



Bournemouth and District

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- Annual Lunch -
- Will be in Spring 2027 -

Hello:

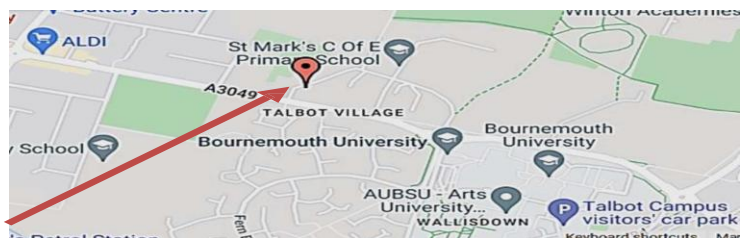
We'd like to welcome all members, especially those from Weymouth, Dorchester and West Dorset who no longer have a group to attend. This is the first newsletter that will have been sent to both you and all of Bournemouth and District. Sadly we are now the only CSPA group surviving in Dorset but we do still manage to meet monthly, except for August, when many members are on school holiday "Grandparent duties" and December which is a bit too near Christmas. Traditionally we used to have a Christmas Lunch but all the venues have put their prices up for the festive season, so we have decided to opt for an annual lunch when it is quieter. Our final morning meeting is on Tuesday 22nd September at 10.45am.

**Bournemouth CSPA is at: St. Mark's Church,
Wallisdown Road, Talbot Village, Bournemouth BH10 4HY**

From October we will meet at 1.30pm the third Wednesday of the month still in the lounge. This is on the ground floor in the newer part of the building, picture below. We begin with tea/coffee as people arrive and start the talk at 2pm. Meeting ends at 3.30pm. Sadly we do have to charge £4 per head to cover costs of room, speaker and refreshments.

You may park all round the church, front back and side.

University bus (Talbot Campus – not just for students) every 10 minutes from Bournemouth Station - email me for any more details.



Entrance is behind a high hedge,
be careful not to miss it.

Liz Malin contact details:

Tel: 01929 472441

Mob: 07534 438717

Email: lizmalin1@gmail.com

My mobile is off when I'm driving to the venue but I shall switch it on as soon as I arrive.

CSPA Bournemouth and District - September 2026 - January 2027



22nd September 2026 Tuesday 10.45am.

Hannah Bird (Cyber Crime Protect and Prevention Officer)

Cyber Crime Protection. Phishing. Bank Fraud.

Keeping personal details secure. Scams (some of our members are not online so telephone scams could also be included)

Wednesdays 1.30pm from now on:

**21st October 2026 - Philip Benstead
Castleman's Corkscrew.**

Why a line was built through the mainly impoverished Hampshire & Dorset countryside. How a junior solicitor from a sleepy Dorset town ended up running the London & South Western Railway.



18th November 2026 - Paula Harmon

Research Rabbit Holes & Warrens – an illustrated talk.

Paula Harmon has written several mysteries, most of them historical. Come and hear about her books and what she has discovered when lost in research rabbit-holes. From the real purpose of Girl Guides via a surprise in her family history to how you could (but perhaps shouldn't) dye your hair or treat your poorly children. Paula will share some of the fascinating and occasionally bizarre facts she's uncovered for her books, including several she's had to leave out of her books because no one would believe them.

20th January 2027 – Kevin Patience

The Bombay Explosion and the day it rained GOLD

Bombay Docks, where a Liberty ship blew up in April 1944 with 1,000 tons of explosives and a ton of gold bars, destroying part of the docks and scattering the gold skywards. Kevin tells the story of the disaster which due to wartime censorship was described as a small fire in the docks.



(2027 programme in next newsletter)

Members' Voting for CSPA National Executive

The latest mailing of "**The Pensioner**" contained a ballot paper so that all members could vote up to for five members of the National Executive Council. The first time members have been able to do this.

This newsletter may arrive too late for the **closing date 12.00 BST Friday 25th September 2026** but I do hope that many of you will have voted. This change of procedure was passed as a motion at the 2025 AGM and formally seconded by Bournemouth Group and it will continue for a trial period.

We seconded this motion because we were aware that there were many areas around the country where, just like Dorset, there were very few groups for members to attend meetings and give a mandate to their AGM Delegates.

"**The Pensioner**" is a really good source of information about the CSPA, what we are currently campaigning about and what benefits come with your membership.

Most members find it a really informative magazine.

However CSPA HQ also send out a regular email to update members on what is happening in CSPA. If you would like to be added to the mailing list contact enquiries@cspa.co.uk

Proposed Fair Banking Act: A previous edition of "The Pensioner" highlighted how CSPA works with Later Life Ambitions (LLA) in pursuing the proposed Fair Banking Act, which is a campaign-backed legislative proposal in the UK designed to tackle financial exclusion by requiring mainstream banks to publicly report on how they serve low-income individuals and underserved communities. Many pensioners, including our members, could benefit from this Act.

- Even before the pandemic, over 10 million people could not access affordable credit, forcing over 3 million people to turn to very high-cost providers like pay-day lenders where interest rates can be over 1,000%.
- One estimate puts the number of people in England who are accessing illegal money lenders like loan sharks, at around 1 million.
- Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) receive a tiny share of bank lending and face a multi-billion pound financing gap, holding back economic growth particularly affecting under-served regions outside London and the South East, and marginalised communities.

A Fair Banking Act would:

Require mainstream banking institutions to disclose their performance on financial exclusion, in a transparent, publicly available, data disclosure framework.

Create a system for clear ratings, that show which banks are doing well and which need to improve.

This would mean:

Millions of people across the UK would be able to access financial services such as affordable credit, preventing families spiralling into bad debt and financial crisis.

People on low incomes would no longer be forced to pay more for credit from high-cost credit providers, reducing the poverty premium.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) would be able to better access the finance they need.

Bits and pieces from our monthly members' email.

Email me if you'd like to be included in the mailing list.
(Topics from the newsletter, pictures added by me)

A look back in Time.....

175 years ago: The Great Exhibition opened in Hyde Park, London on 1st May 1851. More than 10,000 exhibitors showcased technology from around the world.



100 years ago: Queen Elizabeth II was born on 21st April 1926 in London. The longest-reigning British monarch, she died on 8th September 2022 at the age of 96.

75 years ago: The Peak District National Park was established on 17th April 1951, becoming Britain's first national park. There are now 15 in the UK.



65 years ago: 12th April 1961: Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin became the first person in space and the first to orbit the earth.

50 years ago: Brotherhood of Man won the 1976 Eurovision Song Contest for the UK with 'Save Your Kisses for Me'. The UK has topped Eurovision a total of 5 times since it started competing in 1957.



40 years ago: The world saw its worst nuclear power plant accident at Chernobyl, Ukraine, in April 1986. Radiation spread across the western Soviet Union and Europe.

15 years ago: On 29th April 2011, Prince William and Catherine Middleton, now the Prince and Princess of Wales, were married at Westminster Abbey in London.



(Liz Malin – Secretary Bournemouth and District CSPA)