

Annual General Meeting  
22 April 2024 - 13:00 to 15:30  
St Sidwells Community Centre  
Sidwell Street, Exeter,  
EX4 6NN  
Located after the block of  
shops that start with John Lewis

Dear Member

First an apology for our September newsletter that did not publish correctly, which resulted in the date of the mandate meeting being incomplete etc; the printing was moved from CSPA headquarters to a commercial company and the changes made to meet their requirement were outside of our control.

We review what we have undertaken on your behalf in the last year and consider the issues you draw to our attention for us to take action and/or forward to the national annual general meeting.

With the General Election taking place this year it is a good time to press the Parliamentary Candidates by meeting, writing, emailing or commenting on their social media to bring to their attention the Later Life Ambitions Manifesto. There is more on this in the newsletter

### **CSPA East Devon Annual General Meeting:**

**Motions:** We do need your thoughts and/or experience, whether you find it excellent or unacceptable on the following – Pension/cost of living - Care system accessibility – NHS or Doctors surgeries – Transport diminishing services – Banks closing – Financial/social/digital exclusion – Post Office (past, present or future) – Carbon footprint.

**Nominations;** East Devon Group Committee - Chairman – Treasurer - Secretary - Membership Secretary – Committee members (Vacancies) – Delegate - Auditor. It is for you the member to propose your nominations by forwarding them anyone on the current committee listed below.

*Les Calder* Chairman /NEC South West Regional Representative

### **CSPA East Devon Committee for 2023/2024 -**

**Chairman:** Les Calder, 33 Rendells Meadow, Bovey Tracy, TQ13 9QW. Tel: 01626 830266. email: landmcalder@btinternet.com

**Treasurer:** Barbara Roberts, 10 Underwood Close, Dawlish, EX7 9RY. Tel: 01626 865319

**Secretary:** Clive Roberts, 3 Connaught View, Sidmouth, EX10 8FJ. Tel: 07541 246 576 email: clive.dee.roberts@talk21.com

**Membership Secretary:** Phil Roberts, 10 Underwood Close, Dawlish, EX7 9RY. Tel: 01626 865319

**Member:** Colin Passey, 23 Cornlands, Sampford Peverell, Tiverton, Devon EX16 7UA. Tel: 07503 123022

**Member:** Barbara Farrell, 35 Newcombe Street, Exeter, EX1 2TG, Tel: 01392 424691

**Vacancies (3)**

## Pension Increase 2024

Civil Service pension 6.7% (CPI)

State Pension 8.5% (Wage)

State Pension additions etc. 6.7%

Remember if your income is over the threshold of £12,570 (static until 2028) any increase in pensions will be taxed by at least 20%. As they say “given generously with one hand and taken back with the other” this will result in those managing on a low pension income failing to keep pace with increased costs.

There is misinformation on civil service pensions where I have seen articles which quote the civil service pension is triple locked and unfunded during employment. That is a myth to my knowledge as a value for your pension contribution was accounted for when the Government undertook job evaluations before negotiations took place meaning we paid for our pensions through reduced comparable wages, and the civil service pensions rise annually by the CPI rate only.

## CSPA Conference 2023

East Devon had only the one motion to sponsor (A30) which was adopted. It was brought to our attention by a member in Exeter where they had the difficulty in accessing vaccine centres. This was due to poor location of vaccine centres for populated areas and where popup centres would have been available if the population had heard of them before rather than after the event.

I was surprised as I thought that this might be a local NHS arrangement, to find there was support through a number of speakers who had similar

concerns showing the issue was countrywide.

My thoughts & memories –

- There had been a complete change of those sitting on the top table over recent years.
- Mike Lawler who has attended our past East Devon AGMs was deservedly elected Vice-President.
- Executive Council seats were uncontested.
- Executive Council had a number of vacant seats.
- There was a spate of close votes – one of which was deemed lost on a hand vote though I thought was carried, and went unchallenged!

For those who love statistics

43 Motions submitted

(3 were deemed out of order)

27 were carried

2 were lost

6 remitted

5 were included in composites

## Future of Groups

CSPA Groups act on your behalf to ensure your voice is heard.

Without a Group willing to champion a cause you are a single voice in over 47,000 members.

Finding replacements to fill the group committee vacancies is proving difficult to impossible so we are rethinking the way forward.

To this end we initially seek your experience and thoughts on how we should interact with members to collect individual concerns that strengthen the lobby.

Additionally gathering as a group to eat out is no longer good value for money so it is not for everybody nor is sitting around a table in regular meetings

What worked for groups in the past is not working now and we don't



have all the answers, so we ask you where do we go from here?

The post office scandal, and it is a scandal, has shown it is not always easy to get either governments or organisations to listen and to ensure we are listened to there is need for a broader approach in lobbying, on limited occasions, when we need to be more of a thorn in their sides.

**Write, Phone or email Clive**

## Get the best out of Retirement

As the older generation we have the best job in the world, doing what we want when we want – or so my wife says!

Many of us can enjoy our retirement thanks to those in the past who fought for the benefits we receive. It's now for us to ensure those that follow us into retirement get similar benefits so they can enjoy theirs.

We have to acknowledge that those who are not in employment in later life will increase significantly in coming years and that fact is used for many reasons in a negative format to create change, so how can we change the perception. We have to accept there are those who do not wish to retire, be it for financial, social or just enjoyment. Changes in the workplace need to be more flexible and adaptable

The Sunday Times on the 18 Feb 2024 had an article written by David Smith – **Why we should embrace an ageing**

**but active population** states from a book *The Longevity Imperative* by the economist Andrew J Scott – “we are looking at this from the wrong end of the telescope. Greater longevity is something to celebrate and, properly managed it can be an economic benefit, not a problem. The “ageing society” narrative “encourages seeing longer lives as a problem, not as an opportunity”, writes Scott. “Instead of celebrating the reduction of grief over lost children, of fewer parents snatched away in midlife and more grandparents and even great-grandparents meeting their grandchildren, it sees greater longevity as a burden. Not only is that a perverse way of seeing a triumph of human development it darkens unnecessarily our view of our future lives.”

We as the elders have the knowledge and experience to know that things will change, so let us make them a positive experience and create a future we would want for our children as they move through their lives.

### Ageing – the silver lining



I have taken the following from the **local.gov.uk** executive report:–

The opportunities and challenges of an ageing society, local government executive report 2015:-

***Older people are part of the solution to the challenges that face us.***

*Our ageing population is experiencing greater inequality. Socio economic differences are growing and they have a very significant impact on older*

*people’s experience of life, especially as it affects their health and wellbeing. For example, the life expectancy of men in the most deprived areas is nine years shorter than those in more affluent areas.*

*It is increasingly being recognised that older people make a huge contribution to the life of their local areas through providing unpaid care, involvement in civic organisations and other forms of volunteering. Leading councils are recognising the importance of nurturing and supporting this kind of input.*

### Later Life Ambitions

CSPA and partners publication **Later Life Ambitions** (LLA) has been used to successfully find sympathetic Members of Parliament in recent years.

With the general election this year, CSPA are looking for your support by writing to Candidates (as they will only respond to constituents) to ask if they will support LLA in the coming Government.

To this end The Later Life Ambitions (LLA) website has published a General Election 2024 Toolkit with a letter for forwarding to candidates, which I have reproduced on the last page.

2024 Constituencies we cover

Central Devon  
Exeter  
Exmouth & Exeter East  
Honiton & Sidmouth  
Newton Abbot

North Devon  
North Dorset  
Taunton & Wellington  
Tiverton & Minehead  
Torridge & Tavistock

We need to recognise there is a change to some constituency boundaries, so to ensure you have the correct one the following web site will give you your constituency from your postcode.

[www.electoralcalculus.co.uk/nwseatlookup.html](http://www.electoralcalculus.co.uk/nwseatlookup.html)

Prospective candidate can be found at the website below or the local council website may also have a list of candidates.

<https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/>

In case of difficulties in finding information or if you have no access to a computer let Clive know your name, postcode and return contact details and he will forward detail he is able to obtain.

Let Clive know of any reply given..

If you would like a paper or electronic copy of the letter please ask.

### Write, Phone or email Clive.

Insert the following information in to the letter - candidate’s name –constituency name – your name(s), address & signatures(s)

### Disclaimer

Artificial intelligence had no involvement in this newsletter, so errors or mistakes are down to the editor.

Dear

Will you enable older people to live an ambitious and fulfilling later life

Constituency

I live in your constituency and I am writing to request that addressing the challenges facing those in later life be at the forefront of your political agenda.

I am a member of the Later Life Ambitions. Later Life Ambitions is a campaigning organisation which brings together the collective voices of over 250,000 older people through three organisations – the National Federation of Occupational Pensioners, the Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance and the National Association of Retired Police Officers. We campaign nationally, regionally and locally on a wide range of issues to improve the lives of older people.

We have ambitious aspirations for pensioners. From an Older People's Commissioner to a National Social Care Service, maintaining the Triple Lock State Pension to a delivering a National Housing Strategy, we are focused on issues that impact older people the most. We require bold and forward-looking action from our political leaders to address challenges facing older people and implement solutions. So, we urge you to recognise the value of older people, and provide an aspirational, ambitious future for those in later life. As my prospective MP, I would like you to support the following calls for the next Government to:

- Create a Commissioner for Older People and Ageing for England and Scotland
- Legislate for a National Care Service to be integrated with the NHS that remains free at the point of delivery
- Maintain long-term access to cash and cash free withdrawal services, and providing increased support for banks and businesses to develop more accessible tools to combat digital exclusion
- Maintain the State Pension Triple Lock; protect the State Pension age and up rate Pension Credit in line with the State Pension.
- Strengthen the Lifetime Homes standard into a National Housing Strategy to provide accessible and affordable housing.
- Increase investment in and up rate concessions for local bus services and improved accessibility for older people.

I would appreciate your response to the issues I have outlined above.

Name

Address

Signature