



**Plymouth and District Group**

Mr

Membership No:

November 2022

**PLYMOUTH AND DISTRICT CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS  
ALLIANCE - AUTUMN 2022.**

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Plymouth and District group of the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance.

I hope you all managed to get away for a break this Summer, and took advantage of the hot weather, as for myself, our long awaited cruise to the Baltic, eventually got under way, and although we could not go to St Petersburg, we nonetheless visited some very nice places including Tallinn, Helsinki, Stockholm, and Copenhagen where we managed to see the Queen of Denmark who went past in her Range Rover. I have also decided that if I ever get reincarnated, I want to come back as a traffic light producer in Helsinki, as just about every road junction we came across had traffic lights on it, in fact the coach we were travelling in hardly got out of second gear, we also got to see the Swedish Navy vessel VASSA, which sank on its maiden voyage, in 1628, but was raised almost intact from the seabed in the later part of the last century, a special museum was specially constructed for it, and although we could not go onboard the vessel, it was still very interesting. The museum coffee shop was quite good as well.

September has been a very sad month with the death and funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I don't know about anyone else, but I was very impressed with the way the Armed Forces pulled the Gun Carriage, carried the Coffin, and lined the route. For those of you who do not know,

the reason the Navy pull the Gun Carriage, is because at Queen Victoria's funeral in February 1901, all members of the Armed Forces had been stood still for 90 mins, when they tried to shackle the horses to the traces etc, the horses became skittish, and in the end King Edward VII asked what could be done to speed up the funeral, Lt Algernon Boyle was instructed to get the Navy to sort it out, the Sailors promptly picked up the traces and pulled the Gun Carriage throughout the funeral, they have done it ever since..

September also saw the start of a new Reign, that of King Charles III, and having spent 70 years referring to "Her Majesty" it still seems strange referring to "His Majesty the King", still no doubt I will get used to it.

We now have a new Prime Minister, our second in 45 days and several new faces round the Cabinet Table, the question is will the new Chancellor agree to abide by his predecessor's plans to re-introduce the Triple Lock, in which case we should get a pension rise of some 10% in April, or will he use the excuse that the country cannot afford it and give us a lower increase. Health and Social Care will no doubt feature highly on the Chancellor's mind, particularly Health care, what with waiting times to see Doctors, Ambulance and A&E waiting times being what they are, also Dental care needs to be looked at, as I cannot get an appointment to see a Dentist until January 2024

The AGM in Kenilworth went well with all but one motion passed, the only one that was not passed was A17 which was the one changing from a group based system to an area based one, the motion was referred back to the Executive Committee for further discussion, and will be discussed at the next AGM, but we must be on our guard as a move to an area based system would mean that we would need to send a rep to area meetings, and would have very little input into decision making. Obviously I will keep everyone informed, and we will see where we go from here, again watch this space. My grateful thanks to Ian Gove and Mike Searle for attending as our delegates.

Xmas is almost upon us although I suspect it will be a very much subdued one this year what with the economic crisis rocketing energy prices and the war in Ukraine, still I hope you all manage to spend some time with your families and friends, and that Father Xmas is good to you. For those who can get there the Garland at Cotehele house goes on display on November 19<sup>th</sup> and will remain on view until early January.

The World cup football is almost upon us, Good Luck to England and Wales, congratulations to the England men's T20 team on winning the

world championship, well done the Ladies Rugby Union team even though they lost narrowly to New Zealand better Luck next time.

### **Meeting dates for 2023**

Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, **Mar 14<sup>th</sup> (AGM)**, May 9<sup>th</sup>, Jul 11<sup>th</sup>, SEP 12<sup>TH</sup>, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> (Xmas lunch TBC).

### **Did you Know**

The first petrol station in the UK was set up by the AA in 1920 at Aldermaston Bucks,

The 1<sup>st</sup> Red Telephone box was introduced in 1926.

The 1<sup>st</sup> person (Mr R Beere) to pass a driving test was issued with pass certificate 0001 in March 1935

The 1<sup>st</sup> self service Laundrette was introduced in May 1949 at 184 Queensway London.

### **The Funny Bits.**

My Doctor told me I need to get more exercise, I told him I get enough exercise pushing my luck and jumping to conclusions.

You know you are getting old when the NHS deletes your blood group from its list.

I used to have a 6 pack, but now I have a barrel, and its getting hard to hide, whatever my apparel

2 or 3 whiskies do little for my diet, so I cut out the carbs and fat to keep the missus quiet.

Thick toast and dripping and rich brown gravy are distant memories now, I'll have to stick to my diet plan but I can't imagine how, massive weight loss and nice trim figure are my desire now.

**HAVE A GOOD XMAS EVERYONE**