



Address Box as requested

# CSPA BRISTOL Group Annual General Meeting and Members Newsletter FEBRUARY 2023

### A word from the chair.

Hello colleagues, welcome to our latest newsletter.

Firstly, let me apologise for the untimely arrival of our November newsletter which arrived after the announced lunch gathering took place. Staff changes, annual leave, and a backlog at HQ didn't help and this was exacerbated by the postal dispute.

We will endeavour to try harder in the future but in the meantime if colleagues have an up-to-date email address and are happy for us to use it for updates, meeting dates etc would they let Colin Fender have the details. Similarly, if colleagues would like to be updated electronically by HQ they should provide an email address to our friends in Croydon (contact details in the Pensioner).

### Bristol Group AGM 2023

The Bristol AGM will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the Toby Carvery Bradley Stoke commencing at 11am sharp. Lunch will follow the meeting and , as our finances continue to be in good shape we will provide a small subsidy towards the cost of a standard carvery lunch.

David Luxton Deputy General Secretary and Les Calder our regional representative are both expected to attend. Both David and Les form part of the working party reviewing the Group and Regional structure and it will be interesting and useful to have an update on progress so far.

**Please let Colin Fender Know if you would like to attend the AGM and lunch by Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Cheques etc. (payable to CSPA Bristol Group),**

Mr/Mrs/Ms .....

Address: - .....

Email address ..... *(for distribution of information)*

[ ] I/we hope to attend the AGM at 11am on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at the Toby Carvery..

[ ] I/We hope to attend the **Lunch following the AGM at the Toby Carvery. I enclose £5 each.**  
If you cannot attend but wish to make a donation, please send to Group treasurer – as below:-  
cheques etc. (payable to CSPA Bristol Group),

**Please return to: -**

**Colin Fender, Group Treasurer, CSPA Bristol Group, Flat 304, Stoke Gifford Retirement Village, Edward Parker Road, Bristol, BS16 1YF - Tel: 0117 969 4752, email: [colinfender@btinternet.com](mailto:colinfender@btinternet.com)**

Like last year we are not formally requesting a membership fee. However, any donations would be most welcome and Colin will happily receive them. Thank you to all who have sent donations already for 2023 While we await the recommendations of the Working Party on future structures life goes on. Bristol group will seek to include ALL members with the BS post codes. This will ensure current group members 'migrating' to Weston and Clevedon will continue to receive newsletters. Who knows we might get a few new attendees next year at Group meetings. In the meantime, life goes on and, apart from our AGM, the Committee propose to have three further meetings this year. **May/June** prior to the SW region group meeting. **September** prior to the Alliance AGM. and finally in **December** prior to Christmas. Dates yet to be agreed. at the AGM

Meetings will be held at the Toby Carvery and will include lunch. Colleagues seem to prefer a less formal approach to meetings which of course still require a certain amount of organisation. With this in mind we are looking for colleagues to come forward to join the Committee, and if possible, to stand for one of the officer posts. I will be standing down as Chair at the AGM. The current Bristol Group Committee is as follows: -Bill Casling, Colin Fender, Tony McKenna, Beryl Sanderson, Peter Statham, Stuart Tarr, Paul Woolcock, and Sylvia Young.

**Some useful contacts.**

Action Fraud Reporting Centre 03001232040

Suspicious email? [report@phising.gov.uk](mailto:report@phising.gov.uk)

Suspicious text messages? Forward to 7726

Citizens advice 08082231133

Independent Age produce guides offering tips and advice. 08003196789 [www.independentage.org](http://www.independentage.org)

Turn2 Us is a charity who help people struggling financially. 08088022000 [www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)

Charity for Civil Servants provide practical, financial and emotional support. 08000562424

[www.foryoubyyou.org.uk](http://www.foryoubyyou.org.uk)

To brighten your day, here's a New Year's view from Dunster Castle on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023 a very blue Bristol Channel for a change.



## **Pension History and Current position regarding our Pensions Increase**

Given the current very high rate of inflation and the real interest we all have in our pension rise in April I have researched the history of public sector pensions and where the value of the pension increase in April 2023 should be on the current legislation.

### **A Brief History**

Pensions were introduced by employers - in particular in the armed forces and then the civil service - in order to facilitate the retirement of older less efficient workers so as to make way for younger fitter men. The very existence of such schemes then encouraged employers to recruit younger fitter people who would work for many years before drawing their pensions.

The first pensions appeared in the late 1600s in the public sector. Before then, it was the custom for serving naval, Customs officers etc. to sell their office for a lump sum or annuity. The first known civil service pension was awarded in 1684 when a senior Port of London official became too ill to carry on, and his successor was appointed on a salary of £80pa on condition that £40pa of this was paid to his predecessor. And so began the first 50% pension, paid out of the salary of a younger employee.

Significant further developments occurred in the 1760s and 70s when contributions and pensions were extended to junior officers in the armed services etc., and again in the 1847 when the Admiralty decided to face the fact that 200 senior captains were never going to sea again, promoted them to Rear Admiral, and put them on half pay as a form of retirement pension. Shortly afterwards, in the 1850s, Northcote and Trevelyan recommended that "good service pensions" should be extended into "the ordinary Civil branch of the public service". A Royal Commission reporting shortly after Northcote & Trevelyan then separately recommended that retirement from the civil service should be possible at age 60 and compulsory at age 65. There were parallel developments in the private sector, as railway, gas and other large companies developed similar schemes to attract and retain better staff.

The current average CS pension was only £8104. Male pensioners average is £11046 and female pensioners as low as £5104 – as advised by David Luxton at the SWIGM in June 2022.

Men (until relatively recently) tended to earn much better pensions than women, partly because they earned more and partly because the marriage bar and societal norms encouraged them to leave work when they got married and/or had children. They did not therefore work for the necessary number of years needed to earn a pension. **Until 1972**, for instance, both men and women needed to work 10 years to become entitled to a pension.

**Public service pensions The Current Position:** Public service pensions in payment are increased each April in line with prices, measured according to the annual increase in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) to September of the previous year. This is in line with the statutory requirement to increase public service pensions in payment each year by the same rate as the additional State Pension set out in the Pensions Increase Act 1971 and Social Security Pensions Act 1975. The additional State Pension is part of the State Pension system for people who reached State Pension age before 6 April 2016. So we should expect to receive a 10.1% increase in from April 23 based on last September's CPI figure.

For those who reached State Pension age after 6 April 2016 it is now a bit more complicated but basically the same if you retired on the 'Classic' scheme. For full details read the NAO report of 2021 – HC 1242 dated 19 March 2021.



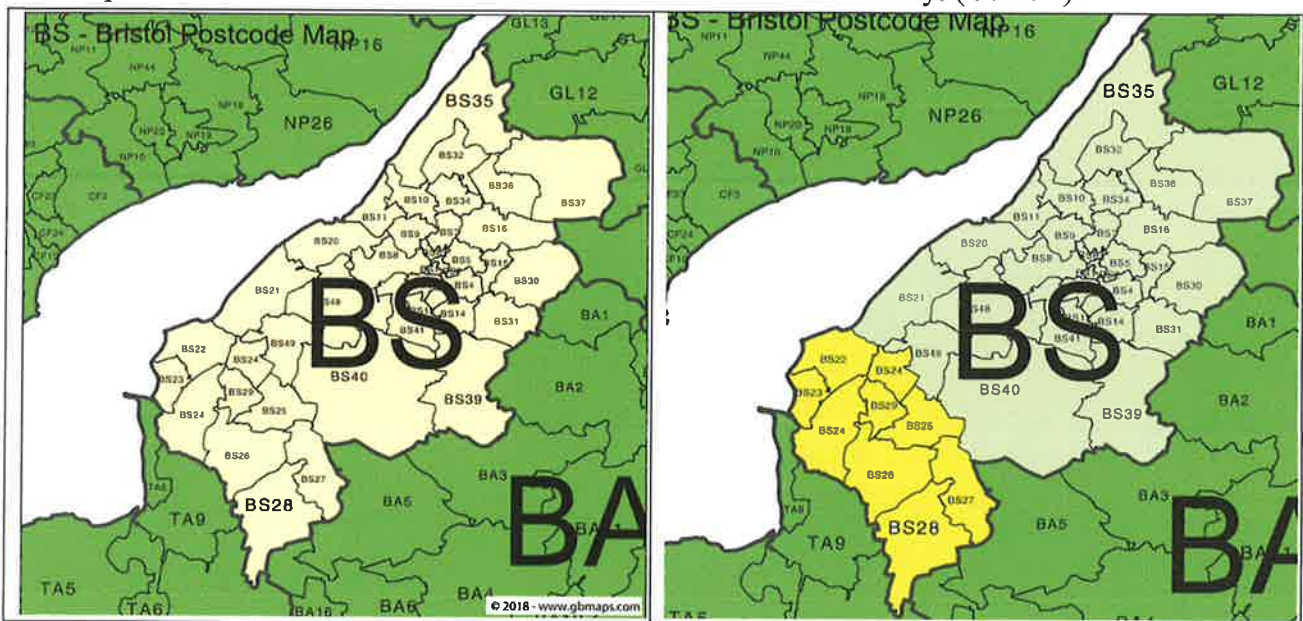
**The Timing of the Announcement by the Secretary of State:-** This can be from mid-January to late February, with late February being the case most of the past four years, so this newsletter will most likely overlap with confirmation (or not) of the 10.1% increase. (By Colin F)

**Bristol Group and Post Codes and the Split for the closed Weston Group – (in yellow)**

It is time that Bristol group covered all of the Bristol Post code area, currently it does not. The Weston Group was a separate entity I believe it had closed by the time I joined Bristol Group in 2003. It had been based around the fairly large Government offices and RAF Locking in the Weston area which closed about the turn of the century.

The towns and villages of that part of North Somerset have reasonable transport links to Bristol centre including rail and bus. We now have the situation where some members in Bristol Group are moving within the BS postcode area – but out of the current group. The proposal to HQ will be to make the Bristol Group inclusive of all the BS post code areas.

The maps illustrate the current situation and the address of the boundary. (Colin F)



**Looking forward to the AGM on March 16<sup>th</sup> – a draft agenda: -**

- Chairmans introduction and welcome to speaker and guests
- Apologies - Order of Events - Approval of AGM minutes 2022 - Matters Arising
- Reports by Membership Secretary; Treasurer (inc.-Audit & Approval of accounts).
- Seek nominations for Officers and Committee for 2023/24
- Delegates & Support for the CSPA Regional meeting and AGM in June and October.
- Any Delegates and ideas for Motions and the dates for remaining Group meetings.
- The accounts for 2022 have been audited and submitted to HQ. Copies will be available at the AGM.
- Please advise of any other specific item to be placed on the agenda.

**Contact details: -**

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Treasurer/Membership Secretary Colin Fender 01179694752 email [colinfender@btinternet.com](mailto:colinfender@btinternet.com)