

# Later Life Newsletter

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**The UK is Unready for Ageing** The House of Lords Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change has warned that the Government is woefully underprepared for ageing. The Committee says that our rapidly ageing population will have a huge impact on our society and public services and unless Government and all political parties address this, the gift of longer life could lead to a series of crises. [read the report](#)

**Record numbers of people with dementia in care homes** A recent report published by the Alzheimer's Society, [Low expectations: attitudes on choice, care and community for people with dementia in care homes](#), found that more than 320,000 of the 400,000 people living in care homes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland now have dementia.

**Adult Learners' Week 18 May – 24 May 2013** is a national celebration of the benefits of lifelong learning and is the perfect opportunity to explore the many types of learning available to adults from all walks of life. [read more](#)

**Big Lottery Fund (BIG) announce £120M investment** in two new initiatives in England that will bring improvements to the lives of vulnerable older people by reducing isolation, helping to deal better with change, and building confidence for the future. The announcement is part of BIG's older people investments which in total are pledging at least £160 million (see notes to editors for breakdown) to support initiatives that respond to the needs of vulnerable older people in England and across the UK through to 2015. [read the BIG press release](#)

**Invisibility of older women exposed – ILC-UK launches a pioneering snapshot of older woman in the UK to mark International Women's Day** 38 essays penned by high profile authors present a picture of our ageing society that is unprepared and in some instances unwilling to respond to the new female demographic dividend. Many of the essays reveal that while women are living longer this does not necessarily imply a happier or healthier older life, with older women shown to be at greater risk of abuse, isolation and loneliness and poverty. [read/download the essays](#)

**ONS report gives latest estimates of the number of very old** (over 90) people in England and Wales, showing a 26% increase in the number of over 90s since 2002 (up to over 440,000) and the number of male centenarians doubling over the same period. (Though women still outnumber men 6:1 in this age group). [read the ONS bulletin](#)

**Research reports on material deprivation published by DWP** – the reports provide in-depth analysis of the low income and material deprivation experiences of older people and detailed insight into older people's lived experiences of deprivation. Although income is important, as the qualitative report brings out, a range of factors such as the cost of living influence the extent to which pensioners are materially deprived. In prioritising their spending, pensioners most commonly scaled back social activities which can deepen deprivation through reduced contact with family, friends and neighbours. [read a full summary of both reports](#)

**'Why does being lonely make you ill?'** this [BBC article](#) uses two American studies to explain how loneliness can harm our health. Dr Jameka of Ohio State University explains: "It was a struggle for a long time for physicians to recognise the importance of loneliness in health. We now know how important it is to understand patients' social worlds."

**Bake to beat loneliness:** Communi-tea Week (15 - 21 April 2013), run by Bupa Care Homes, is this year held in conjuncture with a 'Great Bupa Bake Off', to raise awareness of loneliness and isolation amongst the elderly and this year, to raise funds for Campaign to End Loneliness management group partner WRVS. [read more](#)

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