compounded in 1840 by the introduction of the Penny Post which reduced revenues from the postal services.

In 1842 Sir Robert Peel proposed that for a limited time the income of the country should be called upon to contribute to remedying the growing deficit. Yes, you've guessed it - no Chancellor of the Exchequer since 1842 has removed the need for income tax.

Taxation in general terms represents a transfer of resources from the people to government and without this taxation the Government could not function. We know that taxation is divided into indirect taxes which are levied on sales of goods and other transactions (VAT, Capital Gains, Property etc) and direct taxes levied primarily on a person's income.

As stated above the original objective was to raise revenue to finance public expenditure often on wars however within the 20th century tax has been used to protect domestic industries and redistribution of income plus at local level to finance local expenditures.

## Looking for a speaker?

My name is Clive Denby and I offer one-hour talks (plus 15 mins questions) on a wide range of topics. Of late I have been giving humorous accounts of my 27 years of teaching in International

Schools throughout Africa. These have gone down very well indeed. I can also issue forth on more focused topics such as living and working under a foreign dictatorship (exploding the myths) and some of the more serious stuff including aid vs trade, the true causes of famine, the effect of missionaries on local cultures, a simplified account of climate change (clearing up confusion), what do we do about plastic?

I can either be provided with a topic in advance or select one myself. I am a qualified lecturer/teacher and a published science columnist in a Swazi national newspaper (246 thousand-word articles). I've done some breakfast TV work (Swaziland), am a published book author (science stuff) and highly travelled with a rich/bizarre humour.

I charge £25.00 per talk and require at least 72 hours notice.

Please contact me, email: [scolopax939@gmail.com](mailto:scolopax939@gmail.com)

## Join us today! Become a member of The Forum

To become a member of the Senior Citizens Forum, either phone 07932 828333/07552 975676 or email us at [enquiries@twseniors.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@twseniors.org.uk) or follow the link 'Contact Us' on our website [www.twseniors.org.uk](http://www.twseniors.org.uk)

Membership is free and open to people resident in the area, in middle and later life, or anybody with a particular interest in older people's issues.

As a member you will, unless you notify us otherwise, receive our newsletter every two months by post or email.

Postal address:  
FREEPOST RTGZ-UAGU-TXHJ  
Senior Citizens Forum  
Box 7, Unit D  
Stafford Park 9  
Telford TF3 3AF

## How we handle your data

The Senior Citizens Forum is committed to ensuring that your privacy is protected by using your data fairly, lawfully, securely and solely for the purposes for which it is required.

We collect data to allow us to register you as a member of the Forum so that you may receive our newsletter every two months. If you choose to receive it by post, we pass your name and address to a mailing company. We sometimes use the data for statistical purposes. We will not sell, distribute or lease your personal information to third parties unless we have your permission or are required by law to do so.

If you believe that any information we are holding on you is incorrect or incomplete, or you wish to have your details removed from our records, or wish to stop receiving any correspondence from us, please contact us at the address above, or by calling 07932 828333, email [enquiries@twseniors.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@twseniors.org.uk).

The Senior Citizens Forum is a registered charity and has no regular income. Don't forget that you can help – if you get the opportunity to nominate a charity for funds please do think of us; or if you would like to make a donation, it would be much appreciated. Cheques, made payable to the Senior Citizens Forum, can be sent to our freepost address above.

The newsletter is entirely independent and is not tied to any political party. Information is, to the best of our knowledge, correct at the time of going to press but no liability will be accepted for any errors or omissions. The inclusion of an article does not necessarily imply a recommendation of its aims, policies or methods.

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