Issued by Laura Nott, External Relations Officer - Age Cymru, on behalf of Active Wales, 21 MAY 2015, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Isolation and loneliness worries for Welsh pensioners

Active Wales members gather in Porthcawl for annual conference

ISOLATION and loneliness concerns will be one of the key topics discussed at the Active Wales annual conference and rally in Porthcawl on 3June.

Hundreds of pensioners from across Wales are expected to attend the event, which will be held at the Grand Pavilion for the fourth year in a row.

Active Wales is the new brand name adopted by the National Old Age Pensioners Association of Wales.

John Davies, Chair of the organisation, will host the conference and the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough will deliver a welcome address to the delegates.

Guest speakers include Baroness Anita Gale of Blaenrhondda, the President of Active Wales; Dr Berndatte Fuge OBE, Chair of Age Cymru; and Tom Berney, Chair of the Scottish Older Person’s Assembly.

John Davies, Chair of Active Wales says:

“We are delighted to be returning to Porthcawl again for our all important annual conference and rally.

“One of Active Wales’s main aims is to promote the social inclusion of retired people by supporting our local branches.

“Sadly we have seen a recent increase in local authority community centre closures which only increases social isolation.

“With isolation and loneliness affecting thousands of older people across Wales, our members will be taking action to push this all important topic forward.

“We’re also excited to hear from the Chair of the Scottish Older People’s Assembly about their experiences in raising the profile of older people’s issues in the Scottish Parliament.”

The Active Wales annual conference starts at 11.00am.

ENDS

CONTACT

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Active Wales, formerly the National Old Age Pensioners Association of Wales, is the oldest and largest wholly voluntary pensioners’ organisation in Wales and was founded in 1939.

All individuals and groups of retired pensioners are invited to join the Association in our campaign to remove the stigma of pensioner poverty for all time, improving the life of all pensioners.

The Active Wales Charter:

* The Government are expected to provide an adequate weekly State Retirement Pension directly related to, and to be annually increased in line with average earnings, from The National Insurance Fund.
* The Association demands the Government IMPLEMENT TO THE FULL the recommendations of the 1999 Royal Commission, Care of the Elderly.
* Demand that discrimination on the grounds of age be illegal.
* Ensure the development of free day care facilities to address the companionship and social needs of the elderly.
* Press the Government and others to take positive action on crime prevention and detection, to alleviate the FEAR OF CRIME amongst pensioners.
* To press for the creation of ways and means to enable older people to participate in the development of policies and legislation which affect them.

<http://www.activewales.org.uk/>