

NEXT GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of our group will take place on Thursday the 12th December at 2pm at Costa in Morrisons car park, Newmarket Avenue, Teesside Park TS17 7BP. We aim to finish by 3-30pm.

You will see the change from our normal venue. Sadly St. Mary's Centre in Middlesbrough has closed its doors for good after many decades of service to charities and voluntary groups in the area. At our last meeting we decided to make a gift to Eileen the centre manager who has been so supportive of our group. We wish her and her colleagues well for the future.

We have decided to experiment with a less formal venue especially since our recent attendances have been so small. We'll assess how well Costa meets our needs after this meeting.

Many of our members have very kindly made their annual contribution to our group funds by standing order at the start of January. Given that we are not presently asking for an annual contribution we would like to ask those members to contact their bank and cancel their standing orders. Your past generosity is sincerely appreciated.

The national AGM took place in Coventry in October. Keith Yallop was there in his capacity as chair of the Standing Orders Committee, and of course I attended as delegate from our group.

A full report on the Coventry meeting will be carried in the next issue of the Pensioner-out soon- but I found the enthusiasm and commitment of those attending exhilarating. There was of course real disappointment at the government's decision to restrict the winter heating allowance to fewer pensioners. The CSPA was at the forefront of campaigning on this issue but to no avail. Since the AGM we have had the budget with its commitment to the triple lock for the state pension, and CPI inflation increase for the civil service pension. We cannot relax on any of this.

The new travel insurance scheme, offered through the Civil Service Insurance Society to CSPA members at competitive, fixed rates based on age categories on a 'fit to travel' basis, is proving to be popular with our members.

Annual policies, renewable each July, can also now be purchased part-way through the year on a pro rata basis, so members taking out policies in between renewal dates will not have to pay the full amount.

Do get in touch with CSIS directly for further information, either by calling them on 01622 766 960 or go to the CSPA website and follow the links.

Anyway, Christmas is now very much in sight and I hope you've all made a start on your Christmas shopping, and that you are able to spend time with friends and family.

Don't forget that the members benefits scheme continues to be available at the CSPA website www.cspa.org.uk For members without internet access a leaflet is available from CSPA head office providing information on all of the benefits that can be accessed by telephone. Call 020 8688 8418 for a copy.

As for our meeting I and the other officers very much hope you can come along. The meeting will obviously be very informal and we do need fresh blood to keep the group going!

Yours sincerely
John Butler
Group Secretary.

AGENDA

Welcome from the Chair.
Apologies for absence.
Minutes of September Meeting-see below.
Matters Arising.
Secretary's Report.
Treasurer's Report.
Membership Report.
Regional NPC Report.
Report from the AGM at Coventry
Any Other Business.

Minutes of the Group Meeting held on the 12th September 2024 at Middlesbrough at 2pm.

Present

John Butler, David Barry, Christine Foxton, Marj Bellamy, Keith Yallop.

Apologies

Ken Bellamy.

Minutes of the Group Meeting of 14th June 2024

The minutes were taken as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report

John said he was still sending out info to people who were on his email list and sending copies to David by post. John raised the issue of whether we should still have minuted meetings. It was decided that we should. John informed the meeting that Middlesbrough Council were evicting St. Mary's from its building. For the lack of suitable alternative accommodation, the charity had decided to fold. The Centre had been the venue for group meetings for many years and members expressed thanks for the support given by Eileen the Centre manager. In recognition of this the group voted to give Eileen a fifty pounds gift voucher out of our funds and a card was signed by members present thanking her and wishing her well in her retirement. The group had not been charged for this last room hire and Eileen had provided tea coffee and biscuits.

Treasurer's report

Keith reported that total funds of the Group amounted to £868.14 in the bank account and £33.47 was cash in hand. Total £919.61. It was again agreed that a voluntary subscription would not be requested in 2025. Keith requested that members be written to ask that any standing orders be cancelled before the new year. Keith, Christine and John had met again to complete the documents to clear up with Barclays who were our signatories and who was our Treasurer. This was effectively Barclays' last chance. The report was accepted with the thanks of the meeting.

Membership report

Keith said that the latest figure was 130.

NPC Report

Following his wife's recent death Keith had given up his role as Treasurer for the regional NPC and effectively severed his links with it. No other member volunteered for the role and it was likely our affiliation would cease.

Agenda for the Coventry Annual Meeting.

John introduced the agenda booklet which had been distributed to all members as an insert in The Pensioner.

Andy Aitchison was the only nomination for the regional representative on the Executive and was therefore deemed elected as were all our other nominees for the various positions, except the chair where there would be an election.

The meeting agreed that John should exercise his discretion as to which motions to support.

Any Other Business

Some discussion took place as to the venue for future meetings. December's meeting, it was agreed, would be held in a more informal setting. John would reconnoitre the Costa in Morrisons car park at Teesside Park and make a decision on there or somewhere similar.

John closed the meeting at 3-10pm.