



Sheffield & District Group

Newsletter – Spring 2025

Annual General Meeting - Thursday 20 March 2025

It's soon time for our 2025 AGM, with a chance to look back at key issues in 2024 and, more importantly, how we move forward positively in 2025. There will be plenty for us to discuss and to do this year.

There's always a friendly atmosphere, We'll gather, socially at 1.30 pm. The meeting will start at 2 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Your Guide to Sheffield & District Group's AGM

- **When:** Thursday, 20th March 2025.
- **Where:** The Hilton Room, Sheffield Cathedral, Church St, Sheffield S1 1HA - see photos below (please contact the Group Secretary if you need directions).
- **Why:** It's the Group's keynote meeting of the year. We'll review our activity in 2024; elect our officials for 2025/26, and consider how we sustain and grow our limited Group resources – money and active people - to best represent and support all our members.
- **Who:** Most importantly, **YOU**. (Please let the Group Secretary know if you would like to contribute to any items on the Agenda, but are unable to attend, so your issue(s) can be raised.

Please do come along if you can. Tea, coffee and good company are available from 1.30 pm.

What's on the Agenda?

1. Welcome & Introductions (Chair)
 2. Apologies.
 3. Annual Review & Report
 4. Treasurer's Report; Adoption of Accounts; Secretarial & Membership Reports
 5. Sheffield & District Group Elections.
 6. Social break
 7. Reports on National & Local activities.
 8. Any Other Business
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December 2024 Quarterly Meeting

We shared a really successful Members' Meeting last December, despite some issues in the preparation.

The meeting was intended, primarily, as a social event with delicious mince pies, courtesy of Linda Woollen, a quiz prepared by Beryl Wardley and hosted by Judith Roe, as was the later raffle with just about everybody coming away with a prize.

However, members present used the opportunity to look at key issues affecting older people, such as the changes to the heating allowance and our approach to challenge the detriment suffered by so many pensioners.



Following a financial report from the Group Treasurer, Linda Garner, members agreed to support her recommendation that we freeze Group Subscriptions at £2 per year for 2025

Matters Arising at the Group Committee Meeting 6th February 2025

Firstly, a very warm welcome from us all to new members:

Julia & John Taylor, and Liz Pemberton

Welcome Back

The Committee welcomed back Chair, Mike Buckley, after an enforced absence due to ill health, and wished Beryl Wardley a swift recovery.

Group Financial Status/2025 Group Subscriptions

The Committee unanimously endorsed the Treasurer's report – see Page 3.

Group Membership

Linda Woollen reported that membership is currently stable, but it's still really important for the future of the Group that we do all we can to identify potential new members, recruit them and encourage their participation. The report and proposal were noted and endorsed by the Committee.

Expanding Group Coverage and Informing and Consulting Group Members - We are working with Andy Aitchison, North East Regional Representative, to explore if and how we might provide a service for Members in Lincolnshire who no longer have an active Group.

The Committee noted that the National Treasurer has budgeted for 2025 on the basis of current Group circulation costs. Any attempt by us to add to hard-copy Newsletter circulation is unlikely to be agreed by the NEC. In looking at any potential involvement, we agreed the following approach:

- i. Recognise the need for CSPA to modernise its communications and to contain expenditure
- ii. Make it clear to HQ that we are content not to increase our hard-copy Newsletter distribution, unless otherwise instructed.

- iii. Survey our members as to whether you value the Group Newsletter, or would prefer to rely on information in "The Pensioner".
- iv. Continue our efforts to encourage members to sign up for email distributed Group Newsletters.
- v. Ensure that any action we agree to undertake will not be detrimental to our service provision for existing members.

NEC Proposals for a 2-year All-Member Ballot trial

The Committee discussed in some depth how we should respond to this proposal trial.

Committee Members expressed real concerns about its potential detriment to the role of Groups and the loss of a knowledge-based approach to selecting and electing candidates, it is vital that we get a full cost/benefit assessment from the trial of this methodology. We will keep this under review. The Group Committee would welcome your views.

Preparing for the AGM

It was agreed that nominations and any motions for the 2025 Group AGM should reach the Group Secretary by Wednesday 12th March. Details of elections to be held at the AGM are provided on Page 4.

Informing and Consulting Group Members

CSPA NEC is consulting on possible internal revisions to improve cost-effectiveness, organisation/processes, guidance for Groups and Branches, and a 2-year trial of national nominations and elections with direct member voting

Forthcoming Meeting Dates for 2025

Members' Meetings - Thursday 20th March, Thursday 19th June, Thursday 25th September, Thursday 18th December. (*all in the Hilton Room, Sheffield Cathedral - please make a note in your diary*)

Group Committee Meetings (via Zoom) - Thursday 8th May, Thursday 7th August, Thursday 30th October – members are welcome to observe all meetings.

Sheffield And District Group Financial Report – FY 2024

Subscriptions for the year started very shakily and it necessitated a warning to the committee that funds might not last until 2025. Your annual subscription to HQ CSPA covers the issue of the Pensioner 4 times a year, our newsletter 4 times a year and of course HQ costs. Your group therefore is reliant on local support for all other costs which we incur on your behalf. However following the reminders in our newsletters, the position recovered and now stands at a healthy £2300. We are extremely grateful to members who have contributed to the continued financial health of the group by not only paying the voluntary subs but have been very generous with donations too. However, **only approximately one fifth of our membership has been able to support us financially. We understand that financial support can be difficult but we do really appreciate every contribution, no matter how small.** Thank you.

The accounts have been audited and a copy will be available at the AGM.

Linda Garner

Treasurer

An important Request to all Members - Please subscribe to ensure we can continue to meet our commitments in 2025.

As Linda Garner warned us in her report, our finances are stable, but this is on the back of the generosity of around 100 members contributing through the voluntary annual £2 local subscription and individual donations. **These subscriptions and donations are the only income we have to do the work required to represent and support you. Thank you if you've subscribed already. If not, please do contribute. Please support us to support you!**

Cheques and cash will be gratefully accepted at any quarterly meeting or by post to:
Linda Garner, CSPA Sheffield & District Group Treasurer, 6 Moorwoods Avenue, Sheffield S35 2WA.

Or you can pay by **Bank Transfer** to:

"CSPA Sheffield Group", **Bank Code:** 08-92-99, **A/c No.** 65467264, **Reference:** Please give your initials and surname.

AGM Arrangements

Issues raised and discussed at the Group Executive Committee Meeting

The Group Committee would welcome any questions or comments on the 6 February meeting.

Nominations are invited for the following Group Posts:

- Executive Committee - Chair; Secretary; Treasurer; Membership Secretary; Committee Members (6)
- Auditors (2)

Nominations must be submitted to the Group Secretary by email or by post, to the address shown below and must arrive by 12 noon on Wednesday 12th March.

Motions

Any motions you wish to be tabled for debate at the AGM may also be submitted to the Group Secretary by email or by post, to the address shown below and must arrive by 12 noon on Wednesday 12th March.

A Secretarial Report will be provided at the meeting. It will be circulated to email registered members before the meeting. Increased postal costs and limited funds prevent us from circulating hard copy versions. Please contact the Group Secretary if you want to receive an email copy.

The audited 2024 Accounts will be available at the meeting and members will be invited to adopt the Annual Statement.

A report on Group Membership will be provided at the meeting. We have set the Agenda to allow ample time for us to debate the issues raised.

Secretary's note: Just a reminder that I need to constrain any information we want to give you in this hard-copy edition within 4 pages. However, our email edition enables us to provide more information in a colourful and easier to read format, which also saves CSPA a considerable amount of money!! **Please do register for the email edition if you can.**
Thanks. John