



## Gloucestershire Group

### *Newsletter of the Year* **2025**

**5 March 2026**

It looks like the dull rainy weather maybe coming to an end with the advent of spring and the appearance of snowdrops and daffodils, the latter always out in time for the Cheltenham Racing Festival.

#### **Minutes of Group Meetings**

After the confusion over the minutes of the previous meeting at the last meeting on 4 December, the Committee has decided that it will no longer read the minutes at the Group Meeting but instead send them by email to all members for whom we have an email address. At the meeting the Chairman will read out the topics discussed and any decisions made. Matters arising will usually be covered by agenda items. This proposal will be put to the Group at the next meeting.

#### **The Pensioner Magazine**

This Newsletter was drafted after the Committee meeting but before the Pensioner magazine was distributed. The magazine has now been sent out and covers everything in this newsletter.

So please accept my apologies for the duplication but there is more local content and also the agenda for our AGM in this Newsletter so please read on.

#### **MyCSP and Capita**

The transition from Mycsp to Capita is the disaster that was expected and I and thousands have had difficulty contacting Mycsp. There are tales galore on the CSPA website and news of what CSPA is doing about it. Most affected are those who have just retired with existing pensioners not affected, so the advice is do not contact Capita unless you have to, wait a few weeks (months) as the transition settles down. If your case is very urgent and you are not getting through, please contact David Luxton at CSPA HQ who may be able to help.

In my case I could not get a phone verification after I had created my account, I then tried again and asked for an email verification and this worked. My account turned out to be accurate as far as I could see. So if you are having difficulty logging in, you might like to try this solution which worked for me.

CSPA is continuing to campaign on the issues described in the last Newsletter.

**Circular 982** has been published and contains items on: Transition to Capita; Waspi Update Government ignoring the Ombudsman's scathing report; Proof of Identity when a person does not have a passport or Driving licence; campaign for better buses and free bus travel;

Digital exclusion – acceptance of cash;  
Digital inclusion Impact of Artificial  
Intelligence (AI) not being able to use it;  
Social Care. Baroness Casey’s report  
and time table.

**Circular 983** contains updates on these  
issues and also a new campaign “Who  
are Civil Servants?” an attempt to dispel  
the image of boring civil servants with  
gold plated pensions by giving examples  
of some of the exciting jobs civil  
servants actually do; the appointment  
of the new Deputy General Secretary  
Johnathan Safir replacing David Luxton  
who will be the part time Case Officer. A  
plea for volunteers to sit on the  
Newsletter judging panel and the date of  
the Midlands Regional Meeting on 16  
April to discuss amongst other things  
CSPA becoming a Company Limited by  
Guarantee. A motion at the AGM which  
we agreed to speak against.

Gloucestershire was the sole group to  
vote against it on the basis that it was  
unnecessary and expensive. I have  
since seen the brief prepared by our  
Legal Advisor and he presents a  
convincing case for becoming a CLG. If  
you would like a copy of the brief please  
contact me. *(This now appears on page  
27 of the Pensioner and there is a  
questionnaire for your opinion on page  
29 which you should complete).*

I urge you to read these Circulars on the  
CSPA website [cspa.co.uk](http://cspa.co.uk) and come  
along to the AGM on 19 March when  
Sally Tsoukaris the General Secretary  
will be able to expand on these issues  
and answer questions. They will of

course appear in the Pensioner  
Magazine due out about now.

### **Visit to the A417 Project (the Air Balloon)**

Thirty eight of us braved the cold, damp,  
windy conditions high up in the  
Cotswolds to hear a very interesting  
presentation on work to date in a lovely  
warm building.



*One of the new bridges*



*A draughty viewing platform*

The project is on time and Carolyne  
Ferguson of Keir was able to show us  
how the roads all join up and how  
navigation is accomplished. There are  
some necessary long “diversions” eg  
from Andoversford (A436) to go down  
the A417 towards Gloucester, you pass  
the old Air Balloon roundabout and go to

the new Cowley roundabout and back to the site of the Air Balloon pub. It is about an extra half mile but we are assured that it will keep the traffic moving and avoid the current delays at Ullenwood. There are new overbridges for walkers, cyclists and wildlife. Keir have been especially protective of wildlife and the environment in the whole project. We were able to make a donation to one of their chosen charities, namely the Gloucestershire Air Ambulance. It was an excellent visit although very draughty on the top of the viewing gallery.

Our next meeting is the AGM on 19 March when Sally Tsoukaris, the General Secretary will bring us up to date on the latest campaigns including Mycsp and Capita.

### **AGM**

We will be electing our Committee and office bearers who are all willing to stand again for 2026/27 but with age and the need for fresh blood we do need younger retirees to serve on the Committee so please think earnestly about this and either put yourself forward or suggest to me someone you think would be good on the committee.

**CSPA Gloucestershire Group AGM 19  
March 2026 at 10.30 .**

### **Agenda**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of the last meeting (circulated)

- 3 Matters Arising
- 4 Membership Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 Chairman's Report
- 7 Election of Committee and Officers:
  - Chairman (Alastair Goldie)
  - Treasurer (Ken Lovett)
  - Secretary (Maureen Smith)
  - Membership Sec (Dorothy Bunting)
  - Committee Members 3 vacancies
  - Auditor (Martin Matthews)
- 8 Eye Test for Drivers over 70
- 9 Status of CSPA – CLG
- 10 Speaker Sally Tsoukaris General Secretary CSPA
- 11 AOB

### **Future Events**

**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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