

This newsletter is being sent to all 700 or so members belonging to the Civil Service Pensioners Association (CSPA) Guildford & District area. The distribution of this newsletter is by courtesy of the National CSPA.

New Year Greetings from the Chairman
Dorothy Flower

Having taken over as Chairman of the Group at the AGM last year, I should like to pass on my best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2017. So far the winter weather has been relatively kind to us and I hope that this continues to be the case in the early part of 2017.

You will find in this newsletter our programme of activities for the coming year and I hope that we shall see you at our monthly social events during the coming months. We always look forward to welcoming new members and hope that we can increase the numbers coming along to our social events.

We have some interesting speakers arranged, and look forward to a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and always have a small raffle to provide further entertainment on the day.

It has been a pleasure to act as your Chairman during the last few months and I enjoyed very much attending my first AGM Conference as Group Delegate at Coventry in October. You

will no doubt, have seen the report of that which accompanied the recent edition of The Pensioner.

Guildford and District website

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. For those members not having access to the Internet, we offer to provide paper copies of our local group material on payment of a £3 annual fee. Please speak to the membership secretary Mike Barker (contact details page 2) about this.

This year's programme

For ease of reference, details of the 2017 programme of meetings are shown on the back page of this newsletter. As you can see, this year's annual outing will be to Chartwell in June. A form for this outing is attached. The cost includes entry to the house and gardens.

Meeting arrangements

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. Newcomers are assured of a warm welcome.

Spring Annual General Meeting

We are having our usual AGM at 2pm on 4 April 2017. 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 2017-18, both locally and nationally. We would very much welcome your input to these discussions.

Pub lunches/visits/trips

Pub lunches have been a feature of Guildford & District CSPA activity in recent years, and we are hoping to continue to arrange these as time permits. Friends of members will also be very welcome. Please let Jenny Girdler know if you might be interested, so we can have an idea of the numbers who might come.

We are hoping also to arrange visits to the New Victoria Theatre in Woking. We are currently looking through this year's theatre programme to see what might be of most interest to members. Being a group we can arrange tickets for events like this at a competitive price, provided they are booked and paid for a month or two beforehand.

We are also hoping to arrange some outings 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.

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.

Who's who in Guildford & District CSPA.

Chairman:

Mrs Dorothy Flower Tel: 01483 722346

Deputy Chairman:

Mrs Barbara Payne barbara.payne@fsmail.net
Tel : 01483 538794

Secretary:

Mrs Jenny Girdler jgirdler@btinternet.com
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
Tel: 01252 334726

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

Any comments or suggestions can be sent to either Jenny Girdler or Mike Barker by phone post or e-mail.

Social Report: Margaret Heath

During the past year we have had a number of interesting speakers and subjects. At the AGM we were very pleased to welcome Lisa Ray, now Assistant General Secretary, who gave us an overview of the work of the National Committee and their plans for the future.

One of our more unusual meetings was held at the newly built HQ of the Guildford Fire Service. This included a very informative talk and a tour of the buildings and teaching facilities, plus a demonstration of some of the Fire Station appliances and what they are capable of : all most impressive, and a good day out.

Among other interesting talks were the history of Hindhead before and after the building of the new tunnel, and the work of the Sailors Society and the Kent /Surrey Air ambulance.

Summer outing: Our 2016 outing was to the RNLI's new HQ building in Poole. After a short introduction to the work of the centre we were given a conducted tour which showed the thoroughness of the training, which is really quite demanding. For many of us a highlight was the session in the virtual reality room used to train students on how to handle "real life" situations .

Annual outing: June 2017

Please let us know by 4 April if you are interested in the **Chartwell** outing. A mobility bus will be available on site. We will do our best to accept applications after 4 April, if we can. Queries should be directed to Margaret Heath or Mike Barker.

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Chartwell visit, Tuesday 6 June 2017

To join the coach party please return this form with your remittance
by Tuesday 4 April 2017 to:

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

Estimated cost*: £33 per person (£21 for National Trust members who bring their cards with them) including entry to the gardens and (at 1.30/1.40pm depending on numbers) the house

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

NAME(S)

ADDRESS(ES)

POSTCODE(S)

Tel (in case of query)

Bus Stop pick-ups (to be confirmed - please contact Margaret to confirm nearer the time):

New Haw : Woodham Lane /Farleigh Road 9.15am No of people

West Byfleet: Train Station 9.30am No. of people

Guildford : Spectrum 10.00 am No. of people

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

Please indicate if a NT member: YES/NO

**CSPA Guildford & District
2017 Programme : Jan-June
Meetings generally 1st Tuesday in month**

Jan 10 Mr Clive Kirk
Art Nouveau

Feb 7 Ms Sheila Darzi
Travels in Sri Lanka

Mar 7 Mr Ralph Groves – *Deputy
General Secretary , Civil Service
Pensioners Alliance*

April 4 Group Annual General Meeting

May 2 Mr Richard Snailham
Travels down Bolivian rivers

**CSPA Guildford & District
2017 Programme : July-Dec**

6 June Summer outing to Chartwell

Jul 4 *Guide Dogs for the Blind*

Aug 1 Mrs Janet Matthews
Guildford Cathedral at 50

Sep 5 Mrs Kim Lowe
The Life of Brookwood Cemetery

Oct 3 Members Afternoon

Nov 7 Mr Mike Grimshaw
Wildlife of Zimbabwe

Dec 12 Christmas Lunch

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 ½ 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.