

Welcome to New Members

We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have joined the Group since our last newsletter. We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you better.

- Keith Dunleavy, Margaret Balmer, and Gillian Ince from Newcastle
- Carolyn & Richard Tor and Dorothy & David Patterson from Morpeth
- Anthony Marriner from Penshaw
- Mr & Mrs Mason from Hexham
- Catherine Mayes and Carol Bradshaw from Gateshead
- Sean Fahey from Blyth
- Carless Paul Rowland from Murton Village
- Jeffrey Swinney and Ronald Jennings from Sunderland
- Lesley Johnson from Whickham
- Catherine Leighton and Elizabeth Ardle & Barry Ellis from Consett

Our Next Group Meeting

The first meeting of 2026 is scheduled for **Tuesday, 19th May 2026 at 11:00am**. The meeting will be held at St John the Baptist Church Hall Grainger Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 5JG. The hall is conveniently situated within a short walking distance from Newcastle's Central station and Metro station.

The meeting will last no longer than 90 minutes. Complimentary tea, coffee, water and biscuits will be provided. After the formal meeting, members so inclined are welcome to join the treasurer and I on the 3rd floor of The Mile Castle Wetherspoons, directly opposite the hall, for a more social gathering. The venue has step-free access from the street and a lift to the 3rd floor. Drinks and food consumed there will be at your own expense.

To help us prepare adequate seating and refreshments, can you please confirm your attendance by **Friday, 15th May**. You can email me at peter.sleightholme@outlook.com, or contact me by phone, text, or WhatsApp on 0741 931 2853.

We are pleased to announce that Andy Aitchison, our North East Regional Representative on the Executive Council (EC), will attend the meeting to provide updates on key issues, current campaigns, and the ongoing review of the CSPA's legal status.

There will also be an opportunity to consider any motions or nominations that members would like to submit to the national AGM in October 2026, as well as to approve the Group's 2025 Annual Accounts.

If you are unable to attend but have questions, concerns, or comments that you would like raised, please feel free to get in touch by email, phone, text, or WhatsApp.

New Group Bank Account

At the AGM, members approved the switch to a new bank account to help save on monthly charges. This transition took place on 31st December 2025 under the Current Account Switch Service (CASS).

Members who make voluntary annual contributions to Group funds do not need to take any action; standing orders will be automatically updated by your bank to reflect the new account details.

Currently, 74 members contribute annually, with amounts ranging from £2 to £5. The most common contribution is £2.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who makes these contributions. They are essential for maintaining the Group, as we do not receive any financial support from CSPA HQ.

The funds are used to cover costs such as room hire, light refreshments at meetings, and out-of-pocket expenses for officers or members engaged in Group business.

Additionally, these contributions enable us to enhance our meetings by inviting external guest speakers or organising social events, such as the Tyne Theatre Tour held before our AGM in September 2025.

New contributors will be more than welcome to help the Group develop and help members connect with retired former colleagues.

The new bank account details are as follows:

- Business name: Civil Service Pensioners Alliance Newcastle Group
- Sort code: 821208
- Account number: 50261311

Tyne Theatre & Opera House Guided Tour

Prior to the Annual General Meeting on 9 September 2025, members enjoyed a guided tour of the Tyne Theatre & Opera House. The tour began with an engaging overview of the theatre's history, from its origins in 1867 to the present day. Members were shown around the various auditoria, dressing rooms, backstage and understage areas, where they observed the impressive machinery, ropes, and pulleys used for rapid scene changes and dramatic stage entrances.

The tour and briefings were expertly led by four of the theatre's dedicated volunteers: Dave Rawlings, Diane Jones, Jimmy Thow, and Paul Mead.

Following the tour, members gathered in the new 1867 lounge for light refreshments before the AGM commenced.



Our second meeting of 2026 will take place on Tuesday 8th September 2026. The primary business of the meeting will be to review motions and nominations submitted for the national AGM in October 2026. Any members suggestions for a guest speaker or event to supplement the meeting will be welcomed.