



## **CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT GROUP**

Membership No:

Dear

**November 2022**

The next quarterly meeting of the Cambridge & District group will be held on Tuesday 13 December at 2.00 pm in the Wilkinson Room at St John the Evangelist Church, Hills Road, Cambridge. Wine, non-alcoholic drinks and mince pies will be served after the business part of the meeting, and we look forward to welcoming as many members as possible for a pre-Christmas get-together.

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the June meeting (there are no minutes from September, because the meeting was not quorate and there was a committee meeting only).
3. Matters arising from the minutes, if any
4. Reports: (a) Chair  
(b) Treasurer  
(c) Secretary
5. Report from the AGM (SH-B)
6. Arrangements for festive lunch, and plans for next year
7. Any other business
8. Date of next meeting

Wine and mince pies!

Would Committee members please note that there will be a short meeting prior to the main meeting – starting at 1.30 pm.

Yours sincerely

**Sue Davies**  
**Secretary, Cambridge & District Group**

## CAMBRIDGE & DISTRICT GROUP

### NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2022

#### Notes from the Committee

There have been two major CSPA events in the last quarter. The first is, of course, the AGM that took place on 12 and 13 October – our first post-pandemic AGM. Your Chair, Sue Hennah-Barham, attended on behalf of the group, and she gives her impressions below. Group Circular 928, available on the members' section of the CSPA website, sets out the decisions on the various motions that were debated, and our next group meeting on 13 December will give you the chance to ask or discuss anything to do with the AGM.

From the group's perspective, a major outcome from the AGM has been the election (unopposed) of Sue Hennah-Barham as our new Regional Representative. Sue's role will be crucial if the Alliance moves towards a more regionally-based structure, and she will welcome ideas and support from Cambridge members.

The second event has been the CSPA Parliamentary Event held on 8 November at the Houses of Parliament, to celebrate the CSPA's 70th anniversary. More on this at the meeting.

Also in this month's newsletter, there is what we hope is good news on the travel insurance front: the new arrangement with the Civil Service Insurance Society is now available to members. And last, but by no means least, the committee has decided to revive our group Christmas lunch – although it will take place after Christmas, since we're aware that many members have other commitments in the run-up to Christmas. Our festive meal will be on Friday 13 January, at the Red Lion, Soham. More details, and a menu, are below.

We're also continuing the tradition of providing wine, non-alcoholic drinks and mince pies at our 13 December meeting. We hope as many of you as possible are able to come along and enjoy a drink and a chat with old friends, and perhaps some new ones. It remains only to wish everyone

*A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW  
YEAR!*

## GROUP CONTACTS

### **Chair**

Susan Hennah-Barham

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### **Secretary**

Sue Davies

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### **Treasurer**

Patrick King

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## Some points from the AGM

I attended the CSPA AGM at Kenilworth as the Cambridge and District representative. There were no contentious motions which required a vote and the detailed outcome is set out in GC 928.

Mike Sparham, the National Treasurer's Financial report to the AGM laid bare the perilous situation CSPA will be in if a large number of new members are not recruited. In order to hopefully remedy this situation CSPA is undergoing a modernisation programme with the emphasis on CSPA 'protecting what you have earned'.

The website is being revamped and amongst other things, will enable potential new recruits to join online. There will be a new travel insurance provider, CSIS, which hopefully will encourage more people to join.

Put simply, the CSPA has to recruit more members than it is losing on an annual basis or it will not be viable, so if you can encourage people to join that would be wonderful.

**Sue Hennah-Barham**

## New travel insurance arrangements

The new travel insurance arrangement with the Civil Service Insurance Society (CSIS) is now in place, and annual or single-trip policies, with a variety of policy limits and benefits, are available, subject of course to scheme acceptance criteria.

You can take out a policy at any time during the year, as the policy is individual to the member (and their spouse/partner if required), and there is not a common renewal date as may have been the case under previous arrangements. It's sensible to take out a policy as soon as you've booked your trip, since it will provide cancellation cover and certain other benefits from the date that the policy starts.

You can obtain a quotation and purchase a policy either online (with some exceptions) or by phone. If you are aged up to 85, you can buy online by going to <https://csis.co.uk/cspa>. If you, or anyone else to be covered by the policy is aged 86 – 91, you should call the CSIS to obtain a quotation. In addition, if you have multiple or serious medical conditions, you should ring, because you may be able to obtain a quotation that is not available online.

To obtain a quotation by phone, call CSIS on 01622 766960 and then select option 5. You need to have all your personal and medical information to hand.

You can also obtain other insurance products, such as motor or home insurance from CSIS. Details are available on the web address given above.

## **Struggling with your bills?**

If you were born before 30 September 1956, live in Cambridgeshire, and are struggling with food and fuel bills – or if you know someone who is - help is available from Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and Cambridgeshire County Council, who are working in partnership to help eligible pensioners.

They can provide financial support within a few days, and help in finding longer-term support. This isn't charity – the money comes out of the Government-funded Household Support Fund. You can apply by phoning 01223 221929, or visiting [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/household-support-fund](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/household-support-fund).

## **Cambridge Branch New Year's lunch**



This will be at the Red Lion, 17 High Street, Soham, on Friday 13 January, at 12.30 pm. Members are welcome to bring one guest. The Red Lion is an excellent restaurant/pub, which has received favourable mentions in The Observer and the Telegraph. It has a car park (there is also a free public car park close by), is 10 – 15 minutes' walk from Soham station, and the 112 Stephenson's bus from Ely or Newmarket stops outside.

The menu we are offered has a choice of starters from: Celeriac and stilton soup; pulled pork on toast; smoked salmon pate; caponata on sourdough toast with olives; homemade labneh with harissa and coriander; shredded ham hock with homemade piccalilli. Main courses are: Turkey, bacon and mushroom pie; Lebanese lamb with tzatziki and pomegranate; seabass with crayfish, saffron and dill; Suffolk venison braised in port and wild mushrooms; roast belly of pork with crackling; chickpea and apricot tagine. Desserts on offer are: apple and almond crumble; chocolate and orange bread and butter pudding; crème brulee; Eton mess; tiramisu; or dark chocolate and almond torte, or Neal's Yard cheeses for an extra £3.

The cost will be £30 a head, plus anything you wish to spend on aperitifs and coffee/tea after the meal. The branch will be paying for wine to go with the meal, and for the service charge. Your treasurer will be collecting money on the day.

If you're interested, please contact your Secretary, Sue Davies (see contact details in the newsletter above), as we need to give numbers to the Red Lion before Christmas.