

Retired Members Group RoundUp



Important information for Prospect retired members
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You're not forgotten

THIS **ROUNDUP** is primarily for those Prospect Retired Members who are postal-dependent, and follows the previous RoundUp sent out in October 2024. The RMG's main communication with members is a Retired Members Bulletin sent out by email roughly every alternate month. However, members without an email address known to Prospect are not forgotten. With the kind permission of the National Executive Committee, this publication

- provides a summary of the news you have missed over the past 12 months;
- provides details of Area Annual General Meetings and local contacts;

- encourages you to provide membership@prospect.org.uk with an email address, so that you can receive all the communications from Prospect and the RMG that you should be getting.



Changes in RMG's elected officerships are given in the Annual Delegate Conference report. Also during the year **Mike Macdonald** (left) became Group Secretary,

replacing acting Group Secretary John Ferrett.

2025 RMG Annual Delegate Conference

THE FIRST RMG ADC to be held at Prospect's new Rochester Row HQ took place on 20 February 2025. David Harding chaired it to conclude his five-year term as Group President. Andrew Ruffhead was elected unopposed as the new Group President and Tom James was elected unopposed as the new Group Vice-President. Fran Butler was elected to serve a full term on the Group's Standing Orders Committee. It was left to the National Committee (NC) to appoint a short-term SOC member caused by a premature resignation.

Health problems made it necessary for two members of the SOC to attend remotely. This facility was extended to some observers and NC



■ **Top table, l-r: Andrew Ruffhead and David Harding**

PHOTOS:
PROSPECT/
SIMON CROSBY

members. All delegates attended in person and will be required to do in 2026.

A word about Prospect jargon: the word "Resolution" is used for motions that have been carried.

Rule-changes

Resolutions 15 & 16 keep Areas involved when

Don't miss out! Register your email

With more information being circulated digitally, it is increasingly important to register your email address with us to ensure you receive regular updates.

If you are registered on our website, you can amend your own details at <https://my.prospect.org.uk/login>.

Alternatively, you can phone our member contact centre: **0300 600 1878** or email membership@prospect.org.uk but please include at least three of these personal details to enable identification: full name, date of birth, home postcode, telephone number, membership number.

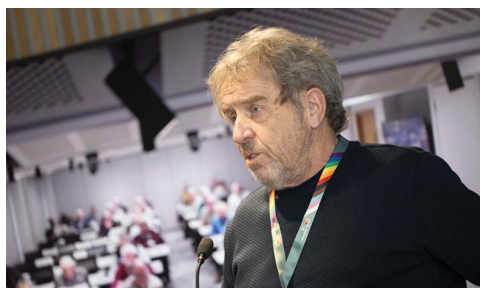


emergencies occur. One allows an Area Meeting to elect a Representative and/or Deputy Rep if the post is unfilled during the year. The other allows the Group Secretary to invite an observer to the ADC if that member's Area has neither an ADC Delegate nor a Representative on the NC. Such an observer would have to give the Area a conference report to qualify for expenses.

Pensions

Resolution 22 from Scotland South instructed the NC to support the "68 is too late"

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■ The new RMG Committee with Arthur Bavister online via Zoom at the back

► continued from page 1

campaign, opposing any further rises in the state pension age. Resolution 23 from Central Southern instructed the NC to pursue Prospect's continued commitment to no means testing of State Pension Benefits.

More on pensions

Resolution 25 from Scotland South criticised poor service levels from MyCSP who administer Civil Service Pensions. The NC subsequently collected data from members affected, and compiled a report for Prospect. Resolution 26 from North East called for members of the British Coal Staff Superannuation Scheme (some of them in Prospect) to be treated the same as members of the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme. Emergency Resolution 1 from South West Midlands expressed concern about possible access to pension funds by the Government for investment purposes. The NC was instructed to engage with the NEC to pursue appropriate safeguards.

Money matters

Composite Resolution 20 from the National Committee & Northern Ireland wanted the NC to press the NEC to



■ Fran Butler – elected to serve RMG Standing Orders Committee



■ Tom James – elected new Group Vice-President

campaign for it to be illegal to refuse to accept Sterling cash in payment for transactions & services. Resolution 29 from East Anglia instructed the NC to press the NEC to try and persuade the Government to reverse the means-testing of the Winter Fuel Allowance.

Organisation matters

Resolution 5 from South West Midlands called for improved management and availability of RMG Rules. Resolution 13 from East Midlands instructed the NC to persuade the NEC that the Prospect website needs a direct link addressing asbestos issues within the Health-and-Safety-at-Work section. Resolution 28 from Southern instructed the NC to give Area Reps/Secretaries the opportunity to check future editions of the Autumn "Round Up" before they are sent to Retired Members.

Respect for pensioners

Resolution 31 from Central Southern expressed anger at the Labour Government's attitude to UK pensioners. It instructed the NEC to try and persuade the NEC to get the TUC to arrange a protest march in support of pensioners.

Treatment of Retired Members at Conference

Resolution 4 from London Central urged the NC to prepare a rule-change motion to improve the scope of the RMG's card vote for the 2026 National Conference. Resolution 7 from East Midlands called for "any form of ageism" to be added to National Conference warnings about unacceptable behaviour. Resolution 8 from Thames Valley called for a bar on "next business" being moved on rule-change motions, both at National Conferences and at RMG ADCs.

Awareness of the RMG

Composite Resolution 11 from CMMDN & South East England acknowledged the need to inform Working Members about the work of the RMG. The NC was instructed to arrange for an RMG stall at future Prospect National Conferences. See p3 'Participation-stimulation'.

Thinking
of returning
to work?



THE DIFFERENCE between subscriptions for Working Members and Retired Members reflects the fact that the latter don't qualify for union help over employment issues. If you are a Retired Member who returns to the world of employment, you should notify Prospect so that you can pay the subscription based on your salary. If you have taken out a life subscription as a Retired Member, that will resume when you become a Retired Member once again.

What about Retired Members doing temporary jobs? They can opt to remain Retired Members, but if they do so they will forego union help with employment problems. The subscription rate for Working Members is modest where remuneration is low.

Obituaries

Members can access the Prospect Obituaries* list at: union.prospect.org.uk/pros-obituary.html

*NB: Login is required.

Participation-stimulation underway!

THE PARTICIPATION-STIMULATION Work Group got under way with online meetings in May, July & September.

Its terms of reference are:

- To use communications to encourage Retired Members to participate actively in the Group.
- To plan & prepare an RMG Stall for future Prospect National Conferences.
- To assist Prospect HQ efforts to promote the Retired Members Group.

To advance the last objective, the PSWG, assisted by Simon Crosby (Prospect Senior Graphic Designer), updated the leaflet *Are you about to retire* (aimed at Working Members nearing retirement).



2026 RMG Annual Delegate Conference

THE 2026 Group ADC is going to be held on Wednesday 28 January at Rochester Row. Hopefully, the Area AGMs will produce a good set of motions, with clear instructions for the NC. They can include motions intended for the 2026 Prospect National Conference in 2025. Alternatively, they can instruct the NC to raise issues with Prospect's NEC (or indeed with other appropriate bodies such as the National Pensioners' Convention).

National Pensioners Convention under threat

THE RMG pursues many pensioner issues through its affiliation to the National Pensioners Convention. The Government retreat on Winter Fuel Payments was partially due to NPC pressure. The NPC's work is important but cannot be taken for granted. Financial difficulties have forced the NPC to become a Company Limited by

Guarantee. That will at least enable the NPC to meet redundancy-pay obligations in the event of insolvency. However, much more needs to be done to enable it to apply for desperately-needed grants. There are also worrying delays in expected income which could affect cash flow in the next few months.



UPCOMING AREA AGMs

IN GENERAL, Retired Members are welcome to attend an AGM in another Area, although only members in that Area may vote.

Where AGM details are incomplete or not yet available, further information should be sent out nearer the event. In all cases, a local point-of-contact is listed.

Where Zoom/Teams joining details are not shown, members with known email addresses should receive them in AGM invitations from their Area.

D309 Scotland North (ZE, KW, IV, AB, PH, DD, FK7 upwards, KY, PA20 upwards): planned for late October. Probably on Teams. Local POC John Taylor, 07949 313281, eljo73@icloud.com

D310 Scotland South (G, KA, ML, EH, TD, DG, FK 1-6, PA1-19): Wednesday 15 October at Festival Business Centre, 150 Brand Street, Govan, Glasgow G51 1DH, commencing at 13:30. (Hybrid) (Lunch available at 13:00.) Short walk from Cessnock subway Station. 9/9a bus service from Buchanan St stops at Percy Street. Parking available (outside Glasgow LEZ). Local POC: Graeme Walker, 07790 739127, southscotrmg@btinternet.com

D311 Wales (SY17-SY25, SA, LD, CF, NP): Friday 07 November at the new Prospect Wales HQ on 2nd Floor, Capital Tower Business Centre, Capital Tower, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff, CF10 3AZ, commencing at 11:00. Guest speaker tbd. (Hybrid) Local POC Graham Clarkson, 07887 952688, grahamclarkson188@btinternet.com

D312 Northern Ireland: Thursday 23 October, at Corr's Corner Hotel, Glengormley, Newtownabbey, assembling at 12:45. Local POC: Peter Hedgcock, 02890 628848, hedgcock241@btinternet.com

D313 North West (CA, LA, BB, PR, FY): Thursday 16 October, at the Royal Station Hotel, Market Street, Camforth, commencing at 10:30. Guest speaker Jez Stewart. Local POC Fran Butler, 07306 367210, fran_butler@blueyonder.co.uk

D314 North East (NE, DH, SR, DL, TS): Thursday 23 October at Priors Hall, Durham Cathedral, commencing 12:30. Local POC Mike Dixon, 07922 471448, dixon4474@gmail.com

D315 Yorkshire (BD, HG, YO, LS, HX, HD, WF, S, DN, HU): Tuesday 11 November at Drax Sports Club, Main Road, Drax, North Yorkshire YO8 8PJ; buffet at 12:00, meeting starts circa 1300. Local POC George Betke, 01977 675501, georgebetke@talktalk.net

D316 Cheshire, Manchester, Merseyside, Deeside, North Shropshire & North Wales (CMMDN) (L, CH, WN, BL, WA, MCW, SK, OL, LL, SY1-SY5, SY10-SY16): Thursday 16 October at the British Waterways Museum (in the new Basuto Suite), Ellesmere Port, Wirral CH65 4FW (Hybrid), commencing 13:00. (Tea and coffee from 12:30.) Local POC John Wright, 07597 366966, jkeithwright@gmail.com

D317 East Anglia (EN, NR, IP, PE, CB, CO, CM, LU, RM, SG, SS, IG, MK except MK18): Wednesday 29 November at the Red Lion Hotel, Whittlesford, Cambridge, commencing at 13:00. Local POC David Mills, 07973 617769, d.n.mills.69@gmail.com

D318 East Midlands (NG, LN, LE, NN, DE, CV): Thursday 30 October at Lutterworth Office, 4 Central Park, Lutterworth LE17 4PN, starting at 11:00 (Hybrid). Local POC Tom Smyth, 01476 400504, smyth.tom004@gmail.com

D319 West Midlands (ST, TF, WV, WS, DY, B, WR, HR, SY6-SY9): Tuesday 14 October at Fernhill Heath War Memorial Hall, 73 Droitwich Rd, Fernhill Heath, Worcester WR3 8RJ, commencing at 11:00. Local POC Tim King, 07511 899872, tking999888@gmail.com

D320 South West Midlands (GL, OX, MK18): 04 November at "Inn for All Seasons", Little Barrington, Burford OX18 4TN, starting at 13:30. Local POC Steve Phillips, 07894 084894, steve_h_phillips@yahoo.co.uk

D321 Central Southern (PO, SO): Tuesday 04 November at the Maritime Club, 75-80 Queens Street, Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 3HS, starting at 10:30 for 11:00. Local POC David Robinson, 07484 279060, gosportdave5@gmail.com

D323 London Central (HA, UB, NW, WC, WD, TW, SW, KT, SM, W, N, E, EC, SE, CR, BR): Tuesday 04 November at 100 Rochester Row, starting at 11:00. (Hybrid) Local POC: Ireen Goulding, 07939 201857, ireen.goulding@gmail.com

D324 Thames Valley (AL, HP, RG, SL, GU): Wednesday 05 November at the Reading International Solidarity Centre, 35-39 London Street, Reading Postcode RG14 PS starting at 10:30. Tea and coffee will be available from 10:00. Guest Speaker: David Luxton, Deputy General Secretary, CSPA. Local POC: Arthur Bavister, 01635 46947, a.bavister@btinternet.com

D325 South East England (BN, TN, CT, DA, ME, RH): Thursday 16 October at the Angel Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SF, starting at 11:00. Guest Speaker John Ferrett. Local POC Stephen Blunden, 07377 526946, sljblunden@outlook.com

D326 Avon Valley (BS, SN, BA, SP): Friday 28 November via Zoom/Teams, commencing at 11:00. Local POC Julian Hayhurst, 07812 492595, jhayhurst11@icloud.com

D327 Southern (TA, DT, BH): Thursday 23 October at Lyme Regis Guildhall Council Chamber, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis, commencing at 11:00 (Hybrid). (Parking advice: Lyme's shorter-term car parks have a maximum stay of 3 hours.) Guest speaker: Prospect FTO Ben Middleton (if he's free). Local POC Adrian Francis, 01278 428376, prospect.rmg.southern@gmail.com

D328 South West (TR, PL, EX, TQ): Wednesday 12 November at the Falstaff Inn, 75 Clittaford Road, Southway, Plymouth PL6 6DT, commencing at 14:00. Local POC Steve Barber, 07977 932892, steve.barber@btinternet.com