

# Later Life Newsletter

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**“Taking office, I would have killed for these reforms...”** Major reforms of the State pension have either been made by the Coalition Government or are waiting in the wings. But have they gone far enough, fast enough? Just how fair are these changes – and have older pensioners in particular lost out? Tony Watts meets Pensions Minister Steve Webb and asks him to put the record straight. [read the full interview](#)

**State Pension top up:** From October 2015, existing pensioners and those who reach State Pension age before 6 April 2016 will be able to acquire up to £25 of additional State Pension through a new State Pension top up scheme. It will provide a guaranteed, index-linked income for life. State Pension top up can be inherited, with a surviving spouse or civil partner entitled to at least 50% of the additional State Pension. A calculator is available [online](#) to work out how much additional pension you will receive, and you can register your interest in the scheme by emailing [paid.caxtonhouse@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:paid.caxtonhouse@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) or by calling either: 0845 600 4270 from land lines or 0345 600 4270 from mobile lines.

A [photographic library](#) of positive images of older people is now available to download for free. The Age Action Alliance

aims to provide a growing bank of photos to help promote better attitudes to ageing. The *No Negative* exhibition stands, showcasing the 18 winning photographs are now available to organisations free of charge, to display at your conference or suitable exhibition space. If you have positive images which you would like to add to the gallery, or would like use of the exhibition stands please [contact the Alliance](#)

**Our Dementia – Outcomes** is [a short film](#) commissioned by the Beth Johnson Foundation about living with dementia. Made with members of their Dementia Focus Group it discusses their views on the illness, services provided and what they would like to happen to improve their experiences.

**Switching Household Energy Tariffs** is an independent action research study on fuel poverty in West London that examined whether supporting people to better understand the domestic energy market would result in people changing their suppliers or tariffs, and therefore reduce their household expenditure. [read more](#)

**“More years: better lives”** is a European Joint Programming Initiative, under which 14 Member States (including the UK) and Canada agree to harmonise their research funding on issues to do with demographic change. Details of the Initiative and their agreed Strategic Research Agenda, which outlines issues and priorities for future research is now [online](#)

**Turn GP surgeries into one-stop-shops for health and social care:** [read the article](#) by a Liverpool GP on the role of social prescribing.

**Fuel Poverty Strategy Seminars** National Energy Action is organising six half-day seminars across England to engage with interested stakeholders during the consultation *Cutting the cost of keeping warm - a consultation to prepare for a new Fuel Poverty Strategy for England*. Attendance is free; to find your nearest event [click here](#)

**Loneliness can be twice as unhealthy as obesity:** researchers have found that feelings of isolation can have a devastating impact on older people. [read more](#)

**Can technology ever become a 'fix' for loneliness?** The Campaign to End Loneliness hosted a workshop in July to discuss the tricky question of how technology and telecare can be best used to keep us connected in later life, and help us avoid loneliness or isolation. [read more](#)

**Telephone Fraud – what you need to know and need to do:** the consequences of telephone fraud can be severe and post crime impacts on the victim's health and well being due to the high financial loss. For guidance and more information on how you can help stop this [click here](#). for detailed information on the Devon and Cornwall Police web site.

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