



Sheffield & District Group

Meeting Agenda & Newsletter

March 2023

CSPA, Sheffield & District Group AGM – 2 pm, Thursday 16th March 2023

A date for your diary - Thursday 16th March

We do hope you'll be able to come along to the Group AGM this year. All our efforts are focussed on representing your priorities and best interests. We need to hear your views to ensure we get it right!

Why not join us for tea/coffee and a chat before the meeting, from 1.30 pm on Thursday 16th March 2023, in the Quaker Meeting House, Church Street, Sheffield S1 2EW?

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions – Mike Buckley (Chair)
2. Apologies.
3. Guest Speaker: to be confirmed
4. Adoption of Accounts; Secretarial & Membership Reports.
5. Election of Sheffield & District Group Committee Posts:-
Chair; Secretary; Treasurer; Membership Secretary;
Committee Members (6); Auditors (2).
6. Reports on National & Local activities.
7. Any Other Business.

Group Members' Meeting Dates 2023 - Thursday 15th June 2023; Thursday 14th September 2023; Thursday 14th December 2023. (All meetings start at 2pm)

Group Committee Meeting Dates 2023 - Thursday 4th May 2023; Thursday 3rd August 2023; Thursday 26th October 2023. (All meetings start at 2pm)

Sheffield & District Committee Members

Group Chair:

Mike Buckley

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Group Secretary:

John Houghton

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Group Treasurer:

Linda Garner

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Membership Secretary:

Linda Woollen

40 Richmond Park Avenue
Sheffield S13 8HA

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Committee Members:

Andy Aitchison

Steve Anderson

Les Priestley

Judith Roe (Organiser)

**Beryl Wardley (Social
Secretary)**

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Newsletter

March 2023

A New Year - New Challenges - Please join us at 2023 AGM

Details of the 2023 AGM are provided in the Agenda page accompanying this Newsletter. We want to build on the success of our December meeting and continue our efforts to represent and defend your interests. To do this we really need your help and support.

Firstly, we are asking you to support the work we do on your behalf by subscribing to the Group at a base cost of £2 per annum - equivalent to 17p a month. We believe this represents really good value for progressing and protecting your interests.

Secondly, **we urge you to come along and participate in our AGM**, which will review last year's activity and set an agenda and priorities for next year. We'd all like to hear your views. You'll have the opportunity to meet colleagues, old & new, and share your challenges and interests in a friendly environment. We promise you a warm welcome.

Group Elections

Nominations

Nominations are invited for the following Group posts:

- Officers: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary,
- Committee Members (6 to be elected)
- Auditors: 2 to be elected

Nominations should be sent to reach the Group Secretary by Monday 13 March (see contact details below).



Sheffield's Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress joined in our celebration of CSPA's 70th anniversary at our December meeting.

Local Group Subscriptions for 2023

At our December meeting, members agreed that we should seek a **£2 local subscription** from everyone represented by CSPA Sheffield & District Group for to help cover our expenses in 2023. - these include travel, room hire, delegate costs, affiliations and administration.

As ever, **the Group would welcome any additional voluntary donations**. These have been a major factor in keeping our Group solvent. Cheques and cash will be gratefully accepted at the AGM.

Otherwise, you can pay, by cheque or bank transfer, using the following details **CSPA Sheffield & District Group**, Bank Code **08-92-99**, A/c No. **65467264**. In the reference box, please give your initials and surname.

Please confirm any bank transfers you make to **lindagarner1@hotmail.co.uk** and address any cheques to **Linda Garner, 6 Moorwoods Avenue, Sheffield S35 2WA**.

Group Activity/Reports

CSPA Sheffield & District Group Financial Statement for FY 2022

Group Treasurer, Linda Garner reports:

This has been a relatively quiet year with activity still not at pre-pandemic levels. We have managed to have 4 meetings at the Quaker House but no outings. Committee meetings will continue be held over Zoom for the foreseeable future. Other activity has been low and so the bank balance remains steady as of today standing at c£1500. However, to increase our levels of activity and representation on your behalf we intend to ask for subscriptions for the 2023 financial year. Should we end the year in a good position, the Committee will review the decision as to whether we will need subscriptions in 2024.

The accounts have been audited and a copy of the signed accounts will be available at the AGM.

Linda Garner
Treasurer

Re-establishing and growing CSPA activity & outreach

CSPA Sheffield & District Group Chair, Mike Buckley updates us on his role as a member of the Regional & Group Structure Working Party.

The CSPA AGM, held last Autumn, remitted a motion to abandon Groups and instead organise around Regions. Many active Groups rejected this, whilst agreeing something had to be done. Remittance was agreed on the basis Groups would be engaged in working to see what should be done. I was asked to join that working party.

We met twice in January. Our remit was to report and submit proposals to the CSPA's Organisation & Recruitment Sub Committee in good time for their meeting on 21 February.

The Working Party had excellent discussions, with constructive frank assessment of where we are, where we need to be, and what needs to be done to get us there. Standing still as things are is just not an option - in our view.

In essence the working party felt the right way forward was to harness the strengths of the active Groups, like Sheffield & District, across the Regions to support the re-establishment of CSPA activity in areas where such Groups were lacking.

I would be very interested in any thoughts you have on this.

Mike Buckley

Have your say in Sheffield & District Group's response to recommendations made by the Review of Regional and Group Structure Working Party

Further to Mike's article, we have just received, Group Circular 936, containing a report by Deputy Secretary, David Luxton, on the recommendations of the Working Party. Groups and Branches have asked to provide views and comments in response to the recommendations set out above by Friday 14 April. We will need to discuss the proposed approach and action at our AGM on 16th March in order to meet this deadline.

The list of recommendations is too long to include in the Newsletter, but the Group Secretary will provide details in his written report, copies of which will be available to all attending the AGM. If you can't attend, or wish to see these details ahead of the meeting, please contact the Group Secretary.

We want the right framework, for CSPA to recruit more members and effectively inform, consult, represent and support us. If you have something to say we need to hear from you

Pre-payment Meters

Having seen the scandal of companies breaking in to install pre-payment meters. We're anxious to know whether this is an issue affecting our members.

Has this been an issue for you? Do you have a story to tell? If so please get in touch, in confidence, with the Group Secretary - contact details are on the 'Agenda' page,

Will you help us to protect what you've earned

We hope you believe CSPA membership provides really good value for money, but Mike's report is a clear wake up call that **we need to make more potential members aware of the work we do** to protect their pensions and, in partnership with others, to defend their general wellbeing.

Since "Lockdown" our membership has inevitably shrunk, and our access to civil servants approaching retirement has become increasingly more difficult. CSPA leadership is working hard to raise our profile, but **we do need your help**.

Many of us know Civil Servants who have retired, or are about to retire. Please tell them about CSPA and encourage them to join you as a member of this Group. If you want to make any comments, or need help/advice, please contact the Group Secretary, or any other Committee Member.

Group Committee Meeting Highlights - 2 February 2023



At our last meeting, and in subsequent email, we:

- Reviewed the success of our December event and exchanged ideas how we can build on this.
- Agreed to take action to promote recruitment and activity within the Group.
- Endorsed subsidy of the visit to the National Emergency Transport Museum.
- Discussed the availability of guest speakers for the AGM
- Asked colleagues who are NEC members to raise with HQ the difficulties we've had in obtaining up to date membership numbers (apparently due to system change) - as indeed are other Groups!

Report Back: Yorkshire and Humber Pensioners Convention, Doncaster - 26th January 2023

I joined Regional Representative Andy Aitchison for my first experience of a YHPC meeting in Doncaster on the 26th January:

There was an interesting and informative presentation by the Yorkshire and Humber Asbestos Victims Support Group, which provides support for people whose health and finances are detrimentally affected through encountering asbestos. The issue provoked a lot of interest, concern and questions amongst all present.

In her report, Secretary, Fran Postlethwaite focussed heavily on the resumption of the campaign to challenge the detrimental deterioration of transport facilities, within our Region and nationally, particularly outside the London Region. The aim was to hold a national Transport Campaign Event, in York, to replace the event cancelled due to the Covid 19 lockdown.

NPC had produced a consultation paper on its Regional and Group structures. The meeting did not really consider the consultation paper, stressing that it was unreasonable to expect a response within the limited time available. It was noted that NPC was running at a £23,000 deficit centrally. The inference from the top table at the meeting was that the problems raised in the paper did not apply to YHPC. They opposed any proposals that would transfer potential funds from our region. These arguments appeared to be tacitly agreed by the meeting.

NPC announced in its December *Campaign!* that the 2023 Convention would be held in Blackpool on the 28th and 29th of June, preceded by a Delegate Conference on the 27th. Andy Aitchison hopes to attend these events, and will provide a report back for us.

John Houghton