



**May 2026
Newsletter**

Welcome to our Spring/Summer Newsletter.

Greetings to all our new members and all current members, the Group committee hopes everyone is well.

Please remember to notify HQ (contact details below) if you want our Newsletters received by post as CSPA is reducing costs by issuing it by email.

If you wish to receive email updates from the national office, then send an email to Harry Brett, our regional representative. You can also email Harry to advise of any group/ regional/ national matters at h_brett@sky.com

You will also receive, by post, the Pensioner Magazine on a quarterly basis.

Change of Address / Details

CSPA HQ print and circulate this newsletter for us, so if there are any address or membership changes, please contact CSPA Membership Enquiries by phone, email, or post.

**Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance,
Head Office, Enquiries,
160 Falcon Road,
London, SE11 2LN**

**Tel: 020 8688 8418
Email: enquiries@cspa.co.uk**

Our Next Group Meeting

*Our next Greater Manchester group meeting is on **Wednesday June 17th**, commencing at **11.00am**. Everyone is welcome. This meeting will consider motions for submission to the CSPA National Annual General Meeting to be held in October. We will also nominate our delegate to the AGM, and our regional representative. The venue is Manchester Methodist Central Hall on Oldham Street, M1 1JQ, which is a short walk from Piccadilly Gardens Metro Stop.*

The venue is fully wheelchair accessible, and refreshments are available.

National Executive Committee Elections 2026

This year, for the first time, CSPA will be trialling the election of the Chair, Vice Chair and five open posts on the National Executive through a national ballot of the whole membership. This will be conducted online and by post. Details will be in the Pensioner magazine. Pam Flynn, Secretary of Greater Manchester Group, was elected by Group Ballot to one of these posts in October 2024, and again in 2025. I would like to be nominated and hopefully elected once again for 2026/27. Please watch out for my pen portrait which will come to you in the Pensioner and consider voting for me.

Recent Events

Wednesday 18th March 2026, our AGM. Officers were elected as follows:

Chair – John Jenkinson

Secretary – Pam Flynn

Treasurer – Harry Brett

Membership – Pete Sanger

Committee: Colin Elderkin, Dorothy France, Doug Baker, Robin Turier

Upcoming

Wednesday 17th June 2026 – Group Meeting @ 11.00

Monday 15th June 2026 – Boat Trip from Chester @ 12 noon*

Wednesday 30th September 2026 @ 11.00

Wednesday 21st October 2026 @ 11.00

Wednesday 16th December 2026 @ 12.00.

This is the Christmas Lunch, and all members are welcome.

If you would like to attend, then please contact me, Harry Brett, nearer the event.

We also have a quarterly meeting in Stockport which is a social event i.e. Lunch.

**Unfortunately, our normal venue has ceased business and
we are currently looking for an alternative venue**

We hope you will come to our meetings as you are all welcome.

***The Group has organised a 2-hour Boat Trip which leaves The Groves Chester CH1 1SZ at 12 noon. The price is £20 per person including tea and coffee, bring your own sandwiches/picnic. You can either pay on the day, send a cheque to Harry Brett at 46 Severn Way, Holmes Chapel, Crewe, CW4 8FT, direct to our Bank Account Sort Code 16-12-11, Account No 10177528, CSPA Manchester, or pay at the next Group Meeting. Further information can be obtained by phoning Harry on 07999 874864.**

200 Club

It is still not too late to join the 200 club for the remainder of the year. If you wish to, please send £9 (normal annual cost is £12) to Harry either by cheque or by BACS to our account, details above. We would also welcome donations to assist the Group to meet any financial commitments.

Recent 200 Club winners:

March – 1 st Prize – Frank Sullivan	2 nd Prize – Shiela Lowe
April - 1 st Prize – Angela Unsworth	2 nd Prize – Douglas Couse
May - 1 st Prize – John Sangster	2 nd Prize – John Sangster

Other Important News: CSPA status and issues with Capita

Members will be aware that the CSPA are currently going through the process of deciding on whether we should change our status to that of an incorporated organisation. This will provide the Officers and Executive Council with more protection regarding being sued or the CSPA closing with subsequent costs on redundancy payments to their employees (officers and office staff). A meeting was therefore held in Manchester on April 23rd for Group members from the Northwest, Northeast and North Wales. This is a report of that meeting.

The meeting started at 11.00am with Sally Tsoukaris, the General Secretary, giving a presentation of the recent work being carried out by the CSPA. Their main work has centred around the number of queries that have arisen with the transition to Capita of the Civil Service Pensions Scheme administration. It has been a complete shambles, with people not receiving their pensions or indeed any communication. Such has been the situation that over 650 staff are now working on the inherited problems Capita received from MyCSP. This includes 150 civil servants (the surge team) drafted in under Angela McDonald to assist Capita and to try and prioritise and resolve the issues. It is hoped that everything will be back to normal by June. Those already receiving their pensions prior to the changeover in December have been mainly unaffected, although some members have had problems accessing the pension portal.

There was then a presentation by Bernard Seymour LLB on the pros and cons of the CSPA becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee (as opposed to an unincorporated association as we currently are). At present, if we had to dissolve for any reason then any debts owed would have to be paid for by the members. This is however unlikely as we have excellent reserves, but the real concern would be if anyone sued the CSPA, who as an entity does not exist, so that any claim would again fall on the membership. If we become an incorporated organisation, apart from the fact that the CSPA (and not an individual within the CSPA) could sign contracts, if we were sued then the liability to the membership is £1 per person and not an open cheque. The reality being that they would probably go for the person with the biggest pockets and leave it up to them to get the share from the other members. It therefore really comes down to whether you believe that we can't or won't ever be sued and therefore don't need to change our status and spend the £30,000 or so required to produce articles,

acceptable to Companies' House. We currently do have insurance in the event of dissolving and owing money or being sued, but again can you truly trust Insurance Companies not to find some loophole for not paying? The decision on whether to incorporate will be made at the AGM, subject to the EC discussing the matter in June and recommending a way forward. **The issue is for the membership to decide.**

If you have any queries on the content of this newsletter, please contact one of us.

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Regional Representative

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