



Liverpool & District Group

**August 2025**  
**Newsletter**

## ***Editors Notes***

Welcome to our new members and all current members.

Please remember to notify HQ (contact details below) if you want our Newsletters received by post as I believe they are considering cutting costs by issuing it by email.

You'll also receive email updates from Harry Brett, our treasurer, to advise of any group/ regional/ national matters if he has your email address.

You will also receive, by post, the Pensioner on a quarterly basis.

I will get on with the more general matters of 'Recent' and 'Future' meetings and just a quick reminder that our next meeting is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September. If you would like to receive the latest Group Circulars which are given out at Group Meetings but can be emailed to you please send your email to [h\\_brett@sky.com](mailto:h_brett@sky.com), your regional representative.

***Sue Munro***, *Newsletter Editor*

(email: [munroofseaforth@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:munroofseaforth@blueyonder.co.uk))

## ***Change of Address / Details***

CSPA HQ print and circulate this newsletter for us, so if there are any address or membership changes, please contact CSPA Membership Enquiries by phone, email or post.

Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance,  
Head Office, Enquiries,  
160 Falcon Road,  
London, SE11 2LN

Tel: 020 8688 8418  
Email: [enquiries@cspa.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cspa.co.uk)

## *Location of meetings*

Our Group Meetings are held at the Lime Street Central Restaurant/Pub, on Lime Street not far from Lime Street Station. Meetings will start at 12:15. It has easy access – all on one floor, even the toilets. Coffee/tea or alcohol available as well as snacks/meals.

If a different location is used – this will be mentioned in the heading of the event.

## *Recent Events*

### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – Group Meeting@ 12:15**

*PRESENT* – Sue Munro, Brenda Wall, Brian and Carole Rimmer, Mike Stankiewicz, Stephen Carson, Pauline McCrorie, Adrienne Allinson, George Hancock, Jen Wilson, Dave Evans, Ann Bolton and Harry Brett.

*APOLOGIES* – Ken Roberts.

*MINUTES OF LAST MEETING* – HB read out the minutes of the meeting which took place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025. The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record. It was with deep regret that the Group were informed of the death of Gillian Hill, who had been the chair of the Group for several years. Several of the members had been able to attend her funeral and SM passed the Cremation Service Leaflet to show members. On a very practical note, it was necessary to elect a new Chair. I am pleased to say that MS agreed to take on the role and chaired the meeting from that point.

*MATTERS ARISING* – HB informed the meeting that Lloyds Bank had now started charging us for the administration of our bank account, generally £4-25 per month. A general discussion took place about whether there was any Bank now that did not charge for community accounts. Nationwide was mentioned, and HB said he would make enquiries. It was felt that perhaps HQ should negotiate with a Bank to provide an administration free account that Groups could use. HB informed the Group that the Wirral Group intended to submit a motion to the AGM to do exactly that.

At the last meeting the possibility of a trip out was made and the Crich Tramway Village near Matlock was suggested. HB said he would make enquiries and report back with September suggested as a date. There were no other matters arising.

*SECRETARY'S REPORT* – SM gave a brief report stating that she had begun to put together the next Newsletter with the intention of an August issue.

*TREASURER'S REPORT* – HB gave a report on the accounts which had a healthy balance of £794-27p. At the AGM HB reported the total was £545-70p but we have received donations from members of £295 and the only outgoings so far are the Bank Charges. Some members have been particularly generous with donations of £50 on two occasions and several £10 donations. The committee moved a vote of thanks to those donating. We will of course need to have a balance to allow us to send a sponsored delegate to the AGM together with our main delegate, whose expenses are met by HQ.

*MEMBERSHIP REPORT* – HB informed the meeting that we had 519 members at the present time.

*MOTIONS FOR THE AGM* – A lively discussion took place with several ideas put forward. It was decided to put forward motions regarding the ongoing problems for those digitally excluded and one regarding the easy access of membership benefit helplines in the Pensioner. It was left to HB to put together some proposals and to circulate the committee by email.

*NOMINATIONS FOR THE EC POSTS*- It was agreed that the Group would nominate HB for the Regional post and Pam Flynn for one of the open posts on the EC.

*DELEGATES TO THE AGM* – The Group decided to send both a Group delegate and a sponsored representative. The two nominations were Sue Munro and Dave Evans, which were agreed.

*REGIONAL REPORT* – HB gave his report which reminded the meeting that there would be a regional meeting which David Luxton will be attending on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at the Central Library, commencing at 11-30am and finishing at 2-30pm. All members are welcome, and refreshments will be provided. He was pleased to say that there would be 18 members present. He also informed members of a change to Perkjam from Parliament Hill as our provider for shopping discounts, to be operative from the end of June. He explained that the change would save the CSPA more than £12,000.

*FUTURE MEETING DATES/VENUES* – The next two meetings scheduled are on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September and on 8<sup>th</sup> December, which will be the Christmas lunch. It was agreed by the meeting to continue to hold the meetings at Lime Street Central, which is free, and members can purchase a meal and/or drinks. Also, the toilet facilities are all on the ground floor.

*ANY OTHER BUSINESS* - MS asked if the idea of moving to one member one vote, as opposed to Group and Branch totals when voting for EC members, was being pursued. HB said he was personally pleased that this was being proposed with constitutional amendments being submitted by the EC at the 2025 AGM. This will allow the new voting system to be operative in 2025 and 2026 and then a final decision on whether it should be permanent or to revert to the previous voting system would be taken.

The Chair thanked all those for their attendance and the meeting ended at 2pm. The next meeting will be on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September at the same venue and start time, 12-15: all members are welcome.

## ***Future Events***

### **Monday 15th September 2025 – Group Meeting @ 12:15**

Preparation for the National AGM in October and our Christmas Lunch.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – Meeting for our Christmas Lunch @ 12:15** if you would like to attend the Christmas Lunch then please contact Harry Brett or Sue Munro

### **Monday 5th January 2026 – Group Meeting @ 12:15**

### **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 – Group Meeting @ 12:15**

We hope you will come to our meetings as you are all welcome.

## **TREASURERS COMMENTS**

We are very grateful for those members who have made a voluntary donation to Group Funds. If anyone else would like to donate then you can either send me a cheque or pay direct to our Bank Account – 30-99-50, Account No 16487962, Civil Service Pensioners Alliance.

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

### **Later Life Ambitions (LLA)**

LLA have put forward on our behalf a submission to the Public Accounts Committee: Inquiry into Local Bus Services, based on members' concerns about local bus services, in which they have asked for a comprehensive strategy for improving bus service accessibility and simplicity as part of any statutory reform of bus services. We suggested that Local Authorities may be best placed to understand and consult with those reliant on the services for participating in society; and, with funding being allocated by central government, this would present opportunities to improve older people's quality of life, with ease of access being regarded as a priority.

LLA partners are currently discussing plans for another LLA parliamentary event, which we hope to put on in late in October in proximity to the autumn Budget announcement. We are reviewing the possibility of launching an LLA 'Pensioners' Budget to underline the issues of importance to those in later life.

### **LLA Meeting with Esther McVey MP (Conservative – Tatton)**

The MP has been active in asking parliamentary questions about the impact of bank closures and loss of access to cash as well as face-to-face banking services more generally. LLA hopes to engage MPs with an interest in these issues in the planned round-table event with the APPG on Fair Banking which we are working on with the Athena Foundation.

## **AGE SECTOR PARTNERS MEETING**

The DGS represented the CSPA at this meeting, convened by Age UK, with agenda items including personal tax thresholds, opportunities for lobbying at party conferences, the concerning issue in 'corridor care' in NHS hospitals, the NHS 10 Year Plan and issues around digital exclusion from the NHS and GP services.

**Sue Munro**, *Newsletter Editor*

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**Harry Brett** - Regional Representative

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