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## Your Rights for Pensioners

### Your Rights Campaign to help Pensioners Increase Income and Cut Bills

On 19 April, Age **Concern Northwest** Cumbria is launching its annual 'Your Rights' campaign to help local older people boost their income by claiming the benefits which are rightfully theirs. And with increased benefit rates in place from 12 April, the message is clear – 'don't miss out, claim your benefits now.

Across the UK. more than 2 million pensioners now live in poverty, yet older people are more likely than any other group to miss out on benefits cash. As Council Tax rates continue to soar, new Government figures show that up to £770 million in Council Tax benefit alone remains unclaimed every year. Many older people are unaware that they could cut their Council Tax by up to £425 per year. And unclaimed Council Tax benefit is just the tip of the ice-berg, with older people also missing out on billions of pounds of Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, and non means-tested cash, such as Attendance Allowance. In some cases, pensioners could double their income.

From 19th to 30th April, specialist advisors from Age Concern will be holding 2 weeks of drop-in 'Your Rights' surgeries across

Allerdale. In Silloth, older people and their families are invited to come along to the Age Concern bus, outside the Community Hall, on 28 April between 10am to 12 noon. Here they can check which benefits they might be entitled to, and receive advice on how to make a claim and help in completing the forms.

Age Concern is also offering a free guide to claiming benefits, available at the 'Your Rights' surgeries, from local Age Concern shops, the Information Resource Centre at Old Customs House, Whitehaven, or by calling 01946 68999.

Mary Bradley, Director of Age Concern Northwest Cumbria, said: "The mountain of benefits cash unclaimed by older people is too high. There are many benefits available to help increase income and save on bills, but only if people claim what is rightfully theirs. Claiming benefits doesn't have to be difficult and can make a real difference to people's quality of life. We hope lots of people will come along to our 'Your Rights' surgeries, and appointments can also be booked with our benefits advisors throughout the year by calling 01946 68999.'



Silloth Beer Festival

The Beer Festival is enjoyed by all sections of the community

Over 75 Real Ales & Cider in the giant marquee on Silloth Green, with food by local celebrity Chef John Crouch.

Once again the festival is sponsored by Black Sheep Brewery from Masham. This year on Thursday 9th, from 8 'til Late, Sounds of the Sixties with the superb 'NightRiders' ex Joe Brown & The Bruvvers.



On Saturday 11th the evening features top Bandits' bringing their harmonies and playing everything from the Beatles to U2. Support Act are the up and coming young band, whose main influences are 'Red Hot Chilli

Face'. On Sunday 12th in

the afternoon from 1pm to 5pm features Malc & Jazzy Jim's Karaoke Extravaganza with £300 prize money for the winners, anyone can enter.

Tickets & Credit Card Hotline is the 'Carnegie Theatre', Tel: 01900 602122 or cash only 'Winters Newsagents' Silloth.

Four Day Weekend Tickets are only £13.

Thurs. £3, Fri. £9, Sat afternoon £2, Sat evening £6:50, Sun £2 and Silloth Pensioners Party is free with the ticket application form on this page (Silloth pensioners only).

For accommodation availability please contact Silloth Tourist Information Centre, Tel. 016973 31944.





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England venue on their

miss 'Dr Feelgood' with

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On Saturday 11th

from 1pm to 4:30pm the

Silloth Pensioners Tea

Party welcomes for the

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Band 'Stealer'

Silloth their only north of

# first time 'The Penrith

West Coast Band ' Skoal

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Pensioners Tea Party **Application for Ticket 2004** 

Please supply me with 1 ticket for the 'Pensioners Tea Party' on Saturday 11th Sept. with the Penrith Town Band & Refreshments

Your Name:

Address:

Cut out and take this form to the S.O.S. Community Shop, one ticket per person