



Gloucestershire Group

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2023 No. 85

Welcome to the 2023 edition of our annual newsletter. May I wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. 2022 was more like a normal year in terms of the pandemic but politically it has been very volatile and economically disastrous. We have now entered a period of hopefully some stability even if inflation and energy costs are still with us and likely to last for a while.

Last year the Group held four meetings with a reasonable turn out. Other organisations I belong to are showing a gradual increase in attendance as people realise that the vaccinations are working and we should return to normal but it is appreciated that some people still feel nervous about mixing with others.

We can only have our meetings on a Thursday because of the availability of the Civil Service Club. The Committee has thought of moving to another less expensive venue but the facilities at CACSSA are so good and we are made welcome that we have decided to stay as long as we can afford it. We have abandoned the local subscription and the “5 year plan” and are now relying on donations to finance the Group. The speakers for the year are all “free” but we will be making a donation to the Ukulele band so we are financially sound for the next 3 years at least.

HQ have done most of the campaigning by lobbying and writing to MPs and Ministers as they change emphasising the need for pensions to keep up to date with inflation and the reinstatement of the triple lock. This has been successful and we will get 10.1% on the state pension and hopefully the same for the Civil Service pension which needs to be ratified by parliament in January. At least that is what we have been promised currently. I attended a very successful AGM, the first for three years because of Covid. The Pensioner magazine contains a very full account of the proceedings so I will simply add that my impression was that the AGM was much more positive and less grabbing than it had been in the past. Many of the motions were on the NHS, local GP appointments, digital exclusion and social care. HQ will continue to pursue these subjects which affect not just pensioners but everyone. There is an opportunity to improve access to local GP

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surgeries, so if you have a particular issue with your surgery please let us know and we will see what we can do.

The new CSPA travel insurance is now up and running csis.co.uk/cspa or 01622 766960. Initial feedback is that it is easy to complete forms and telephone calls are answered promptly.

The next meeting is our **AGM** which will be held on 16 February 2023 at 10.30

The Agenda is:

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of the previous meeting
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Membership Secretary's Report
- 6 Treasurer's Report
- 7 Secretary's Report
- 8 Election of Chairman (Alastair Goldie), Secretary (vacant) Treasurer (Ken Lovett), Membership Secretary (Dorothy Bunting) and Committee (Maureen Smith).
- 9 Appointment of Auditor
- 10 Future meetings
- 11 Any other business
- 12 Speaker Mr David Luxton Deputy General Secretary CSPA.

The present Committee is willing to stand again, but we would obviously like fresh nominations. They should be sent to the Secretary by 2 February.

Future Events

- 16 Feb** AGM **8 June** Powers of Attorney **14 Sept** Internet scams and phishing
7 Dec Cheltenham Ukulele Band

18 April 2023 2.30pm Guided Tour of Nature in Art

Many of you will recall Simon Trapnell talking to us about "Looking at Pictures" so this will be an opportunity to see the real items. The price is £12.50 including tea and cake. If you wish to come please send your name, telephone number or email address and cheque payable to CSPA Gloucestershire to Mrs D Bunting 10 Redgrove Road Cheltenham GL51 0AU. Nature in Art, Wallsworth Hall GL2 9PA is on the A38 just north of Gloucester with plenty of parking.

CSPA Web Site

There is much information on the new CSPA website (www.cspa.co.uk) where you can access Circulars, Newsletters and other information. You need to login with your email address that we have on your membership record. If we do not have your email address please send to enquiries@cspa.co.uk

Our local email list now has over 100 addresses so if you wish to receive emails from us please send you email address to me cspaglos@gmail.com.

Best wishes, Alastair Goldie Chair/Secretary

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