



Guildford & District Group

News Spring 2016

This newsletter is being sent to all 700 or so members known to us as belonging to the Civil Service Pensioners Association (CSPA) Guildford & District area.

The distribution of this newsletter is by courtesy of the National CSPA.

Who are we and what do we do?

For many years now, Guildford and District branch of CSPA has provided a meeting point for retired civil servants and their spouses. As also noted in the recent *Pensioner*, up to date details of our programme and planned events are on our website which can be found from the link with CSPA HQ/groups or direct at www.guildfordcspa.btck.co.uk. There is also a map showing how to get to our meeting place. Newcomers are assured of a warm welcome. The current committee of Guildford & District is listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

This year's programme

Details of the 2016 programme of meetings are shown on the back page of this newsletter. As you can see, except for May when we are meeting at the Guildford Fire HQ Ladymead, and June, when we have an outing- this year to RNLi Poole - the Guildford and District group meet from 2pm until 4pm on the first Tuesday in the month at the United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road, Guildford, GU2 4BS. Tea or coffee and biscuits

are served and all pensioners and their partners or friends are always welcome. At most meetings we start with CSPA business and items of local and national interest, followed by a speaker, very often with slides or films, the intention being to provide information and entertainment. These meetings have been well received by those attending, and many of the attendees are of long standing and look forward to these monthly get-togethers.

Proposed changes to 2016-17

We are having our 2016 AGM at 2pm on 5 April. The AGM is, for the group, the most important meeting of the year; the occasion when changes to the rules may be approved, elections held and motions prepared for presentation at the National Annual General Meeting in October.

The AGM gives us the opportunity of reviewing the working of the group and what changes might be worth considering for 2016-17, both locally and nationally.

The purpose of this newsletter is to ask for your help in these discussions.

Pub lunches/ visits/trips

Pub lunches have been a feature of Guildford & District CSPA activity in recent years, and we are beginning this year with a visit to the Refectory, Milford on Thursday 19 May.

All members, whether active or not, are invited to come and meet the other members of the group. Friends of members will also be very welcome. Please let Jenny Girdler know if you are interested, so we can have an idea of the numbers likely to attend.

We are intending this to be the first of a number of regular such lunches round the District, perhaps quarterly. One idea is possibly to link future lunches with a visit to a nearby place of interest, of which there are a large number in Surrey.

Visits to the New Victoria Theatre in Woking are also being arranged this year. Shows in prospect are The Bodyguard (The Musical) in March, Guys & Dolls in July and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in November. Being a group we can arrange tickets for events like this at a competitive price.

We are also hoping to arrange short trips and possibly a holiday in 2017; and we would be interested in establishing links with other groups active in this area, as it is much easier to arrange these things when there is a sufficient quorum. On occasion CSPA members get to hear about interesting trips organized by other groups and organizations, normally too late to do anything about it. It would be nice if we could establish links with other groups in area, perhaps publishing details of their trips on our website in a more systematic way than is possible at the moment.

Venues for the regular monthly meetings

We have often been asked why Guildford has been chosen for our regular monthly meetings. The short answer is that that is where most of the membership seems to be - of the 700 members known to us, about 550 have a GU postcode (admittedly across quite a wide area geographically) and the remaining 150 a KT one.

We are quite happy to consider other venues - indeed, as noted above, one of the meetings this year - in May - is at Guildford Fire Station. But we would be interested to have ideas of other venues which might be worth considering. It would have to be somewhere accessible by public transport as many of our current members come by bus or train. Suggestions would be very welcome.

We would be grateful for any thoughts you may have on these suggestions or indeed any other issues you might like to raise. It would help enormously if we could have these before the 5 April AGM.

Who's who in Guildford & District CSPA.

Chairman:

Vacant

Deputy Chairman:

Mrs B Pavne barbara.pavne@fsmail.net

Tel : 01483 538794

Secretary:

Mrs Jennv Girdler jgirdler@gotadsl.co.uk

68F Crockford Park Road ADDLESTONE Surrey KT15 2LU

Tel: 01932 848152

Treasurer:

Mr Rob Allen rob@allenonline.me.uk

9 Balmoral House, Whittle House,

Ash Vale ALDERSHOT GU12 5SX

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Webmaster:

Mr B Avery

Tel: 01483 560988

Programme Secretary

Miss Margaret Heath

Tel: 01932 343030

Membership Secretary

Mr Mike Barker m.barker368@btinternet.com

16 Peatmore Avenue, WOKING Surrey GU22 8TG

Tel 01932 341436

Age Concern Surrey

Dr M Ntuk-Idem

We are keen to meet as many Guildford & District members as we can and we are very much open to suggestions as to how best to organize things for the benefit of members

Any comments can be sent to either Jenny Girdler or Mike Barker (at the addresses shown in the box on page 3), by phone post or e-mail.

Remember: standing orders need cancelling!

A number of members are still paying subscriptions to Guildford & District CSPA though these payments should have

ceased last April, when the system of regular annual payments was abolished. Please check if you are one of these members and if so please cancel your standing order. We cannot refund money paid to us in this way. NB: Payments to National CSPA are not affected by this. Finally, there is the invitation to come on the trip to RNLI Poole on Tuesday 7 June 2016; members and friends are very welcome. Please let us know by 5 April if you are interested as we need to get the right size coach and sort out any additional picking up points required. We will do our best to accept applications after 5 April, if we can.

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RNLI Poole, Tuesday 7 June 2016: visit and Tour

To join the coach party please return this form with your remittance **by Tuesday 5 April 2016** to:

Margaret Heath, 2 Keston Avenue, New Haw, ADDLESTONE, KT15 3EE, Tel: 01932 343030

Estimated cost*: £31 per person including RNLI tour

Cheques should be made payable to "**CSPA Guildford & District Group**".

NAME(S)

ADDRESS(ES)

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POSTCODE(S)

Tel (in case of query)

NAME(S)

ADDRESS(ES)

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POSTCODE(S)

Tel (in case of query)

Pick-up (times to be confirmed):

New Haw Farleigh Road/Woodham Lane bus stop	9.30am	No of people
West Byfleet (Train Station Bus Stop)	9.40am	No. of people
Guildford Spectrum	10.15 am	No. of people

Please contact Margaret Heath if you are interested in a different pick-up point on the route or if you have other queries.

****The cost may be subject to a marginal adjustment, to be made on the coach***

**CSPA Guildford & District
2016 Programme : Jan-June**

Jan 5 Mrs Janet Matthews-Guildford Cathedral
Feb 2 Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance
Mar 1 Ms Lisa Ray-Assistant General Secretary Civil Service Pensioners Alliance

Apr 5 Group Annual General Meeting

May 3 Mr Andrew Treasure - Guildford Fire Station HQ; meeting at Ladymead
Jun 7 Summer Outing - RNLI HQ Poole Dorset

**CSPA Guildford & District
2016 Programme : July-Dec**

Jul 5 Mr Matt Cusack - Hindhead Past & Present
Aug 2 Mr Dan Allen-the Pig War
Sep 6 Mr Mark Warner - the Sailors' Society
Oct 6 Members Afternoon
Nov 3 Mr Geoffrey Lunn - My Friend Jane
Dec 13 Christmas Lunch (venue to be confirmed)

Note: An admission fee is charged for the monthly meetings

How To Find Our Venue: The United Reformed Church Guildford

On Foot

From Guildford Town Centre the Church is close to the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre. Take the footpath over the river Wey, past the Borough Council entrance and then continue up Porridge Pot Alley. At the top bear left and immediately cross the road into Millmead Terrace. From this corner you can see the Church.

By Car

Coming from the south on the A3 take the exit toward Park Barn/Onslow Village University. From the A31 take the B3000 (*bear right onto Farnham Road*). Follow the B3000 to its junction with the A3100. Take first left to City Centre (A3100). The Church is about a mile or so towards Guildford on the right just after the pedestrian crossing.

From the North leave the A3 at the Stoke Road junction, follow the A320 Stoke Road over the A25, then after a J4 mile right at the traffic lights onto A246 York Road then follow the signs for A3100 to Godalming. The church is up on the hill on the left just before you meet the second pedestrian crossing.

By Bus

Members living south of Guildford may wish to use the Park and Ride facility at Artington - the 200 bus stops right outside the church, as do most of the services along the Portsmouth Road.

By Train

From Guildford train station (main exit) turn right, cross the pedestrian crossing heading for St Nicholas Church (not the Shops). Carry on up the hill to Godalming. The Church is 300 yards up from St Nicholas Church.