

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025
SCARBOROUGH AND DISTRICT GROUP

The Scarborough and District Group met on Monday, 20 January 2025 at Westborough Methodist Church, Scarborough.

1. Joyce I'Anson chaired the meeting and welcomed 7 Members. Apologies have been received from Jocelyn Lovett, Ray Pollin, Richard Moore.

2 Minutes of meeting held on 23 September 2024 were agreed. Proposed by Sheena O'Connell and seconded by Elaine Taylor. There were no matters arising.

3. James Howie, Treasurer, expressed his thanks to the 28 members of the Scarborough branch who had paid their £5.00 annual subscription for year 2024.

The £5.00 annual subscription is the **sole** source of income for the Branch, covering the cost of the room hire (4 times a year), travel expenses to Regional Meetings and an occasional visitor's hospitality.

James also requested that any member paying their subscription via BACS, to please send a email to him at jpearsonhowie@gmail.com , notifying him of the payment.

The annual subscription will remain at **£5.00 for 2025**. Outstanding subscriptions for 2025 can be paid via **cheque, cash or** into **BACS: 30-97-43 00926106**

The 2024 accounts are now closed: **Bank £234.31 Cash £93.99 Total £328.30**

4. The Branch will also have to change its bank shortly due to a range of unacceptable new charges being raised by Lloyds Bank who presently administer the account. James will source a new bank and open a new Treasurers account. At present time, can members still use the existing 'BACS' details listed above for any bank money transfer until any new details are forthcoming.

5. James, as membership secretary has reviewed the latest membership listing received from CSPA HQ. The Scarborough Branch has a total of 160 membership with 28 active members.

6. Richard Kilsby provided a brief update on his dialogue with Alison Hume (MP) regarding the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Allowance (WFA), and the plunging of an extra 100,000 elderly people into poverty due to its withdrawal. Ms Hume, to her credit has held a number of specialist surgeries to assist pensioners in claiming benefits to try to ameliorate the impact. Elaine Taylor cited a case she knew of a pensioner's £221.00 state pension being just **£3.00** too much for her to claim any assistance. As this is the ladies sole source of pension income, the WFA withdrawal has hit her hard. It was suggested that the affected pensioner should contact the DWP to see if anything can be done.

7. Richard also commented on the negative impact the recent increase in **Employers National Insurance** was having on the '4th emergency service', the UK Charity sector. An earlier announcement by **AGE UK** highlighting the annual £500,000 extra they will have to find has recently been surpassed by **SCOPE** who have announced the closure of 77 of its - now unprofitable - 138 retail shops (5 of its 10 trading areas) with 200 of its 458 retail team losing their employment.

As many of these organisations were founded to plug the gaps in the UK welfare services, the long term impact of this 'unintended consequence' across the UK charity sector will likely have a worryingly detrimental effect on the future quality of life of the elderly/disabled/socially excluded and specialised sick in the country.

8. Sheena O'Connell, Pensioner Publicity, commented that all is running smoothly regarding the twice yearly entries to the Pensioner Magazine. All 'Pensioner'

submissions are accompanied by a local picture taken by Richard Kilsby - and in doing so, avoids any inadvertent breach of national 'photo' copyright.

9. Joyce I'Anson, Chair, reported back that James Howie attended the CSPA Conference on behalf of the Scarborough Branch. At the Conference, James 'seconded' Motions A28 (new/old State pension differences) and A40 (public transport for pensioners) both of which were carried 'nem con'.

10. The Christmas lunch booked at the Park Manor Hotel, 29 November '24, was deemed a success by those who attended. The Group's collective thanks are extended to Joyce for the arrangements, Ray for the name cards, and all the staff at the Park Manor for the excellent food and service. Joyce will try to re-book the same venue again for 2025.

11. A.O.B.

Nothing to report.

12. The next meeting for the Group is the AGM on Monday 28 April, with Andy Aitchinson, Regional Representative invited to attend.

Further group meetings will be held on 23 June and 22 September 2025, commencing 1100 in Belle Vue Room, Westborough Methodist Church, Scarborough, YO11 1YTS.

13. Joyce thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 12.15pm.

Richard Kilsby

23 January 2025