



Summer 2026, Norfolk and Suffolk Group Newsletter

Dear Member,

I am writing this in another heat wave time. As far as I am concerned, it is not the heat I dislike, though it is a bit much, but it is the lack of rain which is causing me serious concern. It is just not possible to keep plants properly watered.

Our next Group meeting will be on Wednesday, 9 September 2026, at 2 pm, at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD. The main business of the meeting will be to go through the motions on the agenda for the AGM of the CSPA so we can give our Delegate John Thompson a guide on how to vote at that meeting. Please come along to ensure that our Group views are accurately arrived at.

We will not be in our usual room, but it will be on the ground floor and named the lounge. We will have use of the kitchen as usual, so tea and coffee will be available.

Full details of the Group meeting and agenda are shown on page 4 of this Newsletter.

Meeting in Ipswich

On 15 July we did hold the meeting in Ipswich, but it was a bit of a disappointment. Only 6 people turned up, all of which usually attend our regular meetings in Norwich. Nevertheless, we did have some useful discussion regarding the future plans of CSPA. We will have to look carefully at the possibility of holding future meetings in Ipswich. We would really like to do this in order to be more friendly towards our Members who live in that area, but we would need to have some assurance that more people would attend.

We did put a lot of effort into advertising this meeting, including making it known to other CSPA Members in the Eastern region who were not part of an active Group. We had some indication that this might prove helpful in getting others to come along, but in the event it didn't.

Richard

New General Secretary for CSPA

Our present General Secretary, Sally Tsoukaris, has resigned so she can now spend more time with her family in South Africa. The EC were very disappointed to learn of her plans but fully understand her reasons for moving on. We gave her a good send off at her last EC meeting and wished her well for the future.

Sally's replacement as General Secretary is Josie Irwin who takes up her post on 24th August. She comes to CSPA from UNISON where she headed up their Equalities Unit, including responsibility for supporting the work of 170,000 retired members. This has involved her in campaigning on issues aligned with CSPA's priorities.

We look forward to working with Josie to build a bright future for CSPA.

One Member One Vote

Following decisions taken at last year's AGM, the CSPA has agreed to elect the Chair and Vice-chair of CSPA and the 5 ordinary members of the EC on the basis of one member one vote. In the Pensioner and other documents, there will be details on how this will work. Please follow these new procedures to make sure that you vote for the EC members you want to represent you.

I am offering to stand as a member of the EC for a further year, so would welcome your vote.

State Pension and Related Issues

The UK pensions system faces significant challenges as rising State Pension payments, frozen tax thresholds and demographic pressures increasingly intersect.

Questions Over the Long-Term Future of the Triple Lock

The Triple Lock remains popular with the public and continues to have cross-party political support. However, it has come under increasing criticism from across the political spectrum, with concerns about its long-term affordability as the population ages.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) have highlighted the growing cost of the policy, pressure on public finances and uncertainty over future State Pension spending.

While no major party is proposing to abolish the Triple Lock during this Parliament, some analysts argue that future governments may ultimately face difficult choices, including reforming the formula, increasing the State Pension age further or raising taxes to help fund rising pension costs.

State Pension Age and Support for 66-Year-Olds

The State Pension age is gradually increasing and will reach 67 by April 2028. A recent parliamentary report has recommended consultation on providing additional support for people aged 66 who are waiting longer to receive their State Pension. Many currently rely on Universal Credit, worth around £425 per month, while Pension Credit provides over £1,000 per month once State Pension age is reached.

The report argues that those with poor health, caring responsibilities or physically demanding work histories may face particular difficulties during the transition.

Britain is Under-Saving for Retirement

Adding to these concerns, the revived Pensions Commission has warned that many future retirees are not saving enough for retirement. Its interim report found:

- Around 15 million people are under-saving for retirement.
- The figure could rise to 19 million without policy intervention.
- 45% of working-age adults are not saving into a pension at all.
- Only 4% of self-employed workers currently contribute to a pension.
- Around half of private-sector workers save only the minimum required under automatic enrolment.

The Commission warned that without reform, future pensioners could have lower retirement incomes than many of today's retirees.

Changes Of Personal Details, etc.

If you change your address or other details, please remember to let the Group Membership Secretary, Margaret Noble, know. Please also contact Margaret in the event of the death of a CSPA member to avoid the distress of unwanted mailings.

If you have an email address to which we could send future Group Newsletters, please also let Margaret know. This would save the cost of postage.

**The next meeting of the Norfolk and Suffolk Group will be held on
Wednesday, 9 September 2026, starting at 2.00pm,
at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD**

Tea/coffee will be provided

**The main business will be to go through the Agenda for CSPA AGM in
October.**

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of the Group meeting held on 27 May 2026.
3. Matters arising
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Consideration of motions on the agenda for the CSPA AGM in October
(it will speed up this item if those attending this meeting have with them the CSPA AGM papers from the latest Pensioner)
7. Arrangements and speakers for future Group meetings.
8. Open Forum
9. Any other business
10. Date and venue of next Group Meeting; Wednesday, 25 November 2026,
at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD
Following meetings:
our Group AGM on Wednesday, 24 February 2027.

Our Current Committee Members Are: -

Chair:	Richard West	01603 423144	richard.west08@gmail.com
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