



**Leicestershire & Rutland Group**  
**Newsletter No. 35 (March 2023)**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

The AGM will be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 at 2.00 p.m. at The Royal British Legion Club, 4A Wigston Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5QA. The club has its own (free) carpark. There is a regular bus service from Leicester. Tea and coffee will be available from 1:30 p.m

### **AGENDA**

- 1. WELCOME and APOLOGIES**
- 2. CHAIR'S ADDRESS (Rob Jameson)**
- 3. GUEST SPEAKER – David Luxton (Deputy General Secretary CSPA)**
- 4. TREASURER'S REPORT (Liz Ellis)**
- 5. ELECTION of GROUP OFFICERS, COMMITTEE & AUDITORS**
- 6. Report of National AGM held October 2022**
- 7. AOB**

Members are welcome to bring their spouses, partners or friends with them to the meeting.

Our guest speaker, David Luxton, will be in a position to update us on all the matters, including the cost of living increases, energy price rises, the triple lock and everything else that effects the day-to-day living of our members.

Meetings are generally conducted informally and all members will be made welcome.

A belated Happy and Peaceful New Year to all Leicestershire and Rutland Group members.

## GROUP COMMITTEE

Our Group Secretary, Alan Tuck, for personal reasons, has recently resigned from his post and has also resigned from the group committee. The group would like to place on record it's thanks to Alan for his work over the last ten years.

We are therefore currently working without a Group Secretary and this needs to be resolved, hopefully at the AGM. The Group has been fortunate in being able to co-opt Ahmad Khwaja on to the Group Committee. Ahmad has recently moved to Leicestershire from Southend where he was a member of their CSPA Group Committee.

There are still vacancies on the Committee. The job is not demanding and we need volunteers to come on to the committee. If we do not fill some positions then the viability of the group will become an issue if any of the current officers or committee members wish or need to stand down for whatever reason(s) as there are no obvious replacements. We know from the response received to Group Newsletters and the attendances we get at Group Meetings, particularly to hear the guest speakers, that the group is valued. Please help keep the Group thriving and help us avoid joining the ranks of mothballed groups.

All current Officers and members have confirmed they are prepared to continue for a further twelve months but we need to fill the post of Group Secretary.

If any member is interested in volunteering to join the Group Committee, or requires further information, would they please contact Rob Jameson (contact details at the end of this Newsletter) or mention it at the meeting.

## VOLUNTARY GROUP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Group would like to thank all local members for their voluntary donations and contributions upon which we depend as we have no other form of income. As we did not hold any meetings for two years, we did not request any money from Group members. Now we are up and running again we have found the venues we used to use have either closed or increased their prices considerably. Our main expense is for the hire of meeting rooms, refreshments and payments to guest speakers. **If you would like us to continue to hold Group Meetings, please send a cheque (if everyone paid £5 per annum we would not have to regularly request more money) to our Group Treasurer Liz Ellis, 7, The Hall, Queniborough Hall Drive, Queniborough, Leicester, LE7 3DZ. Cheques should be made payable to CSPA Leicestershire & Rutland District.**

## CSPA MIDLANDS REGION

Our Group is now in the newly formed Midlands Region of CSPA. This change has had no effect on our group boundary or membership.

## MEMBERSHIP

Our group membership has dropped by approximately 12% since the pandemic started in 2020. This percentage loss of members is mirrored throughout the whole of CSPA. There are several reasons for the drop in membership, not least the fact that our current pension provider does not include a CSPA membership application form in the paperwork which is sent to people who are retiring from the Civil Service.

Our Group has only recruited a handful of new members since 2020. On the plus side, no one has actually resigned from our group

Headquarters and the National Executive Council (NEC) are obviously aware of the current situation which is being addressed as a matter of priority. An update will be given at the AGM.

## **STATE PENSION**

Members will be aware that the state pension is to be increased by 10.1% in April of this year. When inflation and increases are discussed and debated it always seems to be done in percentage terms. An increase of 10.1% of the state pension is still less, in monetary terms, than a 5% increase of the average national wage.

## **CIVIL SERVICE PENSION**

It has recently been announced that the Civil Service Pension will also be increased by 10.1% with effect from April of this year.

## **CSPA WEBSITE**

If you are able to access the internet, members are encouraged to look at CSPA's Website which has recently been updated and improved [www.cspa.co.uk](http://www.cspa.co.uk) The website is now much more user- friendly and, as well as all the updates and recent circulars you can also access exclusive members benefits and discounts which are available including health benefits, shopping discounts and travel insurance.

Members can also obtain preferential quotes for Home, Contents and Car Insurance through the Civil Service Insurance Society (CSIS).

## **INCREASE IN MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The National Annual General Meeting agreed to increase CSPA members subscriptions by £1.00 per month. There is an article by the National Treasurer, Mike Sparham, in the Winter edition of the "Pensioner" explaining why this has been considered necessary. Hopefully members will agree the sum of £3.00 per month for individual members (£4.20 for joint members) is good value for money, especially when taking into account savings which can be made through the benefits and discounts available.

## **PENSIONER MAGAZINE**

The members quarterly magazine, "The Pensioner" contains helpful information and articles, including a "Helpdesk", provided by BC Technologies for any member experiencing problems with their computer.

BC Technologies can be contacted for free advice and support, telephone 0330800 1010, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday or email [cspa@bc-group.co.uk](mailto:cspa@bc-group.co.uk) if you use the service please quote 'CSPA' when contacting them.

The magazine also contains a roundup of recent questions and debates across all the UK parliaments.

### **Updated list of Committee Members:**

**Chairman: Rob Jameson**, 19, Stretton Road, Great Glen, Leicester, LE8 9GN  
Tel: 0116 259 2680 [robert.jameson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:robert.jameson@tiscali.co.uk)

**Vice Chairman: Simon Connolly**, 17, Sutton Close, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5WT  
Tel: 0116 271 8641 [simon1connolly@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:simon1connolly@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Secretary: Position Vacant**

**Minute Secretary: Haydn Starkie**, 2, Hillcroft Close, Thurmaston, Leicester, LE4 8FW  
Tel: 0116 269 3072 [haydn.starkie@btinternet.com](mailto:haydn.starkie@btinternet.com)

**Treasurer: Liz Ellis**, 7, The Hall, Queniborough Hall Drive, Queniborough, Leicester, LE7 3DZ  
Tel: 0116 269 2399 [lizellis450@icloud.com](mailto:lizellis450@icloud.com)

### **Committee Members:**

**Ahmad Khwaja JP**, Tel: 07879470584 [ahmadkhwaja@yahoo.com](mailto:ahmadkhwaja@yahoo.com)

**Margaret Bagur**, 8, The Lawns, Stoneygate Road, Leicester LE2 2AS  
Tel: 0116 319 5140 [margaretmmb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:margaretmmb@hotmail.co.uk)

**Philip Coomes**, 38 Victoria Court, Leicester Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4AG  
Tel: 0116 271 8030 [philip.coomes@outlook.com](mailto:philip.coomes@outlook.com)

**Eamon Furey**, 14, Church Road, Evington, Leicester, LE5 6FA  
Tel: 0116 273 7425 [eamon.furey@ntlworld.com](mailto:eamon.furey@ntlworld.com)

**Ziggy Robb**, 2C, Upperton Rise, Leicester, LE3 OHA  
Tel: 0116 233 1681 [Z.Robb@ntlworld.com](mailto:Z.Robb@ntlworld.com)

**We hope to see as many members as possible at the Meeting.**