

Centre for Policy on Ageing

Centre for Policy on Ageing* is an independent charity established by the Nuffield Foundation in 1947 to promote better services for older people. Originally a grant-giving body, CPA was able to finance many of the pioneering steps in British social policy – sheltered housing, day care and chiropody schemes for example – and to promote their acceptance nationally. CPA also sponsored a number of major research studies of which the best known is *Social welfare for the elderly* by Amelia Harris (HMSO, 1968).

More recently the Centre has furthered its work as a policy-informing body through a programme of in-house research, policy analysis and information and advisory services. CPA's field of interest embraces all policy issues relevant to older people in society; recently completed or current projects concern education, housing, transport, local government services, civil liberties, residential care, mental health services and retirement communities. Reports, policy guidelines and discussion documents arising from the findings are published by the Centre.

The information service aims to disseminate information about British research and literature on all aspects of ageing and society. Its reference library is available by appointment to anyone with an interest in the field; and its two major publications are *Old age: a register of social research*, a bi-annual directory of British studies in progress; and *New literature on old age*, issued six times a year, an annotated guide to recent books, periodical articles and government publications.

Homes Advice is a specialist advisory service to the staff and management of non-statutory old people's homes in the U.K., which aims to improve the quality of life of those in residential care.

Further information about CPA's activities may be obtained from the Director, Dr Eric Midwinter, Centre for Policy on Ageing, Nuffield Lodge Studio, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RS, tel. 01 586 9844.

* Formerly the National Corporation for the Care of Old People.

British Society of Gerontology

British Society of Gerontology was established in 1973 to provide a multi-disciplinary forum for researchers in the field of ageing. Its aim is to encourage research and study of human ageing and later life and application of this knowledge to the improvement of the quality of life. Members of the Society are drawn principally from the social and behavioural sciences and the humanities; and include researchers and members of the caring professions. The Society's interests span theoretical studies, empirical investigations, methodological issues and policy analyses relevant not only to older people but to ageing throughout the whole life span.

The Society's main activities are the provision of media for the exchange of information and ideas which take the form of conferences, seminars and publications. The annual conference held in a different location each September is the main event. It includes plenary sessions and work-shops run simultaneously on a number of different themes so as to provide for the wide range of interests represented in the Society.

A variety of other meetings is arranged, sometimes in conjunction with other societies such as the British Geriatrics Society and the British Society for Research on Ageing. Most of these meetings are national in character but local groups of the Society arrange programmes of evening meetings for local members. BSG publishes a regular bulletin for members, *Ageing Times*, and occasional reports, primarily conference proceedings.

Details of membership may be obtained from the Secretary of the Society, Malcolm Johnson, Policy Studies Institute, 1–2 Castle Lane, London, SW1 6DR, tel. 01 828 7055.