



Gloucestershire Group

Newsletter of the Year **2025**

2 February 2026

We are now in winter with wet and windy weather which I suppose is what we should expect at this time of the year. So far Gloucestershire has escaped the worst and now into February we are beginning to creep out of winter into Spring. I have seen several displays of snowdrops and even a few daffodils which is encouraging.

Before plunging into CSPA matters a quick reminder about the visit to the A417 project on Thursday 5 February at 1 o'clock. The directions are in last months Newsletter but if you need any further info or can't find them please get in touch with me.

Reports reaching HQ on the transition from Mycsp to Capita have not been good with complaints that members have not been able to login, reach Capita by telephone or had to wait for a long time, calls cut off, wrong payments made and many more. HQ have written to the Cabinet office and had meetings and questions put to the Prime Minister. Hopefully solutions will be found but it is not encouraging.

HQ have published 2 Group circulars which are too long for me to attach but are available on the CSPA website. Go to www.cspa.co.uk, go to members area, login with email address and CSPA Membership number, go to quick links and scroll down and down to Group and Branch News where you will see GC981 and GC982. These are the latest Group circulars which you should read.

Group Circular 981

This is about the investigation into the feasibility of CSPA becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG and or Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and explains what this involves. The Group were very much against the proposal on grounds of necessity and cost and at the AGM, Gloucestershire was the sole Group to vote against the motion to investigate the idea. There is a very good paper by the CSPA's lawyer setting out the pros and cons for becoming a CLG which do seem to make sense as at the moment each member is responsible for any debt or litigation against the Alliance should the CSPA not have sufficient funds to cover such costs. I had thought that a simple insurance policy would cover this and indeed the CSPA has one but insurance companies are likely to resist any claim if they can as we all know from experience with simple household or travel insurance claims.

The article also investigates the Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) option but the lawyer is unsure if the CSPA meets Charity Commission criteria for it

being for the benefit of the public at large and I detect a lack of enthusiasm for this option.

Please therefore read the Circular in full and let me know your views. There will be a meeting in Reading on 16 April when this will all be explained by the lawyer and debated. We can also discuss the issue at our AGM on 19 March. If you would like to attend the Reading meeting please let me know.

The circular also reveals the cost of this investigation.

Group Circular 982

Circular 982 contains a whole range of topics which are well worth reading. Items include:

Mycsp/Capita transition and its problems;

WASPI and the action being taken on the failure of the Government to pay compensation to the WASPI women;

Eye Tests for drivers over 70 including a questionnaire on your views which you should complete;

Proof of Identity what happens when you no longer have a driving licence or passport;

Better bus services and free travel. This particularly affects those in rural areas of which Gloucestershire has many.

Digital Exclusion and the acceptance of cash;

Digital Inclusion – influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

BT Landline changeover – all you need to know

Future Events

The programme below has been arranged and I hope you will find it interesting and enjoyable:

19 March AGM Sally Tsoukaris General Secretary CSPA

21 May Fire and Rescue Service Safety at home. What about all these chargers and batteries?

10 Sept Nicola Potter Vintage Transport in Gloucestershire.

3 Dec Ian Boskett The Great Train Robbery 1963

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

Alastair Goldie

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