

# November 2008 News

'Information not shared is forgotten'

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## Pension Fund

Many present at the PEPA Lakeside event expected that at least one of the after lunch speakers to mention the state of the fund and the annual pension increases. Nothing.

The next issue of Insight - due before year end hopefully will enlighten us.

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## State of The Nation

As the words 'boom and bust' - claimed not to be possible under the 'Iron Fist' - take on a very significant meaning for us all, we realise that we and our children and their children are burdened with massive debts through bail-outs, PFI and pensions paid out of tax. And in some cases our exuberance with our plastic friend.

Very bad news for tax payers may be released after the impending Glenrothes election.

Gordon Brown's 'great idea' for a British National Day has been scrapped.

Maybe he like the rest of NL is waking up to what makes us 'British' and that it can't be created by spin, but just by living the life and speaking English. But should our armed forces be merge into an EU force?

I hope not!

With a hard winter now being forecast, we should keep an eye on friends and neighbours who may be less fortunate than ourselves.

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## Mandelson

As he said on being brought back to New Labour, 'third time lucky'.  
Lucky for whom? Maybe to achieve his lifetime ambition of being PM?  
In addition to his £23k payoff from his last 2 sackings from government posts, we now have an EU bill to cushion his move back to the UK of nearly £1m.  
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## PEPA

The membership rules for PEPA have been changed, giving some people who found themselves 'sold off' the chance of joining even though their pension pot was transferred out of Philips. Please take a look at  
<http://pepa-online.org.uk/joining.html>  
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## Christmas Scams

You no doubt learn of various scams from friends, hopefully not through personal experience.

1. Can you circulate this around especially as Christmas is fast approaching - it has been confirmed by Royal Mail. The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:  
A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.  
If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.  
Please advise family members/Friends.

2. The scam relating to stolen or copied Disabled Parking discs has at long last been recognised. But it will take a couple of years to check applicants and re-issue them with a national log against which all wardens will be able to check.  
How many times do you see - or suffer - a disabled parking space used by a far from disabled person?  
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## Keeping Fit - sweetners

Many people, like my wife, changed from sugar to one of the sweeteners (Canderel, but there are others Equal, Excitotoxicity and NutraSweet ) in hot drinks. We were both surprised to learn that some sweeteners contain Aspartame also labeled E951.  
Please check your sweetener and Google it to check for either of the above.

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## Travel in the EU

If you have the old E111 or the more recent EU Health Insurance Card, please check the date as new ones are required from next year.

Details may be found together with an on-line form at

<http://www.nhs.uk/Healthcareabroad/Pages/Healthcareabroad.aspx>

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## Our Web Site

Several new pictures have been added in Your Pictures. Your pictures are always welcome.

Also you will find some further history on Southampton under Your Articles - many thanks Derek Jeffs.

And finally Roger Crabtree has written Clive Moffats obituary now in Members Only