

**From Group
Chairman, Brian
Robertson**



Dear Colleagues,

I welcome the chance to reach out to more of our members via the web. Our excellent website manager Jim Foreman tells me that since the site went live a few months ago the hit rate has been increasing; last month there were 680 hits, which is encouraging.

The Alliance AGM in Coventry on 7/8 October thoroughly debated issues concerning us pensioners – including health, transport, taxation, energy, benefits and care homes. A full report will be published in the December Pensioner magazine, Issue 239.

With a General Election only 6 months away, the Alliance begins its campaign with a series of regional meetings to ascertain members' views. The South-West region's will be at the Redcliffe Hotel, Paignton, on 20 November, chaired by General Secretary, Mike Duggan. Contact Sheila Tutty or myself if you are burning to air your views about the Election and Alliance policy, come to our 17 November General Meeting in Bath, comment through the Blog pages of our website, or email/write to the Editor of the *Pensioner*.

Report back from the CSPA National AGM on 7-8th October 2009 by Ros Kedge

Ray and Sylvia Cliffe very kindly picked me up outside our local shop at 9am for the journey to the Royal Court Hotel at Keresley, near Coventry. They hadn't been before but amazingly found the hotel following instructions given by their daughter Andria. On arrival at the hotel, Sheila Tutty told us where to sign in and I found my way to my bedroom. Then I came down for the buffet lunch before the meeting at 2pm.

The meeting was opened by the Mayor of Coventry who told us his name was Jack and that Coventry was twinned by 26 places in the World so he was kept busy. The Chairman welcomed the new delegates, Tellers and Scrutineers and introduced the Executive Council. Every 3 years the Constitution is amended and unfortunately this happened this year so the delegates had to pass each amendment. Then we had various motions ranging from increasing our subscriptions to increasing the State Pensions and raising the Christmas bonus etc etc. The Wednesday meeting ended at 5pm and we were free until our dinner at 8pm. The meal was free including the wine and as the people at our table preferred white wine, some of the men went around to other tables swapping our red wine for white. One man even tried to swap our water for wine. After the meal, some people received their Certificates of Merit, raffle prizes and a prize for the best newsletter which was won by the Crawley Group who just beat the Bristol Group.

On Thursday, in addition to the motions and 3 emergency motions, we had speakers – Laura Blake from CONNECT; Merrick Willis, Chief Executive of The Civil Service Benevolent Fund and Angela Eagle, the Minister for Pensions. The Minister for Pensions said there were a number of plans for the future that would improve life for pensioners even though we were living in an ageing society. We would only have to work 30 years* for a full State Pension; pensions would be re-linked to earnings and there would be credits for people who spent time as carers. Civil Servants would not be attacked for their accrued pensions and benefits. During the afternoon meeting, Christine Alderson, the Treasurer, sat at a table giving people cheques for their expenses. The meeting finished at 3pm and Ray and Sylvia very kindly took me home to arrive at about 5.30pm. *(Figure to be clarified)



**Letters and Articles required for the
next Issue. Please send to the
Editor.**

Group Chairman: Brian Robertson, 3 Glencairn Court, Pulteney Rd, Bath BA2 4HB. T:01225 313813

Editor: Jim Foreman, 10 West Ave., Bath BA2 3QE. T: 07812373649; email: jim.foreman@mypostoffice.co.uk

Group website: <http://www.bathdistrictcspa.com>

Out and About With Don Percy

Sirius Wood and Twerton Roundhill

Sirius Wood adjacent to Culverhay School in Rush Hill was laid out to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Other woodlands were also planted at other locations around Britain, each named after one of the Royal Navy Ships involved in the battle. HMS Sirius was a frigate from which apparently the French and Spanish Fleets were first sighted. In Bath, land for the wood was generously donated and 2000 trees, including oak, have been planted. Our group made a donation for trees and we were represented at the inaugural planting ceremony. The Senior Naval Officer Bath was present with a descendant of Horatio Nelson and a French representative.

It is possible to walk through the woodland on each side of a driveway leading to a private house. If driving to the site, parking facilities are not available, but many people for various reasons park in Englishcombe Lane, a short walk away. Using public transport, bus no. 10 from the bus station can be stopped in Englishcombe Lane just around the corner from Mount Road.

From Sirius Wood, it is a short walk (quarter mile) along Whiteway Road to Twerton Roundhill opposite the former Jubilee Inn. One can walk along the footpath to Mount Road viewing the scenery all around. Better still, if able (the writer now finds more effort needed than in previous years), climb Roundhill by the grassy footpath and look all around. Facing South, Englishcombe and Duchy of Cornwall land to Priston; South West to West, Newton St Loe and on a clear day, much of Bristol including the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Clearer still are views to the Welsh Mountains as far as Sugar Loaf near Abergavenny. North West to North, Kelston Hill, Beckford's Tower and Lansdown. North East to East, Bannerdown, Box Hill, Bathampton Down, Claverton Down, Combe Down, Odd Down and Rush Hill.

To conclude, retrace steps and turn right for Whiteway Garden centre (refreshments available during normal business hours) but great care needs to be exercised in crossing the road. Better still, walk down the north side of the hill facing St Barnabas Church, turn right and cross Mount Road at a pedestrian refuge for Roundhill bus stop.



Sirius Wood

Programme of Events

17 November

Ray Cliffe will give a reading of his poems

8 December

Christmas Lunch at George and Dragon

19 January

Brian Robertson talk and photos on Peru

16 February

Talk by Barry Pearce of "Lansdown Place" on individual finance planning. "Lansdown Place" is a nationally available firm of Independent Financial Advisors based in Bristol.