

«Contact_Name»

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Mandate General Meeting

Open to all Members

4 September 2025 ~ 11:00 to 13:00

St Sidwell's Community Centre,

Sidwell Street, Exeter, EX4 6NN

We welcome the members of North Devon and Torbay Groups who are now members of East Devon Group. All are welcome at the meeting above to give views to influence our delegate's voting in the discussions on the CSPA AGM elections and motions. Join us at the meeting or if you are unable to attend let Clive or a committee member know your views before the meeting.

The combining of Groups made sense to gain a strong voice to interface with the Unitary Mayoral Authority as discussions are progressing to become a reality in the near future. They will be responsible for decisions and funding for Care, Energy, Transport & Housing etc.

We are considering if in-person and internet meetings would best suit the future so if you would be willing to partake either as a committee member or as someone who has a cause please let us know.

We have in past years had active non committee members who gave us the information necessary to take forward concerns - sadly they are no longer able to participate, so we do need your view on the need for change and ask you "how can we change as it is frustrating" please fill in the blank as many times as you wish and forward to us.

Les Calder

Chairman / Regional Representative / NEC South West

CSPA East Devon Committee for 2025/2026

Chairman: Les Calder

Tel: 01626 830266.

Email: landmcalder@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Barbara Roberts,

Tel: 01626 927352

Secretary: Clive Roberts.

3 Connaught View, Sidmouth,
EX10 8FJ

Tel: 07541 246 576 - email

clive.dee.roberts@talk21.com

Membership Secretary: Phil Roberts

Tel: 01626 927352

Member: Colin Passey

Tel: 07503 123022

Member Wilf Hudson

Tel:

Member: Barbara Farrell

Tel: 01392 424691

Reopen your Group?

**If you wish to restart the
Group of North Devon or
Torbay, please call us and we
will be happy to advise
and/or assist.**

growing old is mandatory,

but growing up

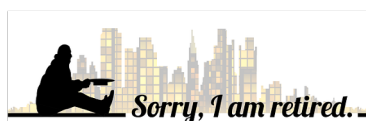
is optional!

Walt Disney

It's Time to Reconsider

We need to recognise that there are those who struggle with daily expenditure as they have income below the recommended amount for a one-person household pension income of £14,400, or two-person £22,400 (Joseph Rowntree Foundation 2025), (editor – A Living Pension to mirror the Government set living wage). Many will be individuals who took career breaks and /or in low paid jobs, and whilst I would like to think that none of our members struggle, the statistics would indicate that may be incorrect.

Nationally there are 1.9m pensioners (16% - UK Parliament - Pensioner Poverty) living in poverty which is defined as someone with an income of less than 60 per cent of average household income after housing costs (£17,600 Govuk 2025), so it was pleasing to read that the take-up of entitlement for Pension Credit has risen and once accepted it opens up doors to other entitlements. Each year there is a battle with the authorities to ensure that those who need help to survive in retirement are supported.



There are those that do struggle to stretch their budgets and do not qualify for Pension Credit who will have more difficulty in accessing support when in extreme need through Government or charity funds, additionally those above the static tax threshold will see their future pension rises reduced by pension rises reduced by twenty percent tax payment placing them further behind inflation.

We need to think laterally and review the present funds and cost of administrating to top up income with additional entitlements that should in the future be accessed through just one department for those below the acceptable limits set by Rowntree Foundation. If it proves there are insufficient funds now there may be a need to find a compromise but let us, at least, get the commitment and lay the foundation for the future move towards the Rowntree Foundation minimum incomes by campaigning with other organisation to ensure all those in need are supported.

If you are below the one person £14,400 or two person £22,400 and having difficulty in meeting your commitments, I would welcome your story in confidence to determine how best to campaign.

Note: Qualifying for Pension Credit is complex and income can be above the stated entry level and still qualify.

AGM 2024 Success

It was good to see last year's East Devon motion A41 had achieved results as we had voiced our concerns - that cyclists who are inconsiderate are a danger to those with limited mobility given the need to cross cycleways to board a bus or to avoid those riding bicycles on the pavement or in pedestrian areas.

We asked that those who offend are fined nearer to the maximum and that illegal electric bicycles that travel at more than 15 miles an hour be taken off the road and that any fines of those and others riding bicycles on pavements or in pedestrian areas inconsiderately be widely publicised,

It was therefore not unexpected that when Birmingham Police task force focused on illegal bicycles, some capable of 40 miles an hour, that they impounded them and they were given full prime time publicity on national television news in July this year.

Donations to East Devon Group

We thank those who have donated in the recent past. CSPA Groups are self-funding and we keep our costs low at present, though we now need to consider how we can meet the members across the wider Group and ask for donations of whatever you can afford. If everyone paid £1pa that would help. Thank you

Direct bank transfer –

Name – **Civil Service Pensioners Alliance East Devon Group**

Bank – **Lloyds**

Sort code – **30 94 36**

Account number – **01295829**

Reference – **“Donation” and YOUR NAME** please.

By cheque –

Payable to **“Civil Service Pensioners Alliance East Devon** posted to **Mrs B Roberts, 25 The Rockstone, Exeter Road, Dawlish. EX7 0RX** – Please include your name if it is not obvious on the cheque.