

Protecting what you've earned, since 1952



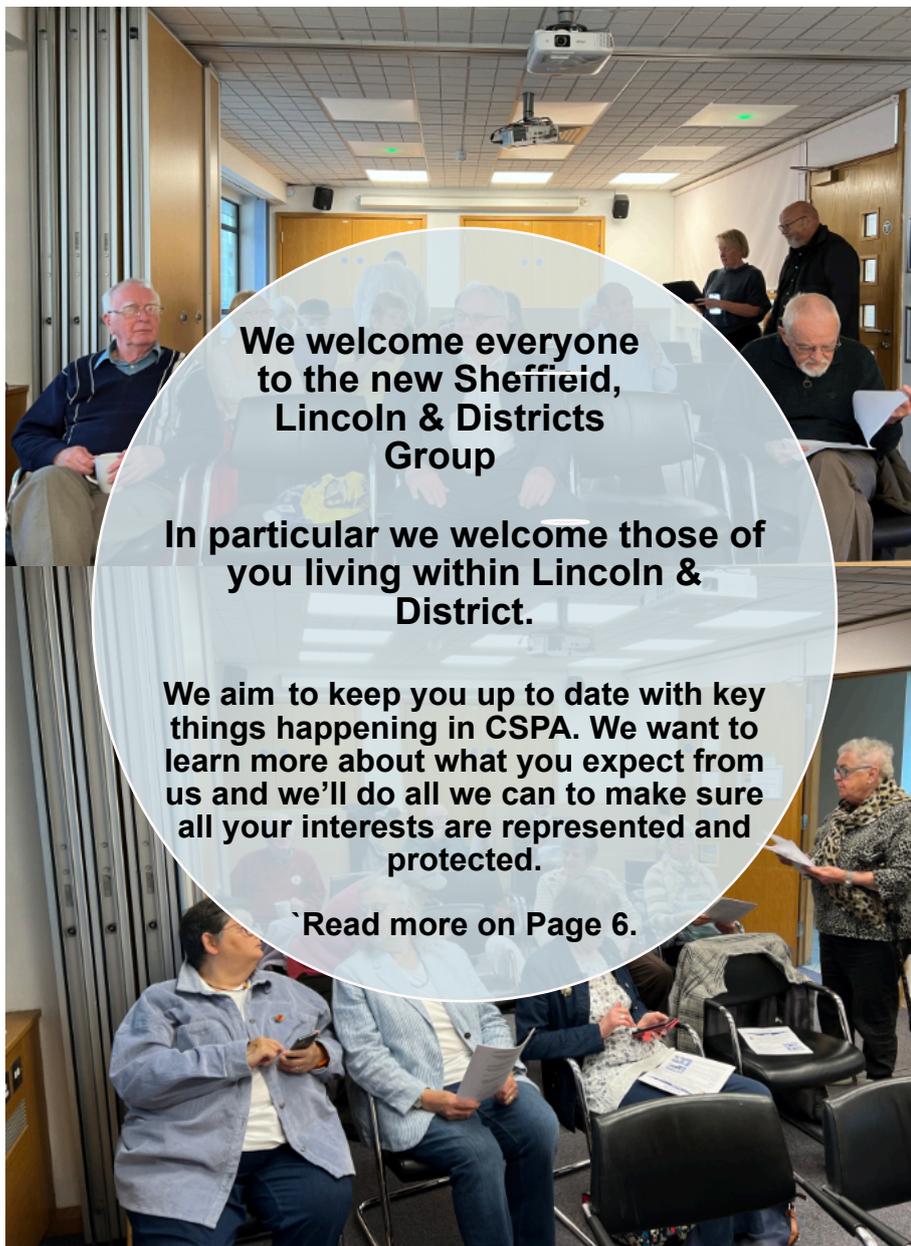
Sheffield, Lincoln & Districts Group

Spring 2026

Newsletter

Welcome to the AGM Edition of the Group Newsletter

Please do join us at our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 19th March 2026



What's in this edition

Page 1

AGM Agenda & Guide

Page 2

A keynote message from Group Chair, Mike Buckley

Page 3

Meeting Reports

Page 4

Meeting Reports (Cont'd)
AGM Elections and Motions

Page 5

Financial & Secretarial Reports

Page 6

Capita
A message for Lincoln & District Members

Page 7

YHPC Report-back by Andy Aitchison

Page 8

Group Contact Information

Group Annual General Meeting 2026

Please do join us at our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 19th March 2026

This is the meeting where we elect our Group Executive Committee, Leadership team & Auditors, agree our priorities & activities, and enjoy an interesting presentation.

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. Adoption of Accounts & Group Reports.
4. Election of Group Officers, Committee Members & Auditors
5. Presentation by Martin Hodgson.
6. Group Issues - with a focus on representing all members effectively.
7. Key Regional & National issues.
8. Any Other Business.



Your Guide to Sheffield, Lincoln & Districts Group's Annual General Meeting

- **When:**
Thursday, 19th March 2026.
- **Where:**
The Hilton Room, Sheffield Cathedral, Church St, Sheffield S1 1HA
(please contact the Group Secretary if you need directions).
- **Why:**
This is our Annual General Meeting to elect representatives, discuss key issues, listen to a great talk about China, and meet old & 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 18th June 2026, 2pm

- This is our meeting to agree our contributions to the National AGM:
- We'll need to consider motions and nominations for National posts
- We'll also hear updates on key local, regional and national developments
- It will be a friendly and informative meeting with useful information for you, and an opportunity to meet socially.
- **Please join us if you can, it will be well worth it.**

A keynote message from our Group Chair – Mike Buckley

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

SALAD DAYS ARE HERE



Now we are providing a local (ish!) Group for CSPA members in Lincoln and District we can say Sheffield And Lincoln And District (SALAD) days are now with us. We are of course thinking hard about how best to engage with our membership, and to enable members to engage with the Group. Your ideas are most welcome. An obvious step is to make space on the Group Committee for Lincolnshire folk - so if you would like to find out more about this opportunity do get in touch.

PENSIONS ADMINISTRATION

If it weren't so serious and damaging for people one could say here is a good crisis to exploit for CSPA growth. But when this sort of mess happens by golly we are glad we are in an organisation focussed on defending our interests. Many saw this coming and said so, not least CSPA. But the immediate issue isn't blame but to get Pensions Admin back on track. Having watched the recent Public Accounts Committee evidence session with Capita, there is some confidence they are sharply focussed on achieving recovery. Incidentally, one of the Sheffield MPs, Clive Betts MP, is Deputy Chair of the PAC and a good friend of CSPA. Centrally CSPA has an excellent team on Pensions, and with our campaigning work in protection of what you have earned is achieving great outcomes in terms of profile and recruitment of new members.

If you know someone needing help, put them in touch!

OUR AGM

The next event in our local calendar is our Annual General Meeting. As well as creating space on the Committee to accommodate our wider membership, we will elect our local leadership for the year ahead. If now is too soon for you to step forward, why not sit in on the Exec meetings to see what happens?

We are likely to also have a first discussion about what motions we might submit to CSPA's Annual Meeting. Something calling for pensions administration to return to an in-house service seems sensible.

Best Wishes,

Mike.

Meeting Reports - Matters Arising

1. Winter Quarterly Meeting – 18th December 2025

We had a good turnout and a lively meeting despite the unavoidable absence of some members.

Andy Aitchison helpfully told us about possible closure of the National Pensioners Convention, implications for the Yorkshire & Humber Convention, to which we are affiliated, and the consultation on the pros and cons of making CSPA a Company limited by guarantee which will be discussed in detail at our AGM in March.



On the social side Linda's mince pies went down as well as ever. Beryl's quiz was very challenging but after a couple of tiebreaker questions Linda Woollen was declared the winner.

2. Group Executive Committee Meeting, 8th May 2026



**Firstly, We warmly welcome to our Group new CSPA members:
Mr B & Mrs S Fotheringham, Mr P Needham, Mr & Mrs J Nelson**

• **Group Elections & Committee Arrangements**

We discussed and agreed arrangements for Group Elections at the AGM.

• **Building inclusion for CSPA members in Lincolnshire and securing continuity in the unavoidable absence of the Chair and Secretary**

-  Now it has been agreed that we should provide Group support and representation for members in Lincoln & District, the Committee felt that we should increase the potential overall size of our Group Executive Committee to 12 .
- Following the serious ill health of the Chair and Secretary, late last year, we agreed that we will recommend to the AGM that we should appoint a Deputy Chair to provide leadership during any such future hiatus. The Deputy Chair, with their agreement may be asked to lead on some Group issues.
- We will be putting these proposals to the AGM. Should they be agreed, we will also seek permission for the Group Executive to take interim action to fill these posts, ahead of the elections in 2027

• **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. We trialed a social meeting to chat with members in Retford in September. Whilst small it was a successful event. Please let the Group Secretary know if you'd like a meeting to be held nearer to you in a place and on a day that suits you.

(Continued on Page 4)

Group Executive Committee Meeting, 8th May 2026 (Continued from Page 3)

- **Group Funding**

Please see the Treasurer's Report on Page 5.



The Committee noted our dependence on the the small and diminishing number of members subscribing and donating. We agreed that we must to make members fully aware of this unfair state of affairs, and urge everyone to consider contributing at least the good value annual voluntary subscription of £2, (18p a month), unchanged for over 10 years.

- **Group Membership**

There was no new overall membership data to report, but the Committee welcomed the news from Linda that Mr & Mrs Fotheringham, Mr Needham, and Mr & Mrs Nelson are now members of CSPA and our Group.



- **NE Regional Activity**

Andy Aitchison provided an update on activity around the NE Region and news from other Groups, He's also provided a report on his work with the YHPC which is included on Page 7.

Sheffield, Lincoln & Districts Group Annual General Meeting 2026

- **Group Elections**

You are invited to nominate candidates for the following Group Posts - nominations should be sent to reach the Group Secretary by 12 noon on Friday 13th March 2026:

- **Officers:** Chair; Secretary; Treasurer; Membership Secretary.
- **Committee Members:** 6 Members to be elected
- **Auditors:** 2 Auditors to be elected



- **Motions**

The Secretarial Report for the AGM will include motions seeking to increase the Committee from 10 to 12, and to introduce a new Officer post of "Deputy Chair" from within that increased number.

- **Presentation by Martin Hodgkinson: Lifting the Bamboo Curtain - a personal view of China.**

Martin has a Chinese wife and has visited China 4 times, accessing venues which the average tourist doesn't get the time to see.

It really will be worth your while joining us for this really interesting presentation, with a chance to learn more about a country few of us have experienced. There will also be a Q&A Session

Group Reports

Financial Report – FY 2025

Overview

After a couple of years of anxiety our group has recovered to a comfortable financial position. At the beginning of 2026, there was £2900 in the bank.

We received a total of £941 in 2025 from subscriptions and donations. We continue to be concerned at the falling level of members who actively support the group financially. **In 2024, 107 members contributed £1093. In 2025, c73 contributed £941**, a few sent in twice. Thankfully, due to those members generosity, we have sufficient for another full year.

We have recently taken a committee decision that we should be able to financially support the inclusion of the Lincoln & District members this year. Encouraging participation of Lincoln members and probable extra costs of transport expenses, newsletters etc will, exceptionally, be covered by current funds agreed by the Committee.

After a year we should be in a more stable position to forecast more accurately the financial needs of the enlarged group. Having acknowledged the extra responsibility, workload and cost, we cannot do this alone and respectfully request that Lincoln group members consider paying an annual subscription of £2 pa as per the Sheffield members as personal finances permit.

Once again, the Committee is very grateful for the support that it has received over the past year and will continue to work on your behalf in protection of your pensions.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the year started very shakily and it necessitated a warning to the committee that funds might not last until 2025. Your annual subscription to HQ CSPA covers the issue of the Pensioner 4 times a year, our newsletter 4 times a year and of course HQ costs.

We are extremely grateful to members who have contributed to the continued financial health of the group by not only paying the voluntary subs but have been very generous with donations too. However, only approximately one fifth of our membership has been able to support us financially. We understand that financial support can be difficult but we do really appreciate every contribution, no matter how small. Thank you.



The accounts have been audited and a copy will be available at the AGM.

Linda Garner

Treasurer

Secretarial Report

A Secretarial Report and briefing will be provided at the AGM. It will be circulated to email registered members shortly before the meeting, uploaded to the CSPA website and the Group Facebook Page.



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.**

An important Message for Members in Lincoln & District

Firstly, a warm welcome to all Lincoln and District Members to our Group

To succeed, our enlarged Group needs to know what those of you, who live in around Lincoln expect from your Group. Our Group Committee is dedicated to doing all we can to listen to and act on your thoughts and wishes.

The Group Executive Committee meets online, quarterly (via Zoom to ensure no potential member has to travel in order to take part.). Committee Membership is not an onerous task. We only ask for your views. Nothing else is demanded unless you're willing and able to do it.



We really need at least one Lincoln & District member to join us. Our rules allow any member to request access to observe the meetings. So, if you and/or a colleague would like to join us, why not observe what we say and do at the next Committee Meeting?

Please contact the Group Secretary (*contact details on Page 9 below*) if you'd like to join us for our next Committee Meeting on Thursday 14th May 2026.

Also, please contact the Group Secretary if you would like to participate, but don't have access to Zoom, and we'll explore the best way we can include you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

John Houghton

Capita - Living up to our worst fears

In 2023, we learned that Capita was likely to resume control of our pension payments from 2025. Given Capita's previous failings, we submitted a motion, carried by the National AGM, instructing the National Executive Committee to do all it can to prevent future detriment to Civil Service Pensioners.

We're sure you're aware of the failures creating great suffering for so many of our colleagues. We're proud to say that the NEC has fully carried out the instruction by dedicating itself to helping every member who asked for help.

On the 3rd February, approximately 8,000 CSPA members were sent emails inviting them to share their views on the Current service they' receiving from the new pension administrators, Capita.

Of the 12% that were waiting for payments, 8% have had to delay their retirement, 13% had borrowed money, 32% were eating into their savings, 12% were in financial hardship, 26% had another, short-term, source of income and 9% were not adversely affected by the delays in payment.

If you, or anyone you know, is having any difficulties as a result of Capita's incompetence, we urge you to contact the Group Secretary, or any other Group Officer (*contact details on Page 9 below*), who can put you in touch with our Pensions Manager, David Luxton.



- Protecting what you've earned, since 1952

Yorkshire and Humber Pensioners Convention (YHPC) Update

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 article by Andy Aitchison



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



The latest quarterly meeting of the Yorkshire and Humber Branch of the National Pensioners Convention took place on Thursday 29th January 2026 at Church View, Doncaster.

The meeting was quite well attended, despite the poor weather. After the traditional welcome and apologies announcements acting Chair George Arthur introduced the guest speaker Nevyn Stevenson from SARAG (The Yorkshire & Humber Asbestos Support Group). The charity was set up in 1999 and provides advice and support for those affected by silicosis and other asbestos related conditions. They can advise on putting in claims for compensation. They also conduct independent household

assessments. The compensation being offered is now averaging £24,000 per person. There is a big demand for advice and assistance in the Yorkshire & Humber region. Asbestos was banned in 1997 but many schools still have it as well as RAK concrete. As a result many teachers, support staff and children have been affected and a great number of deaths have been linked to exposure to asbestos. The charity is based at Unit 20 Moorgate Crofts Business Centre, South Grove, Rotherham S60 2DH (tel 01709 360672). A number of those in attendance then gave examples of how they or those close to them have been affected.

The minutes of the previous meeting on 30 October 2025 were then agreed. Secretary Fran Postlethwaite then gave an update on the current National NPC situation relating to the NPC becoming a Company Limited By Guarantee (CLBG). There had been an NEC meeting at the end of November when it was announced that the 3 staff were being made redundant as of 30 January 2026 and NPC would be dissolved with the assets transferred to the CLBG holding Company NPC Ltd. Another NEC meeting was held on 20 January when a vote was held on the motion to dissolve. All other motions were ruled out. The motion to dissolve was passed 49-12. There will now be a Special Delegate Conference in London on 24 February when a simple majority vote will be needed to ratify the proposal. After much discussion on the issue it was agreed that YHPC would send 4 delegates and would vote against dissolution.

The YHPC branch officers then gave their reports. Chair Rosie Pickard was not present. Treasurer Jill Ainsworth said that funds were still in a very healthy state with 3.1k in bank and 5.1k in savings. A small group discussion was then held concentrating on concerns and issues over pensions. Issues brought up included the rise to state pension age, the gap between old and new state pension continuing to grow and that the State Pension should remain free of tax. NPC is still campaigning for a pension for all at 70% of the living wage.

There followed a quick update from National NPC Working Parties. Subject to the motion at the Special Delegate meeting on 24th February being approved the Structure and Finance Committees will continue to meet. There then followed a number of local campaign reports.

The next meeting of YHNPC will be at 11am on Thursday 30th April 2026 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 March 19th meeting.

Andy Aitchison

Sheffield & District Group Representatives

Sheffield & District Group Officers

Group Chair: Mike Buckley
29 Adelaide Road, Sheffield S7 1SQ
jmwibuckley@hotmail.com
Tel. 07885 560878

Group Secretary: John Houghton
85 Whirlowdale Road
Sheffield S7 2NF
jhoughton85@gmail.com
Tel: 07952 304628

Group Treasurer: Linda Garner
6 Moorwoods Avenue,
Chapelton,
Sheffield S35 2WA
lindagarner1@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 07449 105764

Membership Secretary: Linda Woollen
40 Richmond Park Avenue
Sheffield S13 8HA
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, Lincoln & Districts Group

Representing and reflecting your views within CSPA and protecting your interests locally and regionally.

Please subscribe to YOUR Group