



Plymouth and District Group Spring Newsletter

February 2023

Hello and welcome to the latest newsletter from the Plymouth and District Group.

Well that's 2022 out of the way, and quite honestly I for one am glad to see the back of it. The war in Ukraine, the after effects of the pandemic, 3 prime ministers in 4 months, huge increases in energy and food bills, the chaos caused by the so called mini budget, and worst of all the loss of Her Majesty the Queen. Not a year I will remember with any great fondness. Still life goes on and welcome 2023, although I would like it to be a bit warmer, although not the 40+ degrees that we saw in July, I will settle for the mid 20's right now. Despite all that, I hope you all had a very happy Xmas and that Santa Claus was good to you all. I must admit that the TV schedules left a lot to be desired, I wish who ever decides what programmes to put out, would consider us golden oldies, and cut down on the kids movies etc, whatever happened to the variety shows and don't get me started on the so called modern comedians.

The Plymouth and District group continues to plod along, although we have cut our meetings to 6 per year, and **amended out meeting times to 11:15 on the second Tuesday of the month, at the Raffles Club, Ermington Terrace, Mutley Plain, Plymouth. We urgently need more people to attend the meetings, because if we do not get a greater attendance, then the Group will fold,** which would mean we would not have a voice within the organisation. Our normal attendance is about 8 to 10, which needs to improve. So please do come along to the meetings, join us for a cup of coffee, or a pie and a pint, you will receive a warm welcome.

On the CSPA front, AGM 2022 motion A17 is with the Executive committee who will report back at this years AGM, the motion if passed will end the current group system, and replace it with an area system, which means we will lose our group and for a lot of members some of their social life. It will also make it difficult for us to send a representative to area meetings, depending on where they are held. No doubt all will be revealed in due course.

On the national front, Pensions, Care in the Community, and the National Health Service continue to cause a lot of worry, although the Government has confirmed that state pensions will rise by 10.1% in April, and presumably the triple lock will remain in place for next year, after that it will depend on who wins the next general election. The NHS continues to struggle, with a lack of Doctors, Nurses, and Beds etc, the same applies to Dentists, my next NHS dentist appointment is not until January 2024 and a visit for a scale and polish now costs £80:00 the Government continues to claim that record amounts of money have been invested in the NHS, but my question is “where has it all gone”? (probably to CEO's or Shareholders) certainly not to the Nurses or Ambulance staff because things do not appear to have improved, neither has “care in the community” with many carers leaving the profession for better paid jobs at Tesco's, Sainsbury's etc.

Whatever happens in the coming days you can rest assured that CSPA will continue to fight on your behalf. Public Transport is also a major problem Bus companies continue to cut bus services, or close routes altogether, leaving some villages with either one bus each way per day, or no buses at all, again the Government continue to bleat about how much money they have put into Public transport, but my question again is “where has it all gone” ? probably into the pockets of Directors or Shareholders, certainly not on Drivers wages, which is the reason a lot of them are leaving for jobs at Tesco's or Waitrose etc.

I notice that Lloyds TSB are closing more bank branches, which makes it more and more difficult for people particularly small traders etc to pay in or withdraw money. ATM's are ok if you want to withdraw money, but you can not pay in money or get answers to any queries from a hole in the wall, which means that you have to make what sometimes can be a long and expensive journey to a large city to visit a main branch. This situation is intolerable, but I do not see any change in the future, so maybe that is something that CSPA and other pensioner organisations can take up on our behalf.

The Life and Times of Roger Palfrey.

I joined the Royal Navy 5th October 1955, it was an epic experience for me, but sadly not for Britain. As a group we were sent to Victoria Barracks Portsmouth for basic training, and kitting out. Not quite one size fits all but too big/too small /or very lucky.

On completion of training we were to HMS Ceres for basic training of our chosen (or not) subjects/trades. This was November now November, cold Yorkshire bracing (I was told) weather.

After training I was sent to HMS Drake as a J.A.CK, how fitting a set of initials, standing for Junior Assistant Cook where I joined the staff of the General Mess galley, washing dishes and cooking equipment and other cleaning duties.

We youngsters, (for I was not the only new boy) gradually learned our trade, and moved slowly to great things like peeling potatoes and onions by the sack full.

My first ship was to the reserve fleet, based in Western Mill Creek, HMS Roberts was the ship alongside with 2 others outboard of her, where I continued my training for my 18 months aboard.

Many thanks for that Roger, looking forward to the next instalment. If any one else has an interesting story to tell please let me have it. My email address is geoff.ferguson47@gmail.com

The funny bits.

You know you are getting old when your back goes out more times than you do

Unintentionally funny headlines

Here are a few :-

Man found beaten, robbed by Police.

Grandmother of 8 makes Hole in One.

Hospitals sued by seven foot doctors

Flaming toilet seat causes evacuation at high school

Did you know

King Charles 1st was only about 5ft 3ins tall and that was before he lost his head. The shortest Monarch was Queen Anne who was only about 4ft 11 ins, and died at the age of 49, having been pregnant 18 times. The tallest Monarch was a toss up between Edward I and James II both of whom were well over 6ft tall, the youngest to accede to the throne was Henry VI who was only about 6 month old when he became King,

Australia has more things that can kill you than any other country in the world. (that does not include copious amounts of Fosters lager)

Dates of meetings

Please note the following dates for upcoming meetings:

March 14th (AGM)

May 9th

July 11th

September 12th

November 14th

December 12th (Christmas Lunch TBC)

Plymouth and District Group Civil Service Pensioners Alliance

Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Plymouth and District Group will take place at Raffles Club, Ermington Terrace, Mutley Plain, Plymouth on Tuesday March 14th at 11:15.

All items for the agenda to the Secretary by Tuesday 28th February.

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