

Protecting what you've earned, since 1952



Sheffield & District Group

Autumn 2025

# Newsletter

## Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the Group Newsletter

Please do join us at our All-Members Meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### Sheffield & District Group

Our Group will represent your interests at the National AGM

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# Members Meetings

## Please do join us at our Autumn Meeting on Thursday 25th September 2025

This is the meeting where we agree our response to motions to be heard at the National AGM in October. We'll also discuss and agree our approach to key Group developments

There's always a friendly, inclusive atmosphere,

We'll gather, socially from 1.30 pm. The meeting will start at 2 pm.

### What's on the Agenda?

1. Welcome & Introductions (Chair).
2. Apologies.
3. Quarterly Group Reports.
4. Discussion of CSPA National AGM Motions.
5. Social break.
6. Group Issues, including forthcoming changes.
7. Reports on Regional & National activities.
8. Any Other Business.



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

- **When:** Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 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 agree our response 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).

## Next Quarterly Meeting: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025,

- This is our celebratory social meeting:
- We'll have a quiz, a raffle, with great prizes, and traditional mince pies.
- We'll also hear feedback on the CSPA National AGM, and most importantly,
- We'll welcome Christine Haswell, CSPA Personal Pensions Cases Manager and hear about the work she does protecting our pensions.
- It should be a fun meeting with useful information for you.
- Please join us if you can, it will be well worth it.

## A forward-looking message from our Group Chair – Mike Buckley

**Hello and welcome to the latest Newsletter from your local CSPA Group.**



As former Civil Servants many of us will be used to words meaning just what we want them to mean. But can our Group really be termed 'local'? Sheffield and District sounds quite close and cosy, but when one realises we cover Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster then our area is not quite so tightly drawn. But add in Chesterfield, High Peak, North East Derbyshire and out to Retford we are really quite a region.

As a Group Committee we have been thinking hard about how to better engage with members, and we are about to try a new outreach approach to meeting members in and around Retford – we will go to them. I hope this works.

Not least because as this Newsletter and previous editions have reported, we are now very close to extending our representation coverage to members in the non-functioning Lincoln and District Group. It is perhaps too reductionist to say some representation is better than none. Our commitment though is to bring CSPA to as many members as we can. We want to hear your voice; we want to help you feel part of the work CSPA does to 'protect what you have earned' by way of Civil Service Pension.

Your ideas on how to better engage with members are most welcome – do share them

Best Wishes,

**Mike.**

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## Meeting Reports - Matters Arising

### 1. Summer Quarterly Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Despite a relatively high number of people unable to attend the Summer meeting, there were very good discussions about CSPA's priorities and making the best use of limited HQ resources. 3 motions proposed by the Group Executive Committee were agreed, as were nominees for national posts. These motions and nominations were sent to HQ and all have appeared in the AGM Agenda.



We discussed the implications of the need for outreach to Group members unable to come into Sheffield, especially in the light of providing a service to members in Lincolnshire.

These, and other issues will be on the agenda for discussion at the September meeting

Further details will be available in the Autumn Secretarial Report.



## 2. Group Executive Committee Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025



**Firstly, We welcome Mr John Freeman as a new CSPA Member**

### • **Motions for the National AGM**



We were pleased to see that all our motions are included in the 2025 Main Agenda. Copies of the agenda will be circulated with the next edition of the *Pensioner*.

We agreed recommendations on our approach to motions submitted by other Groups. These will be included in the forthcoming Secretarial Report, to aid discussion at the September Meeting.

### • **Providing support for CSPA members in Lincolnshire**

There have been no negative responses to Regional Secretary, Andy Aitchison's *Pensioner* article, seeking Lincolnshire members' views on the plan to incorporate them within our Group, that we reported to you last month. We're now working with Regional and HQ colleagues to build support for those unrepresented members.



As there are a number of organisational issues yet to be resolved, our formal position is unlikely to be changed until after the National AGM in October - A yet unresolved question is – what should we call the much enlarged Group?

We'll keep you updated on progress.

### • **Outreach to Members unable to travel to Sheffield**



We want to find better ways to consult and include members, unable to come to quarterly meetings in Sheffield. So we're trialling a social meeting to chat with members in Retford on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Please let the Group Secretary know if you'd like a meeting to be held nearer to you

### • **Group Funding**

Essentially, our funding position is unchanged, but only around 5% of our 500+ members are providing the income need to carry out work on your behalf so far this year - which is far fewer than previous years. This means that Officers and Committee members are not claiming back the money they spend on behalf of our Group to protect our funds. As reported in the Summer edition, 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**

There was no new membership data to report, but the Committee welcomed the news from Linda that Mr John Freeman is now a member of CSPA and our Group.



## 2. Group Executive Committee Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (Continued)

### • Social events

Beryl Wardley told the Committee that health issues and other commitments meant she would be unable to continue leading on Social Events and Visits. The Committee reluctantly accepted Beryl's position and thanked her profusely all the fine work she has done over many years, especially through the struggles of recent years,

Judith Roe has offered to help on this issue, and the committee welcomed her kind offer.



*Woolly mammoth from visit to Weston Park Museum*

### • Regional Activity

Andy Aitchison provided an update on activity around the NE Region and news from other Groups. He has also sent us an report on his work with the YHPC which is included on Page 5.

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## Group Reports

### Finance

Details of our financial status are included in the Committee Meeting Report above. **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 September All-Members meeting. It will be circulated to email registered members shortly before the meeting, uploaded to the CSPA website and the Group Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1883174215397106>.



### 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.**

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## Get to know your Group Committee: Martin Hodgson

**Martin Hodgson has recently joined our Committee and tells us a little about himself.**

I spent 36 years in what was then the Inland Revenue, beginning in Newcastle upon Tyne as a "direct entrant" Inspector of Taxes (meaning I mercifully skipped the first few grades which would have been beyond my wit) and ending in London with the ambitious (and unachieved) task of "Modernising Government" within the Revenue. The great thing about working in the Revenue was that I had a dozen totally different jobs without once having to pick up a P45. They included a spell teaching in a training centre, running the now defunct Centre 1 PAYE office in Scotland, investigating dodgy overseas banks in the City of London and being Regional Director of East Region, based in Peterborough.

Since retiring in 2002, I've worked for Citizens Advice, chaired the charity Tax Help for Older People and done four spells of overseas tax consultancy. Nowadays, so long as my old bones will carry me, I spend lots of my time out birding."

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Thanks Martin. I know I speak for the whole Committee when I say we're truly grateful to you for joining us. Your company has been an absolute pleasure - John Houghton - Editor

# Yorkshire and Humber Pensioners Convention (YHPC)

The YHPC is the local branch of the National Pensioners Convention representing members and affiliated organisations. We are affiliated to NPC/YHPC to address objectives beyond our remit and resources and to support their campaigning on behalf of all pensioners.

Their area extends across all of Yorkshire and the Humber. They hold meetings in Scarborough, Leeds and Doncaster.. To learn more, please read the following report by Andy Aitchison



## Committee member and CSPA North East Regional Representative Andy Aitchison writes:



The latest quarterly meeting of the Yorkshire and Humber Branch of the National Pensioners Convention took place on Friday 18th July 2025 at Westborough Church, Scarborough.

The meeting was once again very well attended. After the traditional welcome from Chair Rosie Pickard the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Unfortunately the invited guest speaker Jo Larkin from The Rainbow Centre, Scarborough was unable to attend due to illness. She will be invited to a future meeting.

Secretary Fran Postlethwaite then gave a report on the progress of the 'Need For Change' document, which had been circulated to all regional branches for their discussion and feedback. This relates to the NPC becoming a Company Limited By Guarantee (CLBG). The committee had produced and circulated a primary list of concerns, mainly relating to how the membership structure of NPC would look like going forward and the future role of regions and affiliates in the new organisation. Those present were split into small groups for discussion. It was generally agreed that the points highlighted by the YHPC committee should be put to NPC HQ and await their response. Further consultation will continue until the deadline for responses on 31st October.

The YHPC branch officers then gave their reports:

Chair, Rosie Pickard thanked everyone for their tremendous support in the Winter Fuel Allowance campaign.

Treasurer, Jill Ainsworth said that funds were still in a very healthy state.

Secretary, Fran Postlethwaite said that a new leaflet setting out the aims of the Yorkshire & Humber NPC would soon be issued. There followed a number of reports from the National NPC Working Parties.

I was able to feed back from the latest Finance Working Party meeting that there is progress on fundraising initiatives led by staff in HQ and that affiliates and regions need to pay their membership fees promptly to aid cash flow.

There then followed a number of local affiliated group reports, including a proposal that messages of support be sent to MPs Neil Duncan Jordan and Rachel Maskell who have been suspended by the Labour Party for opposing proposed benefit cuts. They have both been strong supporters of NPC's campaigns in the past. Thanks was also given to Unite Union for their hard work in the successful campaign to reinstate (at least in part) the Winter Fuel payments.

With regard to the **Better Buses** campaign, it was reported that South Yorkshire will be moving to public control and there is promise that North Yorkshire could soon follow. There was also discussion on the need for consistency on the use of bus passes before 9.30am.

The next meeting of YHNPC will be at 11am on Thursday 30th October 2025 at Unite Offices, Leeds.

I send my warmest greetings to you all at Sheffield Group and I hope to see some of you at the September 25th meeting.

# Sheffield & District Group Representatives

## Sheffield & District Group Officers

### Group Chair: Mike Buckley

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### Group Secretary: John Houghton

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### Group Treasurer: Linda Garner

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Chapelton,  
Sheffield S35 2WA  
[lindagarner1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindagarner1@hotmail.co.uk)  
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### Membership Secretary: Linda Woollen

40 Richmond Park Avenue  
Sheffield S13 8HA  
[lindawoollen54@gmail.com](mailto:lindawoollen54@gmail.com)

## Group Committee Members

Andy Aitchison

Steve Anderson

Les Priestley

Judith Roe (Organiser)

Beryl Wardley (Social Secretary)

Martin Hodgson

### 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