



March 2023

Dear Member,

**CSPA Hillingdon and District Group  
Annual General Meeting and Subscription Request 2023**

Notice is hereby given that the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Hillingdon and District Group will be held at 10.30 am on Wednesday, 5th April 2022 at Christ Church, Redford Way, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8\_1SZ with the meeting ending by 12.00pm.

The meeting Agenda is attached together with the Chairman's Report and the Group Accounts. At the Meeting copies of the minutes of the 2022 AGM will be available; our last A G M.

The current committee of John Echlin (Chairman), Martin Francis (Treasurer) and Gordon Brown (Secretary) are willing to stand for their posts for 2023.

Any other nominations for election to office or to the committee, motions for discussion and any other relevant communications should be sent to the Chairman (at the above address or via e-mail) **to arrive no later than 14 days after the issue date of this notice**. If there is more than one nomination for a particular post, the nominee polling the most votes at the AGM will take up the post.

Subscriptions

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that subscriptions for 2023 are now due. These are £7 for full members and £4 for associate members. The subscriptions cover the whole calendar year and are in addition to the payments you make, each year, to CSPA Headquarters. These local subscriptions help us to meet the costs of hiring the meeting room etc., as financial support from Headquarters is limited.

We would like to see as many of you as possible at the AGM and at our monthly meetings in order to ensure that this organisation, vital to the interests of public service pensioners, is able to continue to function and to lobby governments of all political complexions in our interests. Any suggestions that you might have for Group activities would be welcomed.

Subscriptions can be paid by cheque to CSPA (Hillingdon & District Group) and sent to:

**Mr. Martin Francis, 63 Thornhill Road, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB10 8SQ. Tel: 01895 675186.** Payment by cash or cheque will also be accepted at the AGM or Group meetings. Payment of subscriptions can be made by Standing Order; which saves postage. Anyone wishing to pay in this way should contact Martin Francis by phone or e-mail ([m.francis237@btinternet.com](mailto:m.francis237@btinternet.com)). To save on costs we don't normally send a receipt for payment by cheque. We would be grateful if, when contacting Martin, you would give him your e-mail address so that the Group could more easily contact you. We will not share this outside of the Alliance.

Yours sincerely,

**Gordon Brown  
Secretary**



[www.hillingdon-cspa.co.uk](http://www.hillingdon-cspa.co.uk)

## **56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

To be held at  
Christ Church, Redford Way, Uxbridge, UB8 1SZ

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 10.30am

### **AGENDA**

- 1 Chairman's Introduction and Welcome
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Minutes of 55th AGM
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Chairman's Report
- 6 Treasurer's Report  
Adoption of Accounts  
Subscriptions
- 7 Election of Officers and Examiner of Accounts
- 8 Any Motions received for discussion
- 9 CSPA Circulars for consideration
- 10 Any Other Business

## Chairman's Report For 2022

After the hiatus of 2020 and 2021 we were able to start of the new year in a more confident and robust way, much as in pre Corvid 19 days.

Our first meeting was an initial summary for the forth coming programme of the year with ideas for speakers discussed and special events considered amongst the ten members attending.

Our first active meeting took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> January when ten members were privileged to have our own organ recital at St Georges Church, Southall arranged by our newest member Paul. The recital with refreshments after was very enjoyable, and made a nice change from our usual meetings format.

For our next meeting we had a resume of action taken by Simon, one of the Street Pastors who circulate the streets of Harrow on most Friday and Saturday nights assisting those who have over-done the week end celebrations, and in need of physical and moral assistance. It was noted that out of the London Boroughs, Hillingdon did not have such a facility. (One is left with the thought as to the possible reason, perhaps we are all too well behaved and responsible)

March moved us on to Toast Mastering by a member of the Harrow Group, David Pearson. Again a very entertaining and informative talk.

Twelve members braved the elements for our A G M on 6<sup>th</sup> April where we swiftly dealt with the formal clauses of the meeting, once again electing the three stalwart members back in to their respective Committee Posts.

The meeting went on to consider a number of matters, mainly concerning older persons but with the proviso life and its problems should be looked at in an inclusive and rounded way as many matters of concern for older folk could also be of benefit / concern for many other groups in our society; namely withdrawal of banking services, reduction in Post Offices, BT likely to change over from analogue to digital services, the latter likely to put those needing emergency communications in a dangerous situation in the event of a power cut.

We pressed on to the May meeting with Jim, our technical adviser, giving a brief record of the Regional Zoom meeting conducted by our new Regional Secretary, who was noted for a visit in the Summer. We also had an informative slide talk by an oft visited speaker, Roger Squires on the Stratford South canal with all its historical and social implementations for the Midland Region, and its refurbishment from 1946 to 1964.

It could be said our pièce de résistance for the year was at our June meeting a very informative and appropriate talk by the Leader of the Council, Ian Edwards. He dealt with a number of questions from members, explaining the problem the council was in following the Corvid pandemic, resulting in a considerable loss on income, which will inevitably lead to a loss of some services, but not so acutely as other London boroughs.

He touched on past history with HS2, now on an improved basis. He indicated he had found attending our group meeting had been of value and interest to him in his position as Leader.

For July our Regional Secretary, David Owen gave a full resume of his past experience with the Civil Service and CSPA, and outlined his plans and responsibilities in his new role which it is hoped will be of direct benefit to our Group. It is expected he will be an annual visitor to the Group.

We moved into August with an 'open' meeting when members discussed in a full and frank way a number of matters of concern to many. We went on to decide that as we were holding our anniversary dinner at the Barn Hotel on the next first Wednesday we would not hold a morning meeting. Jim was to tune into another forthcoming Regional Zoom meeting.

Our anniversary dinner was held at the Barn Hotel on the 7<sup>th</sup> September with a full recourse of 17 members and guests. Once again an excellent meal arranged by our Social Secretary Chris.

Ten members attended our October meeting, a little shorter than usual, but a range of matters were discussed, most importantly a proposal at the National A G M which might see a reduction in the number and influence of Groups within CSPA, moving on to a Regional structure. There was obviously concern over this move as clearly we are one of the successful groups.

A possibility was the incorporation of members from the recently defunct Watford Group; at least those living to the south of Hertfordshire who might find travel to Uxbridge feasible. Further details would be gathered for future discussions. Members were minded of the benefits of the Hillingdon Card for obtaining discounts in some shops, as well as library card, and discount for car parking.

A second eagerly awaited talk was in November by member Paul Tricky on his experiences in Cambodia as a member of the U N trying to install a form of democratic system for a general election in the 1980s, at the end of the Pol Pot regime; but the end result has been in question for some years. But never the less an interesting and amusing talk for the 13 lucky attendees.

Our final meeting for the year reverted again to concern over the idea of doing away with Groups, with a nod towards taking on Watford members who might want to join us, subject to details of the basis of amalgamation. Again concern was expressed on the potential to leave out those in society not on the internet for a variety of reasons, and they getting a poor deal from an ever increasing digital society.

01/02/23

John Echlin

Chairman