

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025

SCARBOROUGH AND DISTRICT GROUP

The Scarborough and District Group met for the AGM on Monday, 28 April 2025 at Westborough Methodist Church, Scarborough.

1. Joyce I'Anson chaired the meeting and welcomed 5 Members and Andy Aitchison CSPA Regional Representative. Apologies have been received from Jocelyn Lovett, Sheena O'Connell, Dennis Carrack, Ray Pollin, Richard Moore.

2 Minutes of the AGM held on 22 April 2024 were agreed. Proposed by Richard Kilsby and seconded by Elaine Taylor. There were no matters arising.

3. Treasurer Report. James Howie.

James expressed his thanks to the 12 members of the Scarborough Group who had paid their £5.00 annual subscription for year 2025 as the £5.00 annual subscription is the sole source of income for the Branch.

However, he expressed concern over the number of voluntary subscriptions received so far. Members should be aware that the **payment by cheque option is still available** if they prefer despite the introduction of BAC's. Please send any **cheque** subscription to : James Howie, The Pippins, Rectory Lane, Thornton Le Dale, YO18 7QG.

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 remains at **£5.00 for 2025**. Outstanding subscriptions for 2025 can still be paid via **cheque, cash or into BACS: 30-97-43 00926106**

Accounts to 31/12/24 were accepted by the Group.

Proposed: Elaine Taylor

Seconded: Karen McCabe

4. James continues to explore the change over to a new bank account following the unacceptable new charges being levied by Lloyds Bank. At present time, members can continue to use the existing 'BACS' details listed above for any bank money transfer until new details are forthcoming.

5. Chairs Report. Joyce I'Anson

The Scarborough Group held 4 Committee and Group meetings in 2024, all have been well attended. In July, I attended the 100th birthday celebrations of our eldest member Jocelyn Lovett at her retirement home and presented her with a small gift from the Group. Xmas lunch was held at the Park Manor Hotel in November, and was another very enjoyable gathering.

James, Richard and I attended the CSPA Regional meeting in Darlington in June, and James attended the CSPA AGM at Coventry in October. My personal thanks to our Committee of James, Sheena, Richard and Ray for their work at the meetings and behind the scenes. My thanks also to all those who attend our meetings, help with the domestics, for your support and your friendship.

6. Chairs Appeal, Joyce I'Anson

Further to James' comments, I am appealing to our members to help us with our bank balance which is currently running low due to us not receiving as many £5.00 subscriptions from our loyal members who are physically unable to attend meetings since we normalised after the Covid lock-downs.

Now that we have resumed the meetings, we have only received 3 members voluntary subscriptions from **non-attendees**. We know you all appreciate the presence of the local Group in Scarborough, for access to us with any problems that we can take up, via our Newsletters, and to pointing you in the right direction for more specialised help if needed

We are in the process of changing Banks since it started charging £4.25 per month to run the account and 50p for each cheque we write. So friends, if you can resume payments, or spare us £5.00 for the year, this would greatly help us keep running, otherwise we could be in the position of closing the Group down as per locally, York, Hull and Middlesbrough who do not have a local Group.

Cheques can still be sent to James Howie, made payable to the Scarborough CSPA at his home address, listed above. Thank you.

7. Richard Kilsby provided an update on actions being taken against the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Allowance (WFA). In February, AGE UK handed in a petition signed by 650,056 people - both offline and online - protesting against the withdrawal of the WFA. The AGE UK representatives also met with dozens of cross-party MPs, and also prompted the sending of over 100,000 emails by individuals to local MP's stressing pensioners concerns on the impact of this issue.

8. Richard also wrote to Alison Hume MP regarding the unintended consequences of the increase in **Employers National Insurance** on the UK Charity sector. His concerns were passed on to the Treasury, eventually receiving a reply from James Murray MP (Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury). Mr Murray explained the governments' reasoning, how generous the government is to the UK charity sector but unfortunately did not appear willing to address the main thrust of Richards' missive, namely the negative impact of the Employers NI rise.

9. Scarborough Group has been asked to Vote for Keith Yallop for the Executive Council, Standing Orders Committee.

Carried Unanimously by the Group AGM.

10. Group Elections:

No nominations have been received.

Members Willing to be Re-elected

Chair - Joyce I'Anson

Treasurer - James Howie

Pensioner Magazine Publicity - Sheena O'Connell

Minutes Secretary - Richard Kilsby

Appointed Auditor - Ray Pollin

11. Following the success of last year, the Christmas lunch is booked again at the Park Manor Hotel, Friday, 28 November '25.

12. A.O.B.

The next meetings for the Group are Monday 23/06/25 - and - Monday 22/09/25 commencing 1100 in Belle Vue Room, Westborough Methodist Church, Scarborough, YO11 1YTS.

There will be a CSPA Regional Meeting on 12 June '25 in Darlington. James, Joyce and Richard will attend.

13. Andy Aitchison, CSPA Regional Representative.

Andy gave a wide-ranging talk on a number of issues regarding the CSPA's democratic future including a possible restructuring of the National Pensions

Committee (NPC), voting changes due to the advancing age demographic of the CSPA membership, and campaigns that the CSPA are presently busily involved with including the freezing of the Tax thresholds and the Social Care crisis.

14. Joyce thanked everyone for their fellowship and contributions and closed the meeting at 12.55pm.

Richard Kilsby
8 May 2025