

BTPF (DERBY & DISTRICT BRANCH)

NEWSLETTER 77

SEPTEMBER/DECEMBER 2023



Chairman – Clive Wilding 17 Lothlorien Close, Littleover, Derby DE23 2RY (01332 761953)

Secretary – Keith Greatorex 52 Royal Hill Road, Spondon, Derby DE21 7AG (01332 663419)

e-mail address keithgreatorex@ntlworld.com

Treasurer – John Weaver 33 Leighton Way, Belper, Derbyshire. DE56 1SX

Branch Matters- at the Branch AGM on 30th March 2023, no nominations had been received prior to the meeting for the election of Officers and new blood on the Committee and the following agreed to continue – Clive Wilding, John Weaver and Keith Greatorex with the Committee members returned en bloc. With the successful transfer of the Branch Account to Lloyds Bank and members will be able to pay their Annual Subscription by Bank Transfer saving on postage. Bank details are Sort Code 30 99 50. Account Number 37908260. Account Name British Transport Pensioners Federation. With the increasing of 2nd Class postage to 75p there was a need to reduce our costs associated with the issue of our Newsletter. With this in mind any member with an e-mail address who has not advised our Secretary would they please advise. The Pension increase in April was gratefully received and would have helped a little in this current financial climate. Long may the Triple Lock be retained.

Federation Matters- due to his own and his wife's ongoing health issues, John Harrison has stepped down as Federation Chairman and Reg. Sargeant as Vice-Chairman would Chair future meetings with the aid of Vice Presidents where necessary. In accordance with the National Constitution a replacement Chairman is not necessary before the 2024 AGM. The Federation finances are in excellent shape and the income from Fred Olsen has exceeded all expectations and consequently it has been agreed to offer a lump sum payment of £250 to each of the twenty eight affiliated branches of the Federation. Each branch will be able to refuse the payment if they wish. The payments will not be required to be repaid. Each Branch would have to formally accept the £250 by informing the Federation Treasurer with their relevant Branch Bank details. This will be discussed at the September Meeting. BTPF Membership at the end of 2022 had reduced to 4636 down by 8%. The Federation had been advised that the Great Western Association had closed at

the end of March 2023. However, Branches in the Western part of the country continue to exist. **Travel Facilities:** discussion took place on the current proposal to close Booking Offices and the problems this would have on the elderly and disabled. Also noted that Privilege Rate tickets are not available on station machines. It was agreed that the BTPF would make their objection to the proposal through the Consultation process. The **NPC** are also including this in their campaigns along with Social Care, NHS, retention of the Triple Lock and the need for a Minister of Pensions. **Railway Pensions-** as at the end of April 2023, the fund stood at £32.3 billion an increase of 12% this year. Railpen were proposing to urge pensioners to go digital this year, where all issues concerning members individual pension details will be available. An opt-out clause will be included for those not wanting to go digital.

Social Matters- as the nucleus of our active social group are either unfortunately not with us any longer, or inactive, it is difficult to arrange any social activities which require sufficient numbers for viability. This will be discussed at the September meeting.

THE NEXT MEETINGS will be held on 7th SEPTEMBER and 7th DECEMBER both at The Brunswick Inn, Railway Terrace, Derby, at 11.10 hours. The following Agenda will apply to both meetings:-

- 1 Obituaries
- 2 Welcome New Members
- 3 Chairman's Remarks
- 4 Minutes of Last Meeting
- 5 Matters Arising
- 6 Federation Matters
- 7 Treasurer's Report
- 8 Social Matters
- 9 Any Other Business