

Member Nr:

CSPA Suffolk Group Newsletter – November 2022

Welcome to the November Newsletter.

In our Newsletter of August 2022, we gave notice of a Suffolk Group Meeting to be held on Wednesday 21st September 2022, mainly to discuss the future of the Suffolk Group.

Prior to this meeting, I had five apologies for absence. Two of the apologies said they did not wish to remain members of the group. Only five members attended the meeting. David Luxton, Deputy General Secretary CSPA and Frank Edwards, Executive Council Member, East Anglia and East Midlands, attended together with Frank's wife Jean, to try and drum up some support to keep the Group open.

Some considerable discussion took place on how we could keep the group open and also looking at alternatives such as amalgamation with another group. However, we agreed that we have tried to keep the group open and given members ample opportunity to come forward without success.

A motion was put forward to arrange "closure of the Suffolk Group". All five members present voted for closure.

Since our meeting there has been some developments to try to arrange a merger with the Norfolk Group instead. These details are outlined in notes at the end of this Newsletter.

David Luxton gave us an update of some of the things from HQ which included:

- To ensure the Government raise Civil Service Pensions in April 2023 by September consumer price index.
- Ensure Government honour the State Pension Triple Lock Guarantee.
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- Cost of living crisis notably energy and the impact on value of Pensions.
- Support for Members who find themselves on the wrong side of the digital divide.
- National Health Service and all the problems in obtaining Dentistry, getting a GP appointment, Social Care etc. etc.

David also brought us up to date on the new Travel Insurance arranged through the CSIS and hopefully now much improved from previous supplier.

The listings above emphasize the importance of being a member of the CSPA and what they can do for you and I. The CSPA website has been considerably expanded in recent times and includes membership benefits, campaigns, news, CSPA E-Newsletters, Group circulars and information about the H.Q. team.

Frank Edwards & Richard West, Chair of Norfolk Group, have discussed with me a possible merger of Suffolk Group with Norfolk Group. We agreed a merger could take place & the new group will be called CSPA Norfolk and Suffolk Group. We expect the merger will be concluded very soon.

How will this effect members of the Suffolk Group? The administration is likely to be based within the Norfolk Group. Suffolk Group members will automatically be transferred to the new Norfolk and Suffolk Group.

It is unlikely any meetings will take place in Suffolk, although this cannot be ruled out. Suffolk members can attend Norfolk Group meeting. Suffolk members will get Newsletters issued by the new merged group and will of course continue to receive the 'Pensioner'.

In the meantime, Suffolk Group Members, who pay their Suffolk Group fees by Direct Debit, are advised that they will need to cancel that D/D. However, to avoid confusion, members will still need to keep up their subscription to the CSPA itself.

Best wishes to you all.

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CSPA Suffolk Group

