



Crawley & District Group

Newsletter: December 2022

**PRESIDENT: Mike Card CHAIRMAN: Brian Sturtevant VICE CHAIRMAN: Derek Williams
SECRETARY: Sylvia Sturtevant TREASURER: Vacant SOCIAL SECRETARY: Brian Barton
EDITOR: Ralph Groves**

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the December issue of the group newsletter. We set out below the dates for next year's programme of meetings which have been moved to the third Wednesday of the month at the Orchard in Crawley. Many speakers have yet to be booked but we hope we can welcome you to our meetings. We report on our participation at the CSPA National Annual General Meeting (AGM) and there is some light humour provided by Mike Card group president. We are still looking for a 'Group Treasurer', see later item and a reminder that the 2023 group subscriptions are due please. **The Group Officers and Committee wish you a Happy Christmas and a healthy new year.**

CSPA NATIONAL AGM - *Derek Williams, Group Vice Chair and Brian Sturtevant, Group Chair*



Left to right Ralph Groves, Mike Card, Margaret Weddell, Darlene Vendryes, Brian Sturtevant, Sylvia Sturtevant, Marilyn Williams, Derek Williams, Pat Groves

because it was the 70th Anniversary of the CSPA we decided to make a special event of the group's attendance at the national AGM. Group president Mike Card, (currently acting group treasurer) and who has over 30 years of service to CSPA was invited to attend as our guest. Our delegates were Derek Williams and Margaret Weddell, with Brian Sturtevant as a National Guest. They were accompanied by partners Marilyn Williams and Sylvia Sturtevant. Ralph and Pat Groves were also invited as guests of the Executive Council (EC). After an opening speech from Samantha Cooke the Mayor of Kenilworth, the acting CSPA Chair, Linda Ridgers-Waite, (sadly the Chair Don Makepeace was unwell) welcomed delegates and there followed domestic business, including, the adoption of reports and election of officers.

The group made a significant contribution to the event. All our motions were carried but two Constitutional amendments we opposed were carried despite constructive criticism by Mike Card, including pointing out that one was grammatically incorrect. It is understood that this will be corrected next year. The remainder of Wednesday was filled with more necessary Constitutional Amendments. All members will get a revised copy of the constitution in due course.

The evening dinner celebrated the CSPA 70th anniversary and we were privileged to hear from Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary Sue Gray who had been so much in the news recently. Her most important point was that she was not there to pass judgement on the Prime Minister but to lay all the evidence before Parliament. She said what a wonderful career the civil service was and that she had started out as an AA in DHSS!

Thursday saw motions on internal organisation, pensions, cost of living, digital exclusion, health, social care, age discrimination, public service broadcasting, and transport with some lively debates. The highlight being the last motion on infrastructure failings in electricity and water provision submitted by our group where opposition from the EC was defeated thanks to a spirited right of reply by Derek Williams.

Over the two days we heard an outline of revised CSPA branding and details of a new website; we also had presentations from the Charity for Civil Servants, The National Pensioners Convention, and "Connect" our parliamentary lobby group. Plus Crawley group chair Brian Sturtevant was appointed as the National President of the CSPA. A full report of the proceedings of the National AGM will be included in the December issue of The Pensioner magazine. It was a very successful AGM especially as it was the first live AGM since the Covid pandemic started.

We hope that we have demonstrated that your local group works hard to represent your interests and we would welcome your support in attending our local monthly group meetings where you can make your views known.

NEW TRAVEL INSURANCE SCHEME

It was announced by Deputy General Secretary, David Luxton, at the National AGM that a new travel insurance scheme had been negotiated with the Civil Service Insurance Society. Full details can be found in The Pensioner magazine or on the CSPA website www.cspa.co.uk. You could find the deal you want for travel in 2023.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE - Derek Williams, Group Vice-Chair

Progress on improvements to Adult Social Care and specifically the current underfunding, and including staffing retention, remains an ongoing issue of considerable concern. It is therefore of interest that the House of Lords Committee on Adult Social Care has recently taken evidence from Sir Andrew Dilnot, author of a previous Report relating to urgently needed reforms and additional funding. Included in his various responses, Sir Andrew indicated that social care currently accounts for rather for rather less than 1.0% of the national economy; with a government annual budget of some £800 Billion, he estimated that £2 Billion additional funding for each of the next 3 years was required to address the social care shortfall. Among other of his responses, Sir Andrew recognised the need for Local Authorities to have certainty on future funding; additionally, there remains a

requirement for better information and guidance to those in need and, importantly, proper pay and respect for those providing this essential service.

The CSPA is already committed to pursuing improvements on behalf of all who require social care and will follow developments in the coming months.

2023 GROUP MEETING DATES

January – No meeting; 15 February with Jenny Green*; 15 March (AGM) with Lisa Ray CSPA General Secretary; 19 April; 17 May; 21 June; 19 July; August No meeting but summer lunch on date to be decided; 20 September; 18 October; 15 November; 6 December.

*** JENNY GREEN TO ATTEND 15 FEBRUARY 2023** *Leading Jazz vocalist and expert Jenny Green who lives in the area has agreed to talk to the group on 15 February 2023. Jenny is well known in the London Jazz Scene, runs the East Grinstead Jazz Club and hosts a radio programme on Meridian FM on Wednesday evenings. Jenny brings a host of knowledge and experience to her talk, so please come along to listen to something different but interesting and entertaining.*

GROUP TREASURER WANTED

Help please. There must be someone out there who could help the Group by being our Treasurer. It only involves a few hours a month but is vital if the Group is to keep running. The tasks are not arduous and well within the ability of any retired civil servant. Full details from Mike Card our temporary treasurer telephone: 01273 483577 or Brian Sturtevant our Chair, telephone: 01342 325245 or email chairmanbrian70@gmail.com

HUMOUR - The Rules - Mike Card, Group President

This time I thought I would print for you "The Rules". My mother always kept a copy of them because she thought they are not only funny but relevant, if you are married or have ever been with somebody for a length of time, you will know that they are apposite and why.

1. THE FEMALE ALWAYS MAKES THE RULES.
2. The rules are subject to change at any time without notice.
3. No male can possibly know all the rules. Nearly all females are born with this knowledge.
4. IF the female suspects the male knows all the rules, she may immediately change some or all the rules.
5. THE FEMALE IS NEVER WRONG.
6. If the female is wrong, it is because of a misunderstanding which was a direct result of something the male did or said.
7. If rule 6 applies, the male must apologize immediately for causing the misunderstanding.
8. THE FEMALE CAN CHANGE HER MIND AT ANY GIVEN POINT IN TIME.
9. The male must never change his mind without express written consent of the female.
10. THE FEMALE HAS EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY OR UPSET AT ANY TIME.
11. The male must remain calm at all times, unless the female wants him to be angry or upset.
12. The female must under no circumstances let the male know whether or not she wants him to be angry or upset.
13. Any attempt to change these rules could result in severe bodily harm or neglect.

GROUP OFFICERS' AND COMMITTEE CONTACT POINTS

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Renewing membership of the CSPA Crawley and District group or joining the group

Subscriptions for 2023 are £10 per household. There is no limit on the number of members living in the same address. If you wish to subscribe or donate to the Crawley and District Group, please fill in this form and then send it to the Acting Treasurer, Mike Card at the address shown below.

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Telephone Number:

Email Address:

Please return to: **Mike Card, 13 Garden Street, LEWES. East Sussex, BN7 1JJ**

If you would like to subscribe or donate to group funds or CSPA head office please enter the amount here:

Subscription to group funds: £

Donation to group funds: £

Donation to head office: £

Total sent to the Treasurer: £

Please send cheques made payable to the 'Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance Crawley Group' or use postal orders thank you.