

February 2026



## A word from the Chair – Stuart Tarr

With the days getting longer and the snowdrops and daffodils beginning to show promise of the spring to come, you'll be relieved to know there's not much from me in this newsletter except for a couple of mentions.

The first important mention is that it is our Group AGM on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 26, when we meet to accept the group's audited annual accounts, receive annual reports and take the opportunity to elect the officers and members of our committee for the twelve months ahead – the Chair, Group Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary, plus up to five committee members. So this is your opportunity to say “out with the old and in with the new” by completing and returning, electronically or by post, the nominations form you will find at page 4. We also need to approve an updated governance framework, very similar to the governance framework provided by Head Office which we approved at last year's AGM, which you can see at page 3. Voting will be in person at the AGM: a simple majority to elect officers and the committee; a 2/3rds majority to approve the revised governance framework.

The other mention I should make is to look out for the Spring Edition of The Pensioner magazine which will be issued in March, shortly before or soon after our AGM, which is why I am mentioning it now. There will be quite a lot in there I am sure with reports on the progress CSPA is making in the many different areas that concern us as members – elderly care, digital exclusion, cash or card, public transport, etc - plus the difficulties especially new pensioners are experiencing in the payment of pensions and lump sums following the transition from MyCSP to Capita in the administration of pensions. Meanwhile, CSPA Head Office, led by Sally Tsoukaris General Secretary, has responded in the strongest possible terms to this clearly unacceptable situation – see this BBC news article <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8e524n23rno> - by escalating our concerns to Capita, the Cabinet Office and others. You can read Sally's words here: [CSPA welcomes the joint statement and apologies from Civil Service Chief Operating Officer and Capita CEO – CSPA Members Area](#).

The other big issue in The Pensioner will be a survey questionnaire, FAQs and overview, which members are asked to complete and return to Head Office to give their feedback on emerging proposals to transition the CSPA from an unincorporated association to an incorporated Company Limited by Guarantee. This is to provide protection to members from any claims that could or might arise in the event of insolvency or bankruptcy. In addition, there will be a series of consultation events with regional groups and branches commencing in March with Martin and I attending one of these events with our regional representative Les Calder in Reading on 16<sup>th</sup> April. So please do give this your attention, it is very important.

Sorry, I have gone on a bit, with apologies that there is no room for snowdrops or daffodils ... So over to Martin our Group Secretary to say a few words (Colin, our Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary, will provide a full update on our finances, group coverage and membership numbers at the 12<sup>th</sup> March AGM).

## Head Office Mentions – Martin Robertson, Group Secretary

### Waspi

I was going to write a piece on progress with WASPI. However, I have just read a BBC News report (29th January) that says “The government [reconsidered the case](#) after a new document came to light, but has again concluded no compensation should be paid.” What, in my opinion, is quite appalling is the attitude of Pat McFadden, Work and Pensions Secretary, who is quoted as saying “*that most of those affected would not have read “an unsolicited pensions letter, even if it had been sent earlier”*”.

He also said that those who knew the least about pensions - “*the very women who most needed to engage with a letter*” - *were the least likely to read it*” – so that makes it all right then? By that logic every time a welfare benefit changes the government will only inform those affected if they think the recipients are bright enough to understand and act on it! It is all a huge disappointment. CSPA HQ will be supporting any further action that WASPI consider appropriate.

Meanwhile, CSPA Head Office, led by Sally Tsoukaris General Secretary, has again taken a strong line on this speaking on behalf of Later Life Ambitions, our partner organisation which speaks up on behalf of pensioners and older people. You can read her words here: <https://www.laterlifeambitions.co.uk/post/waspi-women-denied-justice-again-as-compensation-ruled-out>

### Mandatory eye tests for older drivers - Have your say

On 7th January 2026, the Government launched a consultation on proposals to implement mandatory eyesight tests for older drivers. The LLA (Later Life Ambitions) partners have discussed this and have agreed to submit a response to the consultation by the deadline of 4pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026. To ensure the LLA response is based on the views of members, it would be helpful if you could answer the five simple questions on the short survey which you can download (or request a copy) from the January CSPA Newsletter.

### Group Secretary's notices

Our next meeting on 12th March will be our AGM. This newsletter contains a revised governance framework and a ballot form to elect the officers of the Bristol Bath & West Group. Please take a moment to read through the governance framework and propose any members for offices in the Group. Your current Chair - Stuart, Colin our Treasurer and I, as Group Secretary, are all willing to stand for office again but Colin would like some relief from the Membership Secretary role which he has carried out so well for the past few years. We have invited David Luxton (CSPA Pensions Manager), Les Calder (CSPA South West representative) and Les Priestley (CSPA Chair) to the meeting to brief you on ‘hot topics’ and answer any questions you may have. Please let Colin or I know if you plan to attend in person so that we can plan the somewhat limited seating. In the meantime I will try to get the Teams video conferencing up and running reliably in good time to let you know if we can host a Teams session – I think I need a new(er) laptop.

### Our contact details are:

Martin Robertson, Group Secretary - [martin@mjlrobertson.org.uk](mailto:martin@mjlrobertson.org.uk)

Colin Fender, Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary - [colinfender@btinternet.com](mailto:colinfender@btinternet.com)

Stuart Tarr, Chair - [Stuart.tarr@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Stuart.tarr@hotmail.co.uk)

**Revised Governance Framework:** To be adopted at the 12th March 2026 AGM of the Bristol, Bath and West Group

**The Group shall be known as the BRISTOL, BATH and WEST GROUP (BBW Group).**

The purpose and aims of the BBW Group shall be to bring together CSPA members, and their spouses and partners, resident in the Group's area of coverage (defined by Post Codes postcodes BS, BA, SN, SP and TA), and communicate with members in the Group. To assist in attracting new members to CSPA ; provide a means of focussing local support for CSPA's aims, policies, and campaigns, and make local representations on behalf of members as appropriate. Provide a local hub for members for CSPA activities and social events as agreed by the Group. To convey issues of local and national concern to the Executive Council and appoint a Group representative(s) to the CSPA National AGM.

**Associate Group membership:** Any individual who does not qualify to join CSPA but who may be deemed to be of benefit to the BBW Group may be considered for 'associate Group membership' but associate Group members do not have any national voting rights since they are not members of CSPA, and cannot have responsibility for local funds or membership data as they are not members.

**BBW Group Officers and Committee:** The Annual General Meeting (in March) will elect a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers / helpers as necessary (such as a Membership Secretary/ newsletter editor). The names, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of newly elected Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be notified to the CSPA General Secretary within 14 days of the election. The BBW Group hold informal meetings. The group will fill vacancies that arise during the year subject to endorsement by members at the following Group meeting.

**Meetings:** The Group will aim to meet four times a year, (including virtual video meetings if necessary). The Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in March will elect the Group Officers and helpers where applicable, The Committee will appoint an accounts Examiner who should not be an officer or other position in the Group. The BBW AGM will be held on a convenient date in March each year and members will be given reasonable notice in advance of the date of the meeting. Motions and nominations for the CSPA national AGM will be discussed at the Group AGM, or the next Group meeting, for submission by the BBW Group Secretary to the CSPA General Secretary **no later than the first Friday in July.**

**Communications with Group members:** The Group will notify the Editor of the National magazine (The Pensioner) of its meeting arrangements once every six months. In addition, the Group will communicate with its Group members by email and Group Newsletter. The costs of up to four Newsletters per year are paid for from national funds. The Groups will use the Groups' page of the CSPA website to post notification of Group meetings.

**Financial Arrangements:** The Group's financial year shall run from 1 January to 31 December.

The Treasurer must be a member of CSPA and shall take charge of the Group's funds. The Treasurer shall report to each Group meeting on all income and expenditure. At the end of each financial year the accounts of the Group will be examined and put to the Group AGM for ratification. A copy of the Group accounts, signed by the Treasurer and the Examiner, shall be sent to the National Treasurer of CSPA no later than 2 months after the Group AGM. Groups should set up a bank account for the administration of Group funds. In the event difficulties are experienced in finding a suitable bank or building society then advice should be sought from the National Treasurer as necessary. The Group income and expenses shall be met by member donations during the year. There shall be up to three signatories on the Group's bank account, approved by the Group AGM. One of the three shall be the Treasurer. Changes in the bank mandate should be approved by any two of the signatories. In the event the group encounters difficulties in finding three volunteers to be signatories, the Regional Representative could be made an authorised signatory.

**Amendments to the constitution** must be approved by a minimum of a two thirds majority of Group Members present at an Annual General Meeting, or an Extraordinary Meeting.

**Note:** This Governance Framework is intended to be simplified guidance on the basic requirements for running a local Group, as an alternative to having inflexible local Group constitutions.

**CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS ALLIANCE**  
**Bristol, Bath and West Group**  
**Annual General Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026**  
**Nominations for Officers and Committee Posts**

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Nominee name (please print)*</b>
Chair	
Group Secretary	
Honorary Treasurer	
Membership Secretary	

<b>Committee Members (Up to Five)</b>	<b>Nominee name (please print)*</b>
Ordinary Member	
Ordinary Member	
Ordinary Member	
Ordinary Member	
Ordinary Member	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

**\*Nominations can be either for yourself or someone else in which case the Group Secretary (see below) will confirm their acceptance.**

**This form must reach BBW Group by email or post no later than Wednesday, 11th March 2025**

**Martin Robertson, CSPA Bristol Group Secretary, 6 Beech Road, Yatton, North Somerset,  
BS49 4HY Email: [martin@mjlrobertson.org.uk](mailto:martin@mjlrobertson.org.uk)**