

## Join the Pensioners TV Licence Strike There's Nothing to Fear

The campaigning Organisation for the over 60s. Silver Voices, reports that only 1.6 million out of 3.7 million households required to pay have applied for new licences. SV's Director, Dennis Reed, has reported a flood of new members, joining to support the campaign to oppose the BBC's decision to remove free Licences.

Dennis has advised 'licence strikers' ...

"Over 75s determined to oppose the licence fee have nothing to fear from the BBC's enforcement regime.

*Even if you end up being fined, this is a "non-recordable offence". You will not get a criminal record ...*

"There are many steps to go through before the BBC can prosecute and you can review your position at any stage ...

- The main method to track down non-payers is a list of unlicensed addresses.

*A BBC enquiry officer can only enter the premises with permission, unless they have obtained a search warrant from a Magistrate*

There's no chance of fleets of "detector vans" touring our streets. It's doubtful if any vans still exist.

- The investigation process is usually "a number of contacts with an unlicensed house" - initially by letter - followed by a telephone call or a visit from an enquiry officer, to confirm whether or not a licence is required at the particular premises".

*You won't go to prison. Non-payment of the licence fee cannot lead to imprisonment. This only becomes a possibility if the fine is not paid*

- Where there's evidence of an offence, TV Licensing authorities will usually encourage compliance with the law before taking steps to prosecute

- Even when evidence is strong enough to bring a prosecution (and fine) the BBC has to consider "whether it is in the public interest" to prosecute".

If very big numbers of senior citizens refuse to pay, with strong public support, it'll be difficult for them to pass this hurdle.

Silver Voices will offer advice and publicity for 'licence strikers' as the campaign goes on ...

**Join Silver Voices to strengthen the voice of senior citizens in the UK.**

The subscription is £8 per year, but if you rely solely on the state pension and benefits you get free membership.

## "We're facing up to changing circumstances" says Tom Lithgow

The last few months have been a trial for everyone - and with no sign of a let-up, the Scottish RM Committee has adapted to the new circumstances by moving to video conferencing.

Most of our business has been Covid - and how it has affected older people. We hope to make sure we get an input into policies in the recovery from the pandemic. A key issue for us is the development of a **National Care Service**.



Tom Lithgow

**Retired Members' Forum** - Before Covid hit, we had planned our first Retired Members' Forum. We hope to improve the connection between the Committee and members by inviting representatives from as many Branches as possible to meet regularly - to discuss and help guide our work.

**Zoom Meetings** - Despite restrictions we can function via video conferencing. We've now had a number of forum 'Zoom' meetings. Numbers participating have been small but increasing. The discussions have been very interesting and given a good steer to the Committee. We see it as a great way of boosting inclusion and easing participation by removing geographic or mobility issues.

We'll still use Zoom for future meetings. To participate, contact myself (tom@cove-house.co.uk) or the Committee Secretary, Barbara Fulton (babsunison@yahoo.co.uk)

## UNISON's Scottish Council nomination in the General Secretary ballot ...

UNISON's Scottish Council has nominated Christina McAnea (left) in the forthcoming General Secretary ballot. Glasgow-born Christina is a current



Assistant GS. She secured around 80% of the votes based on branch membership numbers. If elected, Christina will be our first female GS. Ballot papers will be sent out to all members from 28th Oct.



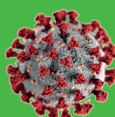
## FOLLOW THE RULES

1. Keep a two-metre gap between yourself and others
2. Wear a Face Mask or Covering
3. Wash your hands regularly
4. Avoid all unnecessary travel
5. Don't visit other houses or allow others to visit you at home

**to SAVE LIVES**



Nicola Sturgeon



**We can BEAT THE VIRUS if we all work together**

If you show signs of the Virus **IMMEDIATELY** self-isolate and arrange to have a test

**New membership of Silver Voices is free during the Coronavirus crisis. To join, e-mail your details to [info@silvervoices.co.uk](mailto:info@silvervoices.co.uk). Just fill in and send in the form.**

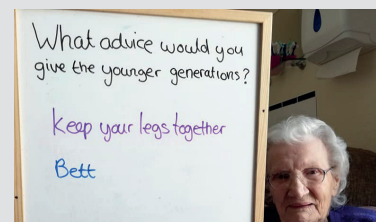
## Bett hasn't lost her sense of humour

We just had to smile at a recent newspaper report on the activities for residents in a Devon Care Home. Residents were asked "What advice would you give the younger generation?"

There was the usual range of 'good advice', much of it probably similar to that we got by our parents when we were young ...

- "Think before you Ink"
- "Spend your money wisely"
- "Enjoy yourself when you're young"

One resident, Bett (pictured) raised a smile with her words of wisdom.



Her message was simple enough and showed she hadn't lost her humour ...

**"Keep your legs together"**