



Gloucestershire Group

April 28 2026

Spring has arrived, we have seen the daffodils and the bluebells are magnificent at the moment but there is still a chill in the wind so it has to get warmer.

We held our AGM on 19 March and re-elected the committee. They are still the same people but we really do need new members so if you know of someone who would make a good committee member, please let me know and we will approach them. We won't reveal the source of the suggestion.

We welcomed Sally Tsoukaris the General Secretary and Kevin Billson our Regional Representative who gave a review of the work HQ are doing protecting our Pensions.

Last week Maureen Smith and myself attended the Midlands Regional Meeting where Sally brought us up to date on pension matters particularly Capita and the transition from MyCSP. It seems that it is still not going as well as promised with delays still present and phone calls not answered within half a minute as previously claimed but more like 10-15 minutes. Weekly meetings are being held with the Cabinet Office and Capita to keep pressure on them.

They have already been fined for failing to meet targets.

One of our members has had trouble contacting Capita having to wait for hours on the phone and trying at different times of the day. They had trouble logging in and mobile phone app problems. The member wrote to CSPA who were grateful to receive the account of problems experienced by one of our members contacting Capita. They may well quote this episode at liaison meetings with the Cabinet Office and Capita, as evidence of what the system is actually like. If any member is experiencing difficulties and feel that CSPA can help please get in touch with David Luxton who is dealing with personal cases at david.luxton@cspa.cspa.uk.

The main item at the Regional Meeting was a discussion on whether CSPA should become a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). Currently our legal status is that we are an unincorporated association run by our members. Should we be sued each member would be liable for any penalties. As a CLG each member would be liable for £1 regardless. This would allow the Committee and members to sleep more soundly at night.

Bernard Seymour, a retired Barrister gave an excellent presentation on the subject followed by discussion and case studies. I originally was opposed to the idea as it would be expensive, would take a long time and distract from our real work but having read the article on

CSPA's legal status on page 26 of the current edition of the Pensioner and the question and answer session on page 27, I am now convinced that CLG would be a good thing. The argument that convinced me most was the threat of litigation over a Data Protection Breach or worse still the very real threat of a computer attack like M&S experienced. Statistically this is likely to happen but I am assured that our computer defences are all in order but we also have data on our own PCs, tablets and phones. The cost is £30K and is coming from CSPA's reserves and by becoming a CLG our aims and objectives, constitution, apart from admin technicalities will remain the same.

Please read the article and although it is too late to submit the questionnaire, we can discuss the issue at the next meeting on 21 May. A formal resolution will be raised for the AGM in October and we will be asked to vote on it so there is still time to raise questions and discuss.

Carer's Allowance

You may recall that our Group proposed a motion (A30) at the last AGM on the payment of Carer's allowance. CSPA and LLA have written demanding a review of the entire system to ensure it provides carers with sustainable and meaningful financial support and not one that can demand a refund of total annual payments because of badly worded guidance.

Future Events

We are thinking of another outing this summer but if anyone has any suggestions, please let me know,

21 May Fire and Rescue Service Safety at home. What about all these chargers, batteries and devices plugged in 24 hours a day?

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

CSPA Gloucestershire Group
cspaglos@gmail.com 0779 634 1104