



Gloucestershire Group

Newsletter of the Year **2025**

Gloucestershire Group CSPA Newsletter 14 October 2025

I have just returned from the AGM in Kenilworth and whilst still fresh in my memory I will give you my reflections on it. A full account will be published in the Pensioner Magazine in due course so this is just a commentary.

Once again the venue was in the very comfortable Chesford Grange Hotel Kenilworth. We were assigned to a much smaller meeting room which at times was a little cramped especially as it was opposite the coffee machines which encouraged members to trips in and out squeezing between chairs. I found this quite distracting.



There were no emergency motions so it was straight into business. Similarly, there was no need for an election for the Standing Orders Committee as the 4th person withdrew. The election of EC members did require a vote and this took place resulting in Stuart Tarr not being elected. We had nominated Stuart on a request from a colleague in the South West who particularly recommended him, but that is democracy.

All the constitutional motions were carried without much discussion as they were hardly controversial. Criteria for paying expenses for individual members not in a Group but attending the AGM was accepted and details will be published in the Pensioner.

Motion A7 on CLG/CIO was carried despite our opposition. My speech was disrupted by confusion over seconding it and running out of the permitted 2 minutes to state the case. It is interesting that afterwards several people came up to say that I had made some good points, so why did they not vote against it? The motion is for an “*investigation*” so there will be another opportunity to argue against this.

We opposed motion A9 for a professional review of HQ procedures and practices as several had already been held and recommendations were being implemented. My words may have had some effect as the motion was “remitted” for further consideration by the EC.

Motion A10 was for the reinstatement of the Newsletter competition which we opposed on the grounds of lack of volunteers to produce them and people to judge it. The motion to introduce the competition was opposed. This was particularly embarrassing as at the Dinner that night the Winner of the Newsletter of the Year 2025 went to ourselves, the Gloucestershire Group.



Connect our lobbying company reported on their survey on voting procedures. There was a 4% return on questionnaires which was considered good but of these 76% were in favour of individual votes for members as opposed to groups. This was in line with other surveys. Motion A17 was carried which would allow a trial period of 2 years for individual voting for representatives for the EC.

Motions on Pensions and Health and Social Care were all carried although Motion A31 for immediate implementation of the Dilnot report of 2011 was carried despite EC advice that it be opposed as another review by Baroness Casey is to be undertaken. Yet another review which will cause

further delays. Motion A 39 on contacting companies by telephone and publishing their contact telephone numbers, was carried despite EC advice to remit.

Lively debates were held overall and it was reassuring that advice from EC was not always followed showing the importance of an AGM.

Gloucestershire previously being one of the largest groups is now in the middle numbers with our 640 members with Bristol, Bath and West at 1848 and N Ireland and Scotland with 3334 and 2755 members respectively. N Ireland and Scotland are Branches and not groups but in a card vote it makes the latter two very powerful. Reforms will address this point. Although we have fewer members, attendances at our meetings are better than those of other groups including Bristol, Bath and West.

All in all it was a good AGM and well worth attending.

Future Events

At our meeting on 12 June Carolyne Ferguson talked about the work on the A417 Air Balloon road improvement scheme. She offered a site visit and there has been a considerable amount of interest from our members. A date has therefore been arranged but not until 5 February 2026 at 13.00. Details will be issued nearer the time but please note the date. The project is not due for completion until 2027 so there will be plenty of time still to go.

**4 Dec Photo Show by Cheltenham
Camera Club by Martin Fry entitled
Winter Wonderland - A celebration of
Gloucestershire through Autumn to
Winter and its winter customs.**

His show has been very highly recommended and reviews have been ecstatic so it should make a good end to the year. The meeting is open to non members.

There will also be mince pies, first of the season.

As usual meetings are at the Civil Service Sports Club, Cheltenham GL51 9SL at 10 for 10.30.

Alastair Goldie

CSPA Gloucestershire Group
cspaglos@gmail.com