

Guildford & District Group News

Spring 2018

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

New Year Greetings from the Chairman ***Dorothy Flower***

Another year has passed and I send you all my best wishes for a happy and healthy 2018. Hopefully spring is on its way and I do hope you have not suffered too badly from the recent unseasonably wintry weather.

Once again, may I extend a warm welcome to our regular monthly meetings and we hope we shall see a few more new members to swell our numbers this year. We always look forward to welcoming new members to our meetings.

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.

Obituary for Barbara Payne

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of Barbara Payne on 14 February after a lengthy battle with cancer. Barbara had been our Deputy Chairman in recent years but her active involvement and participation in the group spans some 20 years or so.

Barbara very hospitably hosted the committee meetings in her home in Guildford for many years until this became too onerous for her. Over the years she has held the post of Chairman and for a short time became the Group's temporary Secretary, fulfilling both posts at the same time!

She was a person of many talents and has led an interesting and active life. All her life she loved to travel to other countries, continuing to do so as much as possible throughout her final illness. Barbara will be sorely missed by all who knew her. Her funeral was held at Woking on 14 March and several of the committee were in attendance along with members of her family and her many friends, to celebrate a life both well lived and well loved.

Meeting arrangements

Guildford and District group meet from 2pm until 4pm on the first Tuesday in the month at the United Reformed Church, 83 Portsmouth Road, Guildford, GU2 4BS. Tea or coffee and

biscuits are served and all pensioners and their partners or friends are always welcome.

Meetings include discussion of CSPA business and items of local and national interest, plus a presentation 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 3 April 2018. 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 2018-19, both locally and nationally. We would very much welcome your input to these discussions.

As last year we are hoping to arrange some outings in 2018; 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. 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 please to welcome Ralph Groves, Deputy General Secretary, who gave us information on developments work of the National Committee. (*contd overleaf*)

Who's who in Guildford & District CSPA 2018

Chairman:

Mrs Dorothy Flower Tel: 01483 722346

Deputy Chairman:

Mrs Ruth Burridge
Tel : 01428 654961

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 Brian 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

Social Report (continued)

We had a number of quite interesting and wide ranging presentations at the Group in 2017, including "Travels in Sri Lanka", "Travels Down the Bolivian Rivers" and "the Wildlife of Zimbabwe", which were especially well received by attendees.

Summer outing 2017

The June trip this year was to Chartwell House and Gardens, The start of the trip was delayed by one of the worst rainstorms in 2017 and certainly one of the worst traffic snarl-ups seen in Byfleet in recent years. Despite these initial problems the trip to view the house and gardens at Chartwell were much enjoyed by those able to come.

There are two events planned for 2018:

(i) Summer outing in June

We have planned a day trip on 5 June to the Leckford Estate and Longstock Park Water Garden in Hampshire. Pick up points are shown on the form below - other pick up points may be available if they are on the coach route. If you are interested, please complete the form below and send it to Margaret Heath by 28 April. Any queries should be addressed to Margaret. Payment is by cheque only please.

(ii) Anniversary Tea Party August

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the CSPA Guildford and District Group we are organizing a Tea Party to be held at the Masonic Centre in Guildford. Further information will be available nearer the time, but if you are interested please let us know either by noting on the form or contacting Margaret direct.

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Visit to Leckford Estate and Longstock Park Water Garden , Tuesday 5 June 2018

To join the coach party please return this form with your remittance cheque
by Friday, 20 April 2018 to:

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

Estimated cost*: £30 per person including entry to the Water Garden
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 (please contact Margaret to confirm nearer the time):

<u>New Haw</u> : Woodham Lane /Farleigh Road	9.30am	No of people
<u>West Byfleet</u> : Bus stop Station Approach	9.45am	No. of people
<u>Guildford</u> : Spectrum	10.15am	No. of people

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

I am interested in coming to the Tea Party in August YES/NO

2018

**CSPA Guildford & District
2018 Programme : Jan-June
Meetings generally 1st Tuesday in month**

Jan 9 Mr James Burns
Help for Heroes

Feb 6 Ms Diana Roberts
This Year's Events in Surrey

Mar 6 Mr Don Makepiece –
*Vice Chairman , Civil Service
Pensioners Alliance*

April 3 Group Annual General Meeting

May 1 Mr Richard Snailham
The Silk Route to China by Rail

**CSPA Guildford & District
2018 Programme : July-Dec**

Jun 5 Summer outing to Leckford Estate

Jul 3 Mr Rob Mackintosh-
The History of Army Medicine

Aug 7 Anniversary Tea Party

Sep 5 Mr David Rose
The Railways of Surrey

Oct 2 60th Anniversary Celebration

Nov 6 Professor Alan Aylward
The Woodland Trust

Dec 4 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.