

Retired Members Group RoundUp



Important information for Prospect retired members
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The past 12 months

Like last year's Autumn **RoundUp**, this is primarily for Prospect's postal-dependent Retired Members. It is to let you know what's been happening in the RMG since last Autumn, as you would not have received the online Retired Members Bulletin. (You can

change that if you register your email; see panel, right.) You can read about the Retired Members' Annual Delegate Conference, RMG participation at the Prospect National Conference, and the forthcoming Area AGMs (which we hope you will attend).

2026 RMG Annual Delegate Conference



OUR ADC was held at Prospect's Rochester Row HQ on 28 January. **Andrew Ruffhead** and **Tom James** were re-elected unopposed as Group President and Group Vice-President, having first been elected in 2025.

General Secretary Mike Clancy spoke about Prospect's continuing growth, bucking the trend of unions losing members. He also spoke of Capita's failure to pay the pensions to members of the Civil Service Pension Scheme, "a damning indictment of outsourcing". Prospect was committed to getting the processes changed to remedy this.

He told us that Prospect's National Executive Committee



■ **Clancy – Prospect continues to buck the trend of unions losing members**

PHOTOS: PROSPECT/
NAOMI BENNETT-
JOHNSON

had listened to the RMG and was proposing a rule change to improve Retired-Member voting rights at the National Conference.

Motions

Unusually, none of the motions passed contained a motion for the Prospect National Conference. However, several instructed the National Committee (NC) to raise issues with Prospect's National Executive Committee. These included steps to:

- counter global warming
- support for the struggling National Pensioners Convention (NPC);
- a review of notification

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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.



arrangements arising from cyber-attacks;

- encouraging Prospect to make more use of Retired Members;
- unfreezing of tax thresholds;
- protecting concessionary travel for pensioners; and
- retention of the £20,000 provision for pensioners contributing to Cash-Only ISA accounts.

A motion noting the ongoing closure of bank branches called for legislation to improve availability of banking hubs. It was remitted to the NC, which decided to

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■ **Andrew Ruffhead** – speaking in support of M57 on RMG card votes



Prospect National Conference 2026

Prospect's 2026 National Conference was held at the Brighton Centre on 6-9 June.

THE RMG was represented by a happy band of 12 delegates: **Andrew Ruffhead, Tom James, John Attree, Arthur Bavister, George Betke, Ireen Goulding, Julian Hayhurst, Tim King, Stan Kordys, Mike Moriarty, Bryan Puxley and Tom Smyth.**

Along with steward **Fran Butler**, we all took turns at manning the RMG stall, the first-ever at a Prospect Conference. (See us gathered around it, p3.)

We made worthwhile contacts and gave away promotional literature



publicising the RMG to Working-Member delegates for them to promote the RMG in their branches and hopefully also encourage them to join the RMG when they retire.

More votes for the RMG

Andrew spoke in support of the

RMG delegates in the Conference hall

NEC's proposed rule change, allowing RMG delegates to participate in card votes on issues that impacted Retired Members as much as Working Members. It was overwhelmingly carried.

Tax thresholds

In line with the resolution passed by our ADC, RMG delegates supported a motion calling for an early unfreezing of tax thresholds. It was narrowly carried, despite the NEC opposing it on the grounds of cost and the extent of Prospect's existing lobbying.

Other Motions

Motions carried more convincingly included increased Heritage and Culture funding,

► **RMG ADC 2026 – continued from p1** campaign for adequate banking/ Post Office facilities by putting a motion to the NPC.

One resolution instructed the NC to ensure that one bulletin a year informs Retired Members about avenues for seeking assistance from Prospect and clarification of the issues that Prospect can assist with.

This RoundUp has insufficient space to reproduce all the information given

in the *Spring Bulletin*.

Members are reminded that on general issues, the Prospect Member Contact Centre can be contacted via **0300 600 1878**. LegalLine (**0808 28 193 28**) enables members to seek free initial legal advice on any non-employment legal issues.

To contact an officer in your Area (about a pensions problem, for example), you should find your Area's POC in the list of Area AGMs.



■ **Above, RMG delegates gathered at their stand in the National Conference exhibition hall, where they all took turns informing working members about the benefits of joining the RMG on retirement**

tackling tax avoidance by multinational corporations, working to defeat the growth of the far right, ending inflation-driven escalation of student debt, and introducing paid leave to care for sick dependants.

The only motions on pensions were about fairness in the pension schemes of future retirees. Naturally, our delegates supported them, and they were overwhelmingly carried.

Defence Emergency Motion

An emergency motion on defence was passed. It instructed the NEC to:

- Campaign for the Government to commit to a level of defence spending which supports the requirements of British defence and trade policy and [for] lobbying for the immediate publication of a fully-funded Defence Investment Plan.
- Campaign for the Government to pursue a closer relationship on defence with our European allies in light of changing relationships with the US.

Equality and diversity

The entire Equality and Diversity section was devoted to six anti-discrimination motions. They were all concerned with transgender and non-binary rights, particularly in the workplace

Five were carried. The exception was the NEC's, which was deemed not sufficiently radical. It wanted employers "to formally adopt a policy wherever practicable of building self-contained gender-neutral toilets and changing facilities" but also called for a balanced approach which respected sex-based rights.

Overseas

Conference passed two motions arising from conflict in the Middle East. One called for a two-way arms embargo with Israel. The other wanted the UK government "to end all of its contracts with companies complicit in occupation and genocide".

The NEC condemned the actions of Israel and the consequences for the people of Gaza, but argued unsuccessfully that the wording of the motions could jeopardise the jobs of Prospect members working in defence if they were adopted as government policy.

NEC policy issues

There were narrow defeats for two motions wanting the NEC to do more consultation on policy issues between biennial conferences. Interestingly, the newly-elected NEC was subsequently given the chance to advise Prospect delegates on contentious motions coming up at the TUC. As a bonus, this gave the RMG's delegates on the NEC a chance to get involved.

Obituaries

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

*NB: Login is required.

PHOTOS: PROSPECT/
NICK LINSDELL



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, 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): Wednesday 30 September at 1100 on Zoom. Local POC John Taylor, 07949 313281, eljo73@icloud.com

D310 Scotland South (G, KA, ML, EH, TD, DG, FK 1-6, PA1-19): Wednesday 14 October on Teams, commencing at 1300. Local POC: Graeme Walker, 07790 739127, southscotrmg@btinternet.com

D311 Wales (SY17-SY25, SA, LD, CF, NP): Friday 06 November at the Prospect Cardiff HQ in Capital Tower Business Centre, Capital Tower, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff, CF10 3AZ, meeting at 1030 for a 1100 start. (Hybrid) Guest speaker: David Luxton (CSPA and former Prospect HQ Officer). Local POC Graham Clarkson, 07887 952688, grahamclarkson188@btinternet.com

D312 Northern Ireland: Wednesday 21 October, at Corr's Corner Hotel, Glengormley, Newtownabbey, BT36 4TQ assembling at 1245 for AGM and lunch. Volunteers are sought for nomination to Area Chair and Area Secretary. Local POC: Peter Hedgcock, 02890 628848, hedgcock241@btinternet.com

D313 North West (CA, LA, BB, PR, FY): Thursday 15 October at the Royal Station Hotel, Market Street, Camforth, commencing at 1030. Local POC Fran Butler, 07306 367210, fran_butler@blueyonder.co.uk

D314 North East (NE, DH, SR, DL, TS): Wednesday 7 October at North East Mining Institute, Neville Street, Newcastle, commencing at 1200. Guest speaker Mike Macdonald. Local POC Mike Dixon, 07922 471448, dixon4474@gmail.com

D315 Yorkshire (BD, HG, YO, LS, HX, HD, WF, S, DN, HU): Tuesday 10 November at Drax Sports Club, Main Road, Drax, North Yorkshire YO8 8PJ commencing at 11.45; buffet lunch provided. Guest speaker Mike Macdonald. Local POC George Betke, 01977 675501, georgebetke@talktalk.net or Brian Clayton, abclayton02@btinternet.com

D316 Cheshire, Manchester, Merseyside, Deeside, North Shropshire & North Wales (CMMDN) (L, CH, WN, BL, WA, MCW, SK, OL, LL, SY1-SY5, SY10-SY16): Thursday 15 October at the British Waterways Museum (in the Basuto Suite), Ellesmere Port, Wirral CH65 4FW (Hybrid), commencing 1300. (Tea and Coffee from 1230.) Guest speaker Group President Andrew Ruffhead. 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 18 November at the Red Lion Hotel, Whittlesford, Cambridge, commencing at 1300. Members usually arrive at 1200 for lunch. Guest speaker: Jessica Norris, Prospect National Secretary for Midlands. Local POC David Mills, 07973 617769, d.n.mills.69@gmail.com

D318 East Midlands (NG, LN, LE, NN, DE, CV): Wednesday 21 October at Coventry Regional Office, 2nd Floor, Bourn Building, 1 Manor House Drive, Coventry CV1 2TG (5 min from railway stn), starting at 1300 (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 03 November. Event starts at 1000 with a visit to HS2 Curzon Street, Birmingham, including a project overview and viewing of the site. The AGM follows at 1200 at the Woodman Pub, Curzon Street, Birmingham. Local POC Tim King, 07511 899872, tking999888@gmail.com

D320 South West Midlands (GL, OX, MK18): Tuesday 10 November at "Inn for All Seasons", Little Barrington, Burford OX18 4TN, starting at 1330. Guest speaker: Lisa Browne, Prospect full time official. Local POC – Jerry Greenhalgh (Area

Chairman), 07769 350441, jerry7g@mail.com

D321 Central Southern (PO, SO): Tuesday 03 November at the Maritime Club, 75-80 Queens Street, Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 3HS, starting at 1030 for 11:00. Local POC David Robinson, 07484 279060, gospordave5@gmail.com

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

D324 Thames Valley (AL, HP, RG, SL, GU): Wednesday 11 November at the Reading International Solidarity Centre, 35-39 London Street, Reading, RG14 PS, starting at 10.30. Tea & coffee will be available from 10.00. Guest Speaker: not yet decided. Local POC: Arthur Bavister, 01635 46947, a.bavister@btinternet.com

D325 South East England (BN, TN, CT, DA, ME, RH): Thursday 15 October at the Angel Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SF, starting at 1100. Guest Speaker Prospect Pensions Officer Neil Walsh (tbc). Local POC Stephen Blunden, 07377 526946, sljblunden@outlook.com

D326 Avon Valley (BS, SN, BA, SP): Friday 27 November via Zoom/Teams, commencing at 1130. Local POC Julian Hayhurst, 07812 492595, jhayhurst11@icloud.com

D327 Southern (TA, DT, BH): Thursday 22 October at Lyme Regis Guildhall Council Chamber, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis, 1030 for a 1100 start (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): Thursday 12 November at the Falstaff Inn, 75 Clittaford Road, Southway, Plymouth PL6 6DT, commencing at 1400. Local POC Paul Danneau, 07877 900364, pauldanneau@sky.com