



Winter 2025  
Norfolk & Suffolk Group Newsletter

**Dear Member,**

Welcome to the Winter, 2025, edition of the CSPA Norfolk and Suffolk Group Newsletter. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break and wish you all the best in the coming year.

Our next Group meeting will be on Wednesday, 26 February, 2025, at 2 pm, at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD, this will be our Group AGM. At this meeting we will have the opportunity to discuss the Group view on the suggested change to the CSPA rules to trial having one Member one vote for elections to the EC. There will be more on that on following pages, but it is especially important for you to come along and contribute to our discussion and vote on this. Our guest speaker will be the CSPA General Secretary, Sally Tsoukaris, who will keep us up to date with CSPA activity, as well as answer any questions regarding the method of voting for the EC.

Full details of the meeting and agenda are shown on page 4 of this Newsletter.

Richard

## **Group Subscriptions**

Paying a small subscription to the Group is entirely voluntary and must not be confused with the subscription to become a Member of CSPA. A reminder that for those wishing to pay a subscription to the Group, subscriptions were due on 1 January, 2025, (£3 for individual or joint membership). For the convenience of our Treasurer, Fred Crooks, the only method of payment is by bank transfer (BACS) to the following account:

*Account Name:* Civil Service Pensioners Alliance Norfolk Group; *Bank:* HSBC;  
*Sort Code:* 40-35-09; *Account No.:* 11265768; Please quote your name as reference.  
Thank you.

## **Fred**

### **Audio version of The Pensioner**

For many years it has been possible to receive The Pensioner in audio form for those who have difficulty reading the print edition. Unfortunately, this service has not been available recently so CSPA has sought an alternative method of providing the recordings.

This is therefore an ideal time to ensure that we know of all Members who would like to receive the audio version. Each recording will be mailed to the Member on a memory stick, which must be returned in time for the following edition. There will be no charge and no postage to pay.

If you would like to have the audio version, please let our Membership Secretary, Margaret Noble, know.

## **CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE ALL-MEMBER BALLOTS TO ELECT TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL POSTS IN 2026**

There was an item on this in the Winter issue of The Pensioner, and I hope that as many of you as possible completed the questionnaire. It is now time for active Groups to make their views known. At our Group AGM on 26 February there will be opportunity to discuss this and vote re our Group's view.

The background to this initiative is that Group closures are preventing a growing number of members from participating in CSPA's democratic processes in England and Wales, and the closures have been accelerating in recent years.

To address this, CSPA is considering changing the approach to some elections, from the 2026 AGM onwards on a trial basis, to offer every member an equal voice in electing the national CSPA Executive Council.

CSPA is encouraging Groups and Branches to share their valuable insights and views to help the Executive Council shape a more inclusive future for all members of the CSPA. Your feedback as active members will help to guide our next steps, and the EC is keen to ensure that those who are active in Groups and Branches remain integral to any organisational changes to be made.

### **What is being proposed?**

An online and postal ballot, open to all CSPA members, to elect our Chair, Vice Chair and the five national Executive Council posts.

### **When would this take place?**

For the proposed ballot to be held in 2026, the necessary changes to CSPA's Rules and Constitution would need to be agreed by a two thirds majority at the Annual General Meeting in 2025.

If the AGM's agreement is positive, the proposal is to call for nominations in the Spring Issue of The Pensioner in 2026, as well as asking Groups and Branches to submit their nominations in the usual way, and then to hold the first all-member ballot in June/July 2026, so that the results can be announced at the start of the AGM in October 2026.

### **How would the elections be held?**

Members will be able to vote online – with a link being sent to them by email – or alternatively they can complete a paper ballot form, which would be included in The Pensioner magazine, and return it to a Freepost address. CSPA proposes to engage the services of a reputable, third-party provider of electoral support to assist with the ballots. We have already had preliminary discussions with Civica, Mi-Voice and UK Engage in this regard.

### **Why are we proposing this?**

The Executive Council is acutely aware that our current structures and representation arrangements no longer provide all members with an opportunity to influence the future direction of the organisation. We would therefore like all CSPA members to have a say in mandating a national Executive Council of their choosing.

### **What else is going to change?**

We are conscious that any changes we make must be sensitive to the values and networks of our active members in Groups and Branches, and not diminish our support for their activities. CSPA Groups and Branches will still be invited to submit nominations for national posts in the usual ways. We are not proposing to change the way we elect Regional, Branch or Group representative positions, or to change the way that we conduct any other business at our AGM.

### **How can Groups and Branches have their say on the proposals?**

Group and Branch Chairs/Secretaries have been asked to submit their Group or Branch's collective response. For the Norfolk and Suffolk Group this will be voted on at our AGM on 26 February. If you will not be able to attend that meeting, you can let our Secretary, Tim Hartstone, know your view ahead of the meeting, so it can be included in the outcome.

### **Changes Of Personal Details, etc.**

If you change your address or other details, please remember to let the Group Membership Secretary, Margaret Noble, know. Please also contact Margaret in the event of the death of a CSPA member to avoid the distress of unwanted mailings.

## **The Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk and Suffolk Group will be held on**

**Wednesday, 26 February, 2025, starting at 2.00pm,**

at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD

Tea/coffee will be provided

Our guest speaker will be the CSPA General Secretary, Sally Tsoukaris

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 February, 2024 and Minutes of meeting 27 November, 2024.
3. Matters arising
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Group Annual Report and Accounts for 2024
6. Elections to Group Committee and Group delegate to CSPA AGM.
7. Motions for Discussion, including the Group view on the **PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE ALL-MEMBER BALLOTS TO ELECT TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL POSTS IN 2026.**
8. Open Forum
9. Any other business
10. Date and venue of next Group Meeting; Wednesday, 21 May, 2025, at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD.

Following meetings:

Wednesday, 10 September, 2025

Wednesday 26 November, 2025

### **Your Current Committee Members Are:-**

Chair:	Richard West	01603 423144	<a href="mailto:richard.west08@gmail.com">richard.west08@gmail.com</a>
Secretary:	Tim Hartstone	07827 565758	<a href="mailto:t.hartstone@hotmail.co.uk">t.hartstone@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Treasurer:	Fred Crooks	01359 342716	<a href="mailto:fred.crooks550@gmail.com">fred.crooks550@gmail.com</a>
Membership:	Margaret Noble	07999 413950	<a href="mailto:megnob43@gmail.com">megnob43@gmail.com</a>
	Derek Land	01508 520532	<a href="mailto:derek.land@electramail.co.uk">derek.land@electramail.co.uk</a>
Delegate	John Thompson	01502 581481	<a href="mailto:johntommo6@btinternet.com">johntommo6@btinternet.com</a>
	Neville Jarvis	0139275490	<a href="mailto:neville.jarvis1@btinternet.com">neville.jarvis1@btinternet.com</a>