

NEWSLETTER February 2026

SCARBOROUGH AND DISTRICT GROUP

The Scarborough and District Group met on Monday, 23 February 2025 at Westborough Methodist Church, Scarborough.

1. Joyce I'Anson chaired the meeting and welcomed 7 Members. Apologies have been received from Richard Moore, Hazel Bowes.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 September 2025 were agreed. Proposed by Robert Carrack and seconded by James Howie. There were no matters arising.

3. Treasurer Report. James Howie.

The Treasurer noted that the accounts for the 2025 financial year had now been audited. At the end of the year the Branch had £306.31 in the new Virgin Money account and £34.39 in cash. **Subscriptions for the 2026 financial year are now due, and the Committee have agreed to maintain the subscription rate at £5.00.** The Treasurer reminded the meeting that the Branch relies solely on the subscription income to fund the quarterly room hire and other expenses.

Members are welcome to pay their subscription by cheque or - if they wish to avoid the cost of a stamp - they can pay by **BACS transfer** to the Club's account at Virgin Money (BACS details below). **Can members please put their name in the reference section.**

If paying by BACS transfer, then members are also asked as an additional precaution to send the Treasurer an email simply stating their name and amount to **jpearsonhowie@gmail.com**. This is needed because the Virgin bank statements sometimes only show the amount paid **and not the name** of the member paying the subscription. **BACS details: -**

Civil Service Pensioners Alliance Scarborough Branch

Sort Code: 82-12-08.

Account: 30146087

Please continue to send any **cheque payments** to: James Howie, The Pippins, Rectory Lane, Thornton Le Dale, YO18 7QG.

4. **James as Membership secretary** reported that the latest count of CSPA members in the immediate area revealed a membership of 154 with 20 active members. James will continue to reach out to the 'inactive' members via email with an invitation to attend the Group meetings.

5. Pensioner Identification.

James raised the issue of Pensioners without driving licences or other forms of photographic ID, wishing to identify themselves when voting. Local authorities now offer a **Voter Authority Certificate** as an acceptable form of photographic identity. Though a paper document it **can** be used as a photo ID. Further information can be found at **www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate**.

6. Items of interest within CSPA

Joyce gave a brief talk regarding the CSPA proposal to become a limited company. A Special Regional Meeting to discuss this matter will be held in **Manchester on 23 April 2026** with travel expenses paid by CSPA HQ. An invitation for two members from the Group to attend has been received. Any member interested in attending this meeting, please contact Joyce (01723 360519) as soon as possible for further details.

7. Digital Exclusion and Pension Fraud.

Richard Kilsby informed the meeting that AGE UK and the Government have now reached agreement and drafted a Digital Exclusion Strategy for the next ten years to (hopefully) ameliorate some of the negative impact of computerisation advances on the elderly. It was however noted at the meeting that the obtaining of a 'Blue Badge' for an individuals' car from North Yorkshire Council can now only be done 'on-line', and as such is proving a challenge for many 'off-line' elderly residents.

Richard relayed a message from **Action Fraud** warning of pensioners being targeted by criminals purporting to be from the DWP regarding obtaining the re-instated Winter Fuel Allowance. Any such suspicious approaches should now be reported to **reportfraud.police.UK Tel: - 0300 123 2040**

Any suspicious emails please send to: **phishing.gov.uk**

It was also mentioned at the meeting that criminals are now using AI tech. to clone people's voices for bank and other 'password' hacking purposes. People are advised not to engage in protracted conversation with unsolicited and random 'survey type' phone calls.

Richard has also signed a petition - along with 179,000 people - asking for the decibel level of fireworks to be reduced from 120 to 90 decibels. A full debate was held by the MP's Petitions Committee on this issue highlighting the adverse effect of these loud explosions on livestock, domestic pets, the elderly, people with dementia, veterans with PTSD (etc). After a fulsome debate, the MP's all seemed to agree that action needed to be taken to reduce both the decibel level, and the irresponsible handling of such fireworks but disappointingly no positive strategy on how to achieve these ends appeared to be resolved?

8. Christmas Lunch.

Joyce I'Anson reported back that all feedback received regarding the Xmas lunch has been positive and she will re-book again at the Park Manor Hotel for Friday, 27 November '26 - 12 for 12.30pm.

9. A.O.B.

Mandatory Eye Testing of the elderly.

James will send a reply on behalf of the Group to CSPA HQ.

The next Group meeting is the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** on Monday **20/04/26** with **guest speaker Andy Aitchinson**. Nominations for all the positions on the committee to any member of the present committee, soonest please. The meeting will commence 1100 in Belle Vue Room, Westborough Methodist Church, Scarborough, YO11 1TS

Group Meetings 2026.

20 April 2026 (AGM)

22 June 2026

21 September 2026

Committee Meetings.

13/04/26

15/06/26

14/09/26

10. Joyce thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 12.25pm.

Richard Kilsby

25 February 2026