

Scotland Branch Newsletter

Issue 14



TACKLING THE CHALLENGES OF KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR MEMBERS

Statement from the Branch Chair

Hello everyone.

As you will read in the Branch AGM 2023 report overleaf, I have been elected as Scotland Branch Chair, replacing John McGiveron, who sadly had to resign the position due to ill health.

I worked in the Ministry of Defence for more than 40 years in various parts of the UK, also spending time in Germany.

I took early retirement in January 2004 and worked in the private sector for the next 17 years.

The Scotland Branch consisted of several groups but, sad to say, the last functioning group, Glasgow, was officially closed at the AGM. It was agreed, however, that meetings would still be held in Glasgow for Scottish members to attend.

With a concerning decline in the number of members in the Scotland



Branch, one of my priorities is to look at what action can be taken to recruit new members, as well as motivating current members to become more involved. I will let you have further details soon.

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I will also continue to represent you to the best of my abilities on all the other issues that affect every one of us.

Communication is a two-way tool and it would be a great help to the Branch officers to know what your thoughts are.

I do hope that the summer weather is kind to you and you manage to make the most of it.

Wilson Macdonald

Keeping your details up to date

Membership secretary Michael Kirby (details at the bottom of this page) is the man to contact if you need to make changes to your personal data held on the Scotland



Branch section of the CSPA database – change of address, email or phone number, or any other membership matter you require assistance with.

Branch AGM 2023



ANDY FARRINGTON

This important event was held on Thursday 9 March in the Pipers' Tryst (National Piping Centre) at 30-34 McPhater Street, Glasgow G4 OHW, pictured above.

It was disappointing that so few members were in attendance, and no members took up the offer of attending virtually.

With no other applications, the incumbent Branch officers were duly elected to serve another year in their respective positions.

The Branch Chair position had become vacant, advertised with a closing date of 30 January. With no applications received, Wilson MacDonald, Branch Vice Chair, very kindly offered his services, and was unanimously elected. The position of Branch Vice Chair is now vacant.

Glasgow: group in crisis

The Glasgow & District Group attended this AGM as a group in crisis. With the retirement of both the Secretary and Treasurer, it was necessary to close this last

remaining group. However, it was unanimously agreed to continue to hold members meetings in Glasgow, open to any Scotland Branch members, regardless of address.

The Scotland Branch constitution was duly amended to meet the new circumstances of the running of the Branch, for and on behalf of the Scotland Branch membership. This

It was agreed to continue to hold members meetings in Glasgow, open to all

was unanimously agreed by the attending members.

A copy of the constitution can be found on the members section of the Scotland Branch website at www.cspascotland.org.uk

It is also available on the national website www.cspa.co.uk or you can phone or write to Branch Membership Secretary Michael Kirby – contact details below.

Group closures

Edinburgh Group has been closed for more than a year.

Glasgow & District Group was officially closed at this year's Branch AGM on 9 March.

Should any members wish to consider reopening either of these groups, please contact Branch Administrator Christine McGiveron by email: Christine.McGiveron@cspa.co.uk or by phone: 07506 315826.



New venue for members meetings

The Griffin public house, which has recently been refurbished, has been chosen as the most suitable venue for future members meetings.

The room for Branch meetings can be accessed through the bar at 266 Bath Street or via a door in Elmbank Street.

The Branch Officers have negotiated a favourable room hire rate for the meetings, and those wishing to use the facilities of the Griffin are free to do so either before or after the meeting.

Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of February, May, September and November. The start time will remain at 1.30pm

All Scotland members are welcome to meetings at the refurbished Griffin pub

and any Scotland Branch member is welcome to come along.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7 September. Any members who wish to attend these meetings virtually should please contact Michael Kirby.

Lynn Campbell, Welfare Officer from Glasgow's Golden Generation, has kindly agreed to be our guest speaker at this September meeting. Lynn is no stranger to Glasgow members, having attended several meetings in the past. She has kept everyone up to date and informed on all benefit matters, such as attendance and carer's allowance, pension credit and much more.

A summer outing was agreed, and final travel arrangements made at the members meeting held on 4 May. A full report will be included in the autumn issue of *The Pensioner* magazine.

Veterans' partnership

Support for former Armed Forces personnel attending medical appointments

Fares4Free, a Scottish government-backed initiative that provides Veterans with trained volunteer drivers to take them to hospital visits and appointments, has been expanding to meet demand.

Our previous Branch newsletter gave a full explanation of the organisation and its operations manager, Leon Fisher, kindly agreed to attend the members meeting on 4 May as guest speaker.

Members found him very interesting and informative, as he explained the valuable work of the volunteer drivers to former Services personnel.

- Fares4Free is seeking volunteer drivers across Scotland – to find out more about volunteering, telephone 0141 266 6000.





Try out our new website

The new Scotland Branch website has been up and running since October last year. The website is solely for Scotland Branch members and is regularly updated by Michael Kirby with news and items relevant to Scotland.

It also includes a link to the national website, which will enable non-members to join the CSPA.

The new website has been created to present a more corporate image, with the Branch website now identical to the national one.

The Branch officers hope you like

it and I encourage everyone to have a look and see what you think.

It is easy to navigate and there is a facility to provide feedback.

To access the website just enter www.cspascotland.org.uk in your browser to get to the home page.

Michael Kirby, Membership Secretary and Branch Webmaster

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Signing up to the Scottish Older People's Assembly

The Scottish Older People's Assembly (SOPA) is a voice for older people across Scotland.

Last year it was advertising for new members from other similar organisations to join the Assembly.

Scotland Branch officers discussed this at their meeting on 10 November 2022, agreeing that CSPA Scotland Branch should apply for membership/affiliation to an organisation whose main focus was older people in Scotland. It was agreed that SOPA seemed the most relevant.

We are happy to report that our application for membership was successful.



SP Energy Networks Priority Services Register

In the event of a power cut, our teams work around the clock to restore your electricity as quickly as possible.

To enquire about being placed on this register – phone 0330 1010 167

Any feedback regarding this newsletter would be very much appreciated.



Remember: do not leave *The Pensioner* magazine in doctors' or dentists' surgeries or any public places as it contains names and addresses of Alliance officers.

The CSPA is committed to ensuring that your information and privacy are protected.