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Sheffield & District Group

Summer Meeting 2025

Please do join us at our All-Members Meeting on Thursday 19th June 2025

This is the first meeting since our 2025 AGM. We'll need to set out and deliver our Group priorities, agree motions for the National AGM in October and decide who we want to nominate for election to CSPA National posts.

There's always a friendly, inclusive atmosphere, We'll gather, socially at 1.30 pm. The meeting will start at 2 pm.

Your Guide to Sheffield & District Group's June Quarterly Meeting

- **When:** Thursday, 19th June 2025.
- **Where:** The Hilton Room, Sheffield Cathedral, Church St, Sheffield S1 1HA (please contact the Group Secretary if you need directions).
- **Why:** This is the meeting when we prepare our contribution for the CSPA National AGM in October, discuss key local and national issues, meet old and new friends and colleagues.
- **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).

What's on the Agenda?:

1. Welcome & Introductions (Chair)
2. Apologies.
3. Group Reports - Secretarial/Treasurer/Membership
4. Motions and Nominations for the CSPA AGM
5. Social break
6. Reports on National & Local activities.
7. Any Other Business

Next Quarterly Meeting: Thursday 25th September 2025, 2pm





Sheffield & District Group

Newsletter

June 2025

A positive message from our Group Chair – Mike Buckley

This time last year we were heading into a General Election. We know how that went, and how the world has developed since. But for CSPA in Sheffield and District?

The Group continues to thrive - our organisation being rated as 'effective'. We have an active committee, and taking our most recent all-members meeting as an example, everyone who attended engaged in the discussions. But we must not be complacent: the committee always needs renewal, **we are working on better ways of engaging with members across our large area, we always need to recruit new members, and we need to cover our (modest) operating expenses. So, I am sure you can see the many ways you can help!**



Locally we try to use what influence we have to good effect. We have written the new Integrated Care Board about the importance of social care for the older person, made our views on the Winter Fuel Allowance known (at the very least the cut-off threshold for receipt needs to be higher to capture more people in real need), supported the South Yorkshire Mayor's proposals for Better Buses, and we are working on providing members in Lincoln and District with the active support of a local CSPA Group.

As ever, my complete gratitude to our Committee Members and Group Secretary John Houghton. My best wishes to all!

Meeting Reports

1. Annual General Meeting – 20th March 2025

The AGM was a really worthwhile event with good discussions and agreement on our approach to the opportunities and challenges facing us this year.

Details of all members elected to Group posts are provided on Page 5.

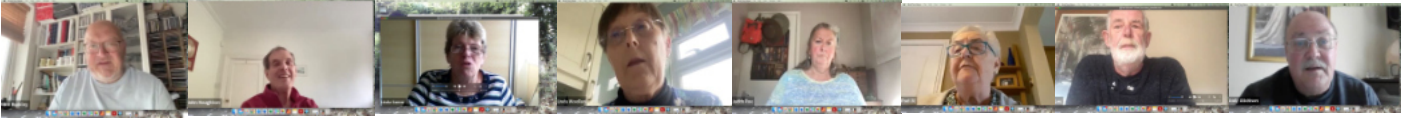
A full report of the meeting has already been circulated to email registered members,



It has been posted on the CSPA Website and is also available to download on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1883174215397106>.

Details will be available in hard copy, for members attending the June Meeting.

2. Group Executive Committee Meeting, 8th May 2025



• Motions for the National AGM

The Committee agreed to prepare draft motions on improving transport provision, future arrangements for pensioners' heating allowance, and pensioner poverty for consideration at the June All-members Meeting.

We also agreed to explore the need for possible motions on CSPA campaign priorities, lobbying policy (to include Group and Branch guidance), Group/Branch funding and, if appropriate, respond to National Executive Council (NEC) proposals on organisation and election processes to protect the interests of our Group and its members.

• Providing support for CSPA members in Lincolnshire

The Group Committee is liaising with Regional Representative, Andy Aitchison to consider if and how we might help to provide support to members in Lincolnshire, who are currently unrepresented. Andy has written an article for the next edition of the *Pensioner*, seeking views from Lincolnshire members. We'll keep you updated on further developments.



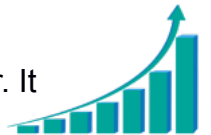
• Group Funding



Treasurer, Linda Garner advised us that funds were stable at £2,400, but we have received only £280 in subscriptions from 25 of our 500+ members so far this year. which is far fewer than previous years. Whilst we don't want to press any panic buttons, we need to make members aware of this unfair state of affairs, and urge everyone to consider contributing at least the annual voluntary subscription of £2. if you can, please help to provide the funds we need to pay for the work this Group does, voluntarily, on your behalf.

• Group Membership

Linda Woollen advised us that we now only receives member numbers 3 times a year. It was agreed that a message, urging members to recruit a friend, should be included in this Newsletter.



• Regional Activity



Andy Aitchison reminded us that, in his capacity as Regional Representative, he had organised a meeting for Groups in NE Region in Darlington on the 12th of June. John Houghton, Linda Garner and Linda Woollen will represent our Group.

• National AGM Delegation

The Committee was advised that all Groups & Branches would be restricted to 2 delegates only, this year. The Committee recommends that John Houghton and Linda Woollen should attend as our representatives, noting that Les Priestley, Andy Aitchison and Mike Buckley will be attending in their NEC roles.



• National Nominations

It was agreed to recommend to members that the Group should continue to nominate the proven candidates we supported last year, subject to them being willing and able to stand. In particular, we urge your support for Group Members, Les Priestley as National Chair, Andy Aitchison as NE Regional Representative, and Mike Buckley as elected NEC Member.

Group Reports

Finance

Details of our financial status provided by Treasurer, Linda Garner on the 8th May, are included in the Committee Meeting Report above. Only around 5% of our members are contributing this year. If you haven't already done so, **Please do try to find £2 this year to help sustain the future of our Group.**

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.

Secretarial Report

A Secretarial Update will be provided at the June All-Members meeting. It will be circulated to email registered members shortly before the meeting.



Membership Update

If available, an update on Group Membership will be provided at the meeting. We really need new members to regrow our Group.

If only for the new travel insurance arrangements now available, there is real benefit to be had from joining CSPA. So, **if you know anyone who is eligible, please encourage them to join you as a member.**

Filling the Group Executive Committee Post left vacant after the 2025 AGM

The Committee has been running one member short for several years now. It is the Committee's duty to take steps to fill the vacancy in the absence of a nominee, or volunteer at the AGM.

We agreed unanimously to approach Martin Hodgson to ask if he was willing and able to fill that vacancy. For personal reasons, Martin was uncertain whether he wanted to take up the position.



However, we reached an agreement with him that we would include Martin as a Committee Member, on a trial basis, and jointly review his situation in September.

Motions for the National AGM

Please send any National motions you wish to be tabled for debate at the June All-Members meeting to the Group Secretary by email or by post, to the address shown below. They may 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.

As reported, the Group Executive Committee will be drafting motions on the following subjects:



- improving transport provision,
- future arrangements for pensioners' heating allowance, and
- pensioner poverty

Given recent National & Regional Government announcements, the Committee requests that they be delegated to revise, if needed, motions carried by the June meeting, to ensure that they best reflect the prevailing circumstances on the date they're submitted.

National Nominations

The Group Executive Committee proposes that we should nominate the following

Chair:	Les Priestley, Sheffield & District Group
Vice Chair	Roisin Lilley,
NE Regional Representative:	Andy Aitchison, Sheffield & District Group
Elected NEC Members (3):	Mike Buckley, Sheffield & District Group Charles Cochrane Richard West
Elected NEC Members (2): (Seats reserved for women)	Linda Ridgers-Waite
Standing Orders Committee (3):	Roy Lewis Eileen Turner Keith Yallop

Your Group Committee 2025: Treasurer – Linda Garner

This is the 3rd in a series of short articles by Committee Members and Officers showing you who we are, and what we do to keep our Group active and provide you with the support you need.

Linda Garner tells us about her excellent contribution as Group Treasurer:



I spent my career in the MoD which included various UK postings plus tours of Germany and Bosnia.

I joined CSPA when I took early retirement but, as my second husband was poorly, I did not participate. 5 years later and widowed, I met my 3rd husband whilst on holiday in Malta and moved to Sheffield. Making such a move at the age of 62 was daunting.

One of the biggest problems was to make new friends which was difficult. When younger, working and with a family and in one location, it is much easier. So, I joined several volunteer associations/organisations to replace those that I had left behind. I transferred to the local CSPA not just to meet new friends but mix with like folks. I also replaced some of my voluntary work left behind in the South. Taking the plunge,

I attended my first CSPA meeting and, with somewhat selfish intents, I have been rewarded with new friends and colleagues and been able to use my finance background to take on the role of Treasurer which I have held now for several years. Just goes to show that it takes all sorts. So, whatever your background, interests, experience and abilities, any new volunteers would reap benefits by joining us.

Many thanks Linda. I think I speak for everyone in saying it would be impossible to overstate how much we all owe you for your contribution to the continued wellbeing of our Group.

John

Sheffield & District Group Representatives elected at the 2025 Group AGM

Sheffield & District Group Officers

Group Chair: Mike Buckley

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Group Secretary: John Houghton

85 Whirlowdale Road
Sheffield S7 2NF
jhoughton85@gmail.com
Tel: 07952 304628

Group Treasurer: Linda Garner

6 Moorwoods Avenue,
Chapelton,
Sheffield S35 2WA
lindagarner1@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 0114 240 3381

Membership Secretary: Linda Woollen

40 Richmond Park Avenue
Sheffield S13 8HA
lindawoollen54@gmail.com

Group Committee Members

Andy Aitchison

Steve Anderson

Les Priestley

Judith Roe (Organiser)

Beryl Wardley (Social Secretary)

Vacancy

Group Auditors

Brenda Pinhorn

Judith Roe

Please remember that we're here to represent your interests as a CSPA member.

If you need any help or advice, please contact the Group Secretary, or another officer. We'll do our best to set you in the right direction,



Sheffield & District Group

Representing and reflecting your views within
CSPA and protecting your interests locally and
regionally.

Please subscribe to YOUR Group