

A Wandsworth Access Association pensioner's Pot in the Fridge Campaign.



Miss Steward is on a mission

A Member of Wandsworth Access Association from Tooting has launched a crusade to alert WAA members, Wandsworth residents and the emergency services about a potentially lifesaving scheme.

The "Pot in the Fridge" scheme - also known as the message in a bottle scheme - involves householders placing a green cross sticker on their fridge and around the house.

It alerts health professionals that important medical information - such as name, date of birth, allergies, blood group, hospital number and next of kin - is kept in a pot in the fridge.

Miss Steward called for an ambulance on Tuesday 31 March, after suffering a stomach complaint.

While in hospital she was amazed to learn her medical details had not come with her.

She said: "I was feeling pretty awful when the ambulance came and I didn't think about the pot, all I was concerned of was taking phone numbers with me.

"The ambulance people didn't take it and the matron at the hospital didn't know anything about it, I was shocked to find no one knew about this scheme."

After her release from hospital two weeks later Miss Steward vowed to raise awareness of the scheme.

"I have spoken to everyone I could think of and the police and the council have said they would push it," she said.

"I think it is something that everybody should know about"

Mr Ellacott Chair of WAA said "Please help us to make this scheme well known by telling neighbours, friends, family and asking Local Councillor's and MP's to promote the scheme around the borough"; as this will help those who live alone and suddenly become ill.

Anybody who wants a pot for their fridge can contact: **Wandsworth Council's community safety division on (020) 8871 6584**