

# Pensioner of Wales



September 2004

www.noapaw.org.uk

TUAG AT FYWYD GWELL

## Draw Winners

Prize	Winner	Branch
£300	061430	Blaenrhondda
£175	114217	Lower Cwmtwrch
£125	111031	Pontardawe
£25	002446	Deri
£25	052935	Ystrad Rhondda
£25	090477	Loughor
£25	095751	Pontlliw
£25	096526	Three Crosses
£25	106480	Gwaun Cae Gurwen
£25	108071	Garnswllt
£25	113901	Lower Cwmtwrch
£25	128656	Penywaun
£25	130361	Hirwaun

Send Claims to Amy Holifield (Draw Promoter) as soon as possible. Address on page 4 of this newsletter. Don't forget to include **name and full address of the winner!**

# Bits and Pieces

## **Bridgend Area Sec Wins Awards**

Gill Richards (who is also Llanharan Branch Sec.) recently won TWO Awards for her outstanding volunteering in the community.

Gill started up the local community shop in December 1993 and in recognition of this was "highly commended" by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and she received an All Wales Award. She also received a community award from INTERLINK - gaining the most points in the whole of Rhondda Cynon Taff

## **Bryncae couple celebrate 60th Anniversary on 26th August 2004.**

Doreen and Ralph Avis of Heol-y-Cyw Branch were married at St David's Church, Pencoed in 1944. Doreen was born in 1924, Ralph in 1921.

At the time of their marriage, they were both serving with the RAF 53 O.T.U. Ralph got married in uniform, while Doreen wore a white wedding gown kindly loaned to her by the American President's wife. WAAFs were allowed to get married out of uniform.

1944 wasn't a very good year. There had been the D-Day landings and our men were still battling to regain France and the rest of Europe. The real match of the year, though, was their wedding.

A lot has happened since they began married life together - no more food rationing, no more docketts to set up home. They've had many happy times coupled with sadness, but they have had each other to see them through.

Doreen and Ralph have two daughters, one son, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They celebrated their Anniversary in Jersey with their family.

Friends, neighbours and all their colleagues in the National OAP Association of Wales send them sincere congratulations and wish them every happiness and health for the future.

## **Llanharan Branch celebrates Anniversaries.**

Recently, members of the Branch celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, namely the Chairman, Cllr W.E.Hopkin and his wife Kay. Other stalwarts of the Branch, Alice and Stan Hughes, also celebrated their Anniversary. Branch members provided both couples with celebration parties.

# Participation or Discrimination?

*from Ralph Thomas General Secretary*

## Welsh Assembly Government – National Partnership Forum (NPF)

The NPF appears to be an excellent method of establishing pensioner views at the highest level of government in Wales. I applied, along with another member of the NOAPAW executive, for a position on the NPF as a representative of our organization. Feedback from WAG indicated that application for positions as pensioner representatives were only being considered from the following **two** organizations:

1. **National Pensioners Forum Wales.** I understand this to be an ad hoc selection of individuals who may or may not represent other independent pensioner organizations
2. **National Pensioners Convention Wales.** A recently formed (2003) affiliation of a limited number of independent pensioner organizations.

It seems remarkable that the WAG discriminates against independent pensioner organizations in this way. The NPF was envisaged as a key means of expressing older peoples views with a commitment to a majority of older people on the forum. It now seems likely that it will consist of:

**Four** pensioner representatives drawn from an exclusive group of individuals who may or may not represent the wider views of pensioners.

**Five** lay members who may or may not be older people (this has not been clarified) with possibly individual or vested interests.

**Eleven** (Yes, ELEVEN!) professional persons from a cross section of disciplines and interest groups.

It seems likely that older peoples views will be expressed by only a small minority of the NPF members. The WAG has made assurances that a majority of members will be over 50 years of age. Our typical NOAPAW member would not regard a career professional, wearing a particular hat, to be of much use in representing their views.

We have been assured that the Nolan principles have been strictly adhered to in making appointments to the NPF. I would not dispute this but suggest that an eighth principle may need to be added to Nolan to prevent discrimination.

# Diary Dates

If your Area or Branch would like any events publicized in this newsletter, please let us know.

**14 October 2004**

**Upper Rhymney Valley**  
Area Meeting

**15 October 2004**

Executive Meeting with  
Don Touhig MP  
Aberdare

**14 November 2004**

**NOAPAW Executive**  
Aberdare

**1 June 2005**

**NOAPAW Conference**  
/Rally

Porthcawl

**7/9 June 2005**

**NPC Pensioners'**  
**Parliament**  
Blackpool

# Chuckle Corner

## Keeping up with the Jones's

(The tale of how Owain Glyndwr anglicised Welsh surnames)

When the great Prince Owain fought to save Welsh pride  
He listed those who battled at his side  
He tried to note the names of all in sight  
But found the complex consonants impossible to write.

He found it difficult to see  
The point of names like Rhys ap Gruffudd Ddu  
Aneirin, Iorwerth, Ieuan Goch  
And Llywarch Hen o Abersoch  
Taliesin ap Llewelyn Fawr  
And Llun ap Arthur bach y Cawr.

Until at length in sheer despair  
He wrung his hands and tore his hair  
And said for us to know our men  
Proper surnames must be given

Take ten he said and call them Rees  
Another ten and call them Preece  
Take fifty others call them Pughs  
A hundred more dub them Hughes  
Give Thomas to a hundred score  
And Williams name a legion more

The next in line call them Evans  
After those will come the Bevans  
On it went with some named Howells  
Eynons, Beynons then some Powells  
Owen, Bowen, Jenkins, Shenkin  
The line of men was never ending

So Owain said in despairing tones  
Call all the other b\*\*\*\*\*s Jones

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