



Weymouth and District Group

Membership no:

Issue 72

November

2022

Newsletter

December meeting – CHRISTMAS LUNCH :

Goulds' Garden Centre,

1:30 p.m. (*tbc*), Monday 12th December 2022

Booking essential; details inside

Secretary's Report

Group Circulars, from HQ, supplement and update the information published in *The Pensioner*, and are reported to and made available at our monthly meetings, along with any other booklets or communications received.

The Group Circulars, and e-Newsletters from the local Groups, as well as Alliance news and campaign details, are also available on the Alliance website: www.cspa.co.uk. Members should log in using their unique membership number as ID, and surname as password.

Five **Group Circulars** (GCs 925, 926, 927, 928 and 929) have been received since the last Newsletter. These have been mostly concerned with arrangements for the Alliance's October AGM (GCs 925 and 927) and Platinum Jubilee (GC 929); GC 928 contains the results from the AGM elections and debates.

Our Group was represented at the AGM (reported separately, below), but not at the Platinum Jubilee Reception.

A few points of interest from the remaining Group Circulars and their enclosures:

Travel Insurance. The new Travel Insurance package with the **Civil Service Insurance Society (CSIS)** – announced in the latest, Autumn issue of *The Pensioner* – is now open. CSIS can be contacted either

- by telephone (**01622 766960**, and select option 5), or
- online (<https://csis.co.uk/cspa>).

Telephoning is recommended for anyone over 85, or with multiple or serious medical conditions.

Railway Ticket Office closures (National Pensioners' Convention Bulletin 171, and in *The Pensioner*). The proposed closures would affect about 1,000 ticket offices, and ticket purchase would be by smartphone. If this affects you, and you can use the internet, there is an online petition (I have checked that it is still open), at

<http://www.megaphone.org.uk/petitions/cut-their-profits-not-our-ticket-offices> ;

or else contact your local railway ticket office.

CSPA subscription. An increase in the monthly subscription, to **£3 (single)**, or **£4.20 (joint)** has been proposed for some time. This was ratified at the AGM.

Janet I Harris (Group Secretary)

Social Events - report

We have held three regular meetings since our last newsletter, plus a well-attended Traditional Afternoon Tea in July.

For the June meeting, Elizabeth Wood organised an illustrated Right Royal Jubilee Quiz, which I was very sorry to have to miss.

The September and October meetings had no pre-arranged programme. September was a purely social gathering, following the summer break. A number of our regular members were unable to attend in October, so a very small group of us talked over the agenda and proposed motions for the Alliance AGM, later the same week; this went surprisingly well.

Traditional Afternoon Tea – Goulds' Garden Centre

This was very popular, and enjoyed by all who attended; I was extremely sorry to have to miss it.



Meetings programme

We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month (bank holidays permitting), except for August, when we take a summer break.

Our regular meetings are held in the Jubilee Memorial Hall, Upwey, Weymouth, starting at 2:30 p.m. – with occasional exceptions when we meet elsewhere for a special meal.

Meetings start with refreshments (£1 for tea or coffee, and biscuits), with a café-style seating and table layout. This is followed by business and notices, and any speaker or activities – and towards the end of the meeting, usually, a raffle.

Since the pandemic, due to lower attendance at meetings, we have found it difficult to invite guest speakers; but we are now able to do so occasionally, and we hope you will feel able to come along.

Future meeting dates & programme:

Monday 14th November 2022 - **Brian Kennedy, of Dorset Search and Rescue (DorSAR)**
Monday 12th December 2022 - **Christmas Lunch, Goulds Garden Centre**

Christmas lunch – booking arrangements

Our Christmas meal has been booked for **Monday 12th December 2022**; provisional start time **1.30 pm**, at the **Dorset Kitchen café, Goulds' Garden Centre, Littlemoor Road, Preston, Weymouth, DT3 6AD**.

Cost:	Mains	£10.95
	2 courses	£13.95
	3 courses	£16.95

<u>Starters</u>	<u>Mains</u>	<u>Desserts</u>
	All served with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables.	
Prawn Cocktail – Atlantic prawns combined in our Marie Rose sauce upon fresh shredded iceberg lettuce, served with a side of brown bread & butter.	Turkey, cranberry sauce, sage & onion stuffing, cranberry sauce.	Christmas Pudding served with Brandy cream.
Breaded Brie Wedges – Wedges of creamy brie coated in crispy breadcrumbs and served with cranberry dipping sauce.	Curried Sweet Potato, butternut squash & Spinach Vegan Pie – (VE)	Chocolate Orange Brownie served with clotted cream or ice cream.
Tomato & Coriander Soup – Chefs homemade tomato & coriander soup and a crusty bread roll. (VE) (GF)		Salted Caramel Sundae (VE) (GF)

We shall ask members to pay on the day, but ***booking ahead for our party will be essential***. Please either add your names to the booking list at our November meeting, or, if you cannot be there, contact either **John Southway** or **Janet Harris** (see the **Group Contacts** list on the back page of this newsletter).

Alliance AGM, 12th – 13th October 2022, Kenilworth

Janet Harris attended the AGM, as the Group's delegate.

The business covered included elections to the CSPA's Executive Council (EC); a number of amendments to the CSPA's Constitution; and debate on topics of concern to pensioners in general, and former civil servants in particular.

EC elections: Les Calder, our current Regional Representative, was re-elected unopposed.

Constitutional amendments: mostly red tape. One change may be of interest: the age restriction on CSPA membership, to within 10 years of retirement age, has been removed.

Alliance organisation: in addition to the subscription increase, there were a number of proposals for re-organisation, addressing the CSPA's falling



Les Calder



AGM in session

care; age discrimination; public transport; public service broadcasting; public toilet provision; and the security of water and power supplies.

The AGM dinner, on the Wednesday evening, was also a celebration of the CSPA's Platinum Jubilee. The guest speaker was Sue Gray (now famous for the Downing Street "partygate" inquiry).



Jubilee dinner

JIH

Membership Matters

We are very pleased to welcome another new member:

Mr C Buckingham of Sherborne.

We should be very pleased if any of our newer members would like to join us at our meetings, now the pandemic restrictions have been relaxed: the Upwey Memorial Hall is quite large, with plenty of room for social distancing; it has its own car park; and it is on a bus route.

If you do feel like coming along, we are a friendly group; please do make yourselves known to the Chairman or other committee members, for introductions, and for any other information about the Group.

We look forward to seeing you.

Jean Newborough (Membership Secretary)

Group Contacts for 2021-22

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