



## **BATH & DISTRICT GROUP – AGM 15 MARCH 2011**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 15 FEBRUARY 2011**

- 1. 11 Committee business meetings were held during the year with many subjects discussed for further discussion with members at the open meetings.**
  
- 2. The Group AGM was held on Tuesday 16 March 2010 when we welcomed Jim Dunlop, CSPA Chairman, as our guest speaker. Jim covered the wide range of topics being pursued by the CSPA; he also answered a variety of members' questions.**
  
- 3. Existing officers and committee members were re-elected, with one vacancy. However, in November we were pleased to co-opt Julian Hardenberg to the committee to fill this position.**
  
- 4. Except for July and August when we have a summer recess, we have continued to hold our monthly members' meetings in the Argyll Room, Central United Reformed Church, Grove Street, Bath. We have enjoyed a full and varied programme of speakers with slide shows thanks to Brian, our chairman. Recent topics have included Jury Service (Jim Foreman), A Farmer's Wife (Mrs. Denise Plummer) and Research into Alzheimer's (Mrs. Gina Caddick).**
  
- 5. The South West Region Intergoup Meeting was held at Paignton in June, Alf Riley attending as delegate. CSPA General Secretary Mike Duggan was Guest Speaker, his presentation covering 3 main areas:**
  - Defence of Public Sector Pensions**
  - Coalition Government Future Pensions Commission**
  - Health of the Alliance – Membership and Finance**

**6. Mike then gave a re-cap of events and changes since the outcome of the General Election in May, and how that will affect the CSPA and its members.**

**7. The 58<sup>th</sup> CSPA Annual General Meeting was held at Coventry in October, with Alf Riley and Edgar Fillis representing the Bath & District Group. A very comprehensive article summarising the event's activities and discussions was written by Alf and published in our December newsletter.**

**8. In December, members enjoyed a Group Christmas Lunch, held again at The George & Dragon, Batheaston, a popular choice of venue in recent years. Comments received included good company, food and service first rate.**

**9. Following the General Election, the announcement from Government to change the index linking arrangements for Pensions and Benefits caused general disquiet. Immediately, a considerable amount of information began to filter through from HQ. Along with many other groups, Bath & District took up the Alliance's concerns to write in protest about the proposed switch from RPI to the lesser CPI for the indexation of our pensions.**

**10. We have 5 constituency Members of Parliament in our Group area, and we as a committee sent all 5 protest letters about the change on behalf of members. Individual members were encouraged to write to their own local MP. Copies of letters sent, including replies, have been given to the Secretary to be included with the Committee letters for Mike Duggan, who is keeping a comparison file.**

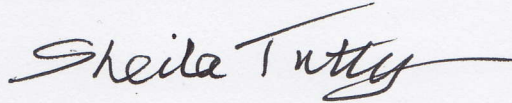
**11. In all, approximately 23 letters were sent to our MPs; at present we are awaiting a response from the Pensions Minister Steve Webb, MP and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander MP.**

**12. John Amos is speaking at this year's AGM. I am sure he will be giving an update of the situation.**

**13. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members for their ideas and support throughout the year, not forgetting their sense of humour! A special thank you is due to Brian for his guidance and work on behalf of the committee. Brian will be stepping down as Chairman of the committee after a very successful year at the helm.**

**14. And finally, thanks also to the members who regularly attend our monthly social meetings in Bath, without whose loyalty and support the group would not exist.**

**Sheila Tutty**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Tutty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Group Secretary**