

## **Greater Manchester Group Newsletter February 2023**

### **SOCIAL EVENT TO BE HELD IN STOCKPORT Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.**

The former Stockport Group will be hosting their next quarterly get together on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 12:00 noon at the Old Rectory bar/restaurant on Churchgate in the centre of Stockport SK1 1YG.

There is a pay & display car park in the pub grounds (3 hours free parking), but still remember to get a ticket from the parking machine. Everyone from the Greater Manchester Group is welcome. If you do intend to attend then please contact Harry Brett [h\\_brett@sky.com](mailto:h_brett@sky.com), 07999 874864/01477 549216. We need to make a booking to ensure seating arrangements. The next lunch event after the March lunch will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June, same venue.

### **NEWLY FORMED GREATER MANCHESTER GROUP AGM**

The first AGM of the New Group will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 11-00am and finishing no later than 1pm. It will be held at the Methodist Central Buildings, Central Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ. There is a lift available if required. We would welcome nominations for officer posts (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary) and for the committee.

We will be continuing to send delegates to the Northwest Pensioners Association, which meets monthly and is affiliated to the National Pensioners Convention (NPC). Harry Brett, our Treasurer currently sits on the NEC of the NPC and will be seeking re-election again this year. Pam Flynn, our secretary has been nominated to stand on the NEC of the CSPA in a post reserved for women. This is a result of a constitutional change at the AGM, which has reserved 2 NEC post for women only, with the intention of increasing diversity on the NEC.

### **200 CLUB WINNERS**

We have come to that time of the year again when I invite you to join the 200 club for next year, for the annual cost of £12. The first monthly draw will take place in March 2023 with again a first prize of 50% of the pot and a second prize of 25% with 25% of the contributions

going to Group Funds. We also invite donations from members. This allows members of the committee to attend meetings and events represent your interests. Send cheques to Harry Brett, 46 Severn Way, Holmes Chapel, Crewe, CW4 8FT. If you would prefer to make a Bank transfer, then please contact me and I will provide you the Bank sort code and account number.

Recent Winning numbers (since the last Newsletter) are:

January 2023	Marie McGillvray	Colin Elderkin
February 2023	William Jenkins	Henry Nicholson

### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS and CHANGE OF START TIME**

**All meetings will be held at the Methodist Central Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ starting at 11.00am and finishing by 1.00pm**

- 15 March 2023 – Group Annual General Meeting
- 14 June 2023 - National AGM preparatory meeting / consideration of motions for submission
- 20 September 2023 - Consideration of AGM agenda/Mandating
- 25 October 2023 - Report back from the AGM
- 13 December 2023 - Christmas Lunch

### **WORKING FOR YOU**

We thought it might be useful for members to know something more about the work that the Branch Executive members do within CSPA:

- Harry Brett is our regional representative to the National Executive Council of CSPA. The executive works in teams to implement policies determined by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. Harry is also Branch Treasurer for the Greater Manchester group.
- Linda Martin is Chair of our Group. She keeps our meetings in good order. She is also a group representative to the regional meetings called occasionally by the national organisation.
- Pete Sanger is our Membership Secretary, dealing with National Office on changes of address and other membership issues.
- Pam Flynn is Secretary of the Group, keeping records of decisions and helping to produce this quarterly newsletter.

Pam, Harry and Pete are delegates to the Northwest Pensioners Association.

### **FEEDBACK**

We would love to hear from you with your concerns. There are now close to 1,000 members in our Greater Manchester Group. Ideally, we would like to welcome you to our meetings, but recognising that people have busy lives and family commitments etc, and that public transport is not always easy, we invite everyone to email or phone with feedback. We are also open to arranging more socials (with CSPA and other speakers) close to where you live; however, we need suggestions for these, and some help with organising.

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

The NPC are pushing for an Older People and Ageing Commissioner. Currently 11 million people are aged 65 years or over, and in less than 20 years over 17 million (1 in 4) of us will be over 65. The support people need in later life from institutions like the NHS and social care, and social security systems are critical, but no single government department can respond to these issues alone. A commissioner would facilitate long-term planning that is needed to ensure our economy and public services are adapting to demographic shifts, while also enabling more people to age well. This would not just benefit older people, but our country as a whole.

Our Treasurer and Regional Rep, Harry Brett is part of a working party with the CSPA, looking at Regional and Group structures. Too many members of the CSPA belong to non-active Groups and as such are underrepresented. The hope is that we can either re activate those Groups that are dormant or at least to look at some Regional representation. Your comments are to be invited from David Luxton, the Deputy General Secretary, through an article in the Pensioner, which should be with you in early March.

**For further information on items within this newsletter contact**

**Group Secretary Pam Flynn on 0784 800 8249**

**Or email via [stiritup298@gmail.com](mailto:stiritup298@gmail.com)**

**Alternative contact: Regional Representative Harry Brett [h\\_brett@sky.com](mailto:h_brett@sky.com) or 07999 874864.**