

THE SOUTHWESTERNER

PLYMOUTH AND DISTRICT GROUP CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

Secretary Geoff Ferguson
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Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Plymouth and District group.

I do hope you are enjoying the warm weather, and have managed to get away for a decent holiday

The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of alternate months (next meeting Tues 16th sept delayed because of holidays) at the Raffles Club, Ermington Terrace Mutley Plain Plymouth starting at 1:00 pm. We are a small group which is gradually getting smaller due to the ravages of time etc. so all new members are more than welcome.

A warm welcome would also be extended to any members who live in Cornwall and any other member who finds themselves without a branch to attend

We have faced a very challenging time what with the cost of living crises, the loss of the winter fuel allowance, which I am glad to see has at least been partially restored, and the freezing of tax free allowances have all contributed to a very difficult period, on the brighter side, the government have confirmed its commitment to the Triple lock at least for now, but watch this space. The government is under pressure to cut costs with the so called millennials and Gen Z whoever they are calling for cuts to pensioners benefits and the money spent on improving young people's lives, well my message to those people is "I have paid national insurance and income tax all my working life, and I think I have paid in enough to warrant a decent state pension and other benefits such as the bus pass".

Social care and the NHS have also presented problems with the social care report not due out until next April, difficulty in getting an appointment to see your GP, and an NHS dentistry desert, make life very difficult, my last visit to a dentist cost me £280 for a repair to a filling, fortunately I had insurance to cover it, but many do not. May I suggest members write to their MP's and pressure them into getting action on these matters.

Pensions. Another problem which is beginning to rear its ugly head is the outsourcing of Civil Service pensions from MyCSP to Capita, both appear to be in trouble, and CSPA is taking the fight to Government ministers to ensure that we do not lose out on our hard-earned pensions.

Digital exclusion. If you are one of those people who uses an emergency alarm, please let your landline provider know so that they can arrange an alternative when you switch to digital

All the above are reasons for joining CSPA, and attending meetings to have your say, and make your voice heard. Rant over.

The AGM will be held in October, and our representatives will be Mike Searle our Chairman, and Ian Gove one of our committee members. At the September meeting we will be deciding how they should vote on the various motions, which is another reason for attending the meeting on Sept 16th

No doubt many of you will have watched the TV series “Beyond Paradise” with Kris Marshall and Sally Bretton, a very gentle “who dunnit” supposedly set in Devon but filmed mostly in Cornwall, it is so popular that you can even get Beyond Paradise tours around the various locations, one such location that has benefited from the series is Tavistock which had its main street resurfaced, Tourist numbers have increased considerably which is all good for the local economy. The next series is now being filmed and will include locations in Saltash and Launceston, so keep your eyes peeled and you may be on the Telly.

Did you know:

The earliest electric kettles made in the 1890’s took 18 minutes to boil a pint of water and the earliest washing machines were 6 ½ feet tall and weighed ½ ton.

Henry Ford stated that with his Model T Ford “you could have any colour you like” as long as it was black, the reason being that black paint dried the quickest

Hyperinflation in Germany in 1923 reached such high levels that workers were paid 3 times a day, and if wages were not spent immediately, they became worthless 5-million-mark notes were common.

The Funny bits:

My doctor said I need to take more exercise; I told her I get enough exercise pushing my luck and jumping to conclusions

Middle age is when you are not inclined to exercise anything but caution.

I don’t know how to act my age; I have never been this old before.