

TACKLING THE CHALLENGES OF KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR MEMBERS

Statement from the Branch Chairman

Hello everyone. As we now head into the winter months, I hope this finds everyone well and staying safe.

I also hope you are taking up the offer of having your flu and other vaccinations.

As your Branch Chair, I would now like to inform you that due to continuing health issues, I will be retiring from this position at the Branch AGM, which will

hopefully be held in March of next year.

The vacancy for this very important position is advertised in this newsletter and will be placed in the Winter edition of *The Pensioner* magazine in order to allow any applicant to be considered and interviewed by the other Branch officers.

I have very much enjoyed the years I have served the Branch in

this and previous positions, and thank my fellow officers and the wider membership for all their help and support in the many challenges we have encountered along the way.

I also give my best wishes to my successor and hope they enjoy the job as much as I have.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas, a good New Year, and hope 2023 is kind to everyone.



Membership matters (Scotland)

Membership Secretary Michael Kirby (details at the bottom of this page) is the man to contact about any alterations to be made to your personal data held on the Scotland Branch section of the

CSPA database - change of address, email or telephone number etc - or for any other membership matter you need help with.





Glad tidings: Christmas lunch open to all

This festive gathering will be held on Thursday 1 December from 12 noon at the Pipers' Tryst restaurant, part of the National Piping Centre, at 30-34 McPhater Street, Glasgow G4 OHW.

We are delighted to announce that this will be open to any Scotland Branch member, regardless of where you live.

Michael Kirby will be able to give you details about the three-course menu when you contact him to book your place, so that you can make your choices in advance.

You can of course decide what you would like to eat from the menu on the day.

The cost to CSPA members is £20 per head – the overall cost is higher, but the balance will be paid from Group funds.

Members who could not join the Group meeting on 3 November but wish to attend the Christmas lunch, please contact Michael Kirby as soon as possible to book.

We look forward to seeing you there in December.

We look forward to seeing you at the Pipers' Tryst on 1 December

Group update: Glasgow & District

Members held their first meeting following the summer recess on Thursday 1 September at the Renfield Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow, with the final meeting for 2022 taking place on 3 November.

We hope those members enjoyed the visit from the Glasgow Royal Hospital for Children (pictured) and were able to purchase Christmas cards and gifts not available on the high street to help support their cause.

The next Group meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 2 February 2023. This will be a very important meeting as plans for the coming year will be discussed and agreed. We hope as many members as possible will attend.

In the meantime, we wish all of our members a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Please contact either Michael Kirby, Group Chair, or Cherry Dolan, Group Secretary, for any further information (contact details are in the Autumn issue of *The Pensioner* magazine). Members who wish to attend a meeting virtually, please contact Michael.



ALL NEW

Scotland Branch website

The new Scotland Branch website went live on 24 October. Branch officers have been in regular contact with Nicola Crichton, CSPA Policy, Projects and Campaigns Manager, at head office to ensure the new website meets the needs of Branch members.

Weekly Zoom meetings have been held over the summer and autumn, and suggestions put forward by Branch officers have

been incorporated into the website construction.

It includes a link to the CSPA's national site, which will enable non-members to join the CSPA.

The new website has been created to present a more corporate image, with the Scotland Branch website now identical to the national one.

The technology available will also make it easier for the Branch Membership Secretary to update

the website with the latest news and items relevant to Scotland.

We hope you like it and I encourage everyone to have a look and see what you think. It is easy to navigate and there is a facility to provide feedback.

To access the website, just enter www.cspascotland.org.uk in your browser to get to the home page.

Michael Kirby, Membership Secretary and Branch Webmaster



Vacancy: Scotland Branch Chair

This very important position becomes vacant at the Branch AGM in March next year.

Should any member wish to apply for the post, please email the Branch Administrator at

Christine.McGiveron@cspa.co.uk supported by a short profile.

A job description will be issued on request.

The closing date for applications is 30 January 2023.



National AGM at Kenilworth

The CSPA Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 October.

At the event, Scotland Branch was represented by Christine McGiveron and Cherry Dolan, Branch representatives on the Executive Council (EC); Michael Kirby (delegate); and Wilson MacDonald (sponsored representative).

The AGM was formally opened by the Mayor of Kenilworth, Samantha Cooke, who spoke briefly about her role in local community involvement and projects.

Linda Ridgers-Waite chaired the

meeting in the absence of Don Makepeace, due to illness. She is the first woman to have chaired an AGM in the CSPA's history. She spoke of the effects of the pandemic on the CSPA, and the work ahead to reshape our organisation, starting with the debates at this meeting.

National Treasurer Mike Sparham explained the latest developments on CSPA finances, presenting the 2021 financial report and outlining what needs to happen for the future.

Nicola Crichton, Policy, Projects and Campaigns Manager, together with communications consultancy

HMS16, gave an overview of the new CSPA website and when it will go live. The site appears to be very user-friendly and it is hoped members will be able to interact and engage with it much more easily.

The AGM debated and passed 15 motions amending the CSPA's constitution. Scotland Branch will consider our constitution in light of this and bring any amendments to the Branch AGM in March 2023.

The day ended with talks and presentations by the Charity for Civil Servants and on GDPR by Affinity Resolutions.

Thursday morning opened with a presentation by Mike Lawler, Secretary (Organisation), on the current state of the organisation and the way forward.

The day continued with debate on many topics, covered by 28 different motions. Most were carried by the AGM, with a couple being remitted to the EC for consideration.

Scotland Branch seconded two motions submitted by Northern Ireland Branch, which were among those carried.

A full report of all the motions will be included in the Winter edition of *The Pensioner* magazine.

Pictured l-r: AGM representatives Christine McGiveron, Michael Kirby, Cherry Dolan and Wilson MacDonald



SP Energy Networks Priority Services Register

In the event of a power cut, our teams work around the clock to restore your electricity as quickly as possible.

To enquire about being placed on this register – phone 0330 1010 167

Any feedback regarding this newsletter would be very much appreciated.



Remember: do not leave *The Pensioner* magazine in doctors' or dentists' surgeries or any public places as it contains names and addresses of Alliance officers.

The CSPA is committed to ensuring that your information and privacy are protected.