

ECMWF PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION



February 2024

Dear fellow Pensioners,

As usual here are a few updates on issues that may be relevant to you.

Contact details list

An action from the AGM was for the Committee to look into providing a list of contact details from Pensioners' Association members. We discussed this and decided to produce the list. Because of data protection regulations we have to get permission from those of you who are willing to share their contact details before we can publish a list. Click on this [link](#) to complete a short questionnaire to satisfy this requirement.

Social events information from Madeleine

Despite having emailed the Staff Committee Chair twice and putting an article in the Staff Weekly News, I have not had any success with making contact with current staff regarding the inclusion of pensioners at events organised by current ECMWF staff. Hopefully as events are arranged, we may be contacted and included.

With a view to arranging events for pensioners, I have the following suggestions but would be very grateful to hear from anyone who would like to arrange an event. If you are interested in any of these events, please email social4pa@gmail.com (to avoid flooding the secretary address)

Thursday 29th February @ 12 noon - Coffee @ Park House, University of Reading

(Park House only opens at 12)

Optional walk on Campus and Harris Gardens before/after. If you are unfamiliar with the Campus and would like to meet to walk, please get in touch. Number 21 bus goes through the campus or parking is available (at a cost) at the Sports Centre at the entrance off Shinfield Road. Carpark 1A – RG6 6DJ.

Monday 25th March – Dinton Pastures – 11 am Coffee @ Coffee Deck, Activity Centre

Meet for coffee at the Coffee Deck @ 11am located at the Activity Centre off Sandford Lane (RG10 0SU). Parking available here. Very nice deck overlooking the lakes.

Option to meet at Showcase Cinema, Winnersh @ 10am and walk along the Loddon River to join the lakes at Dinton. This is about a 6km circular walk. Free parking at Showcase.

There are various shorter walks around the lakes at Dinton (loop of the main lake is 3kms). The main car park is at RG10 0TH (£4 I think) – there is a café here too, but this is not where I propose we meet as it gets very busy.

Friday 26th April – Proposed date for a Spring Lunch – Venue suggestions welcome!

May – Online event. We are searching for a suitable (free) platform to host a gathering.

Cigna health insurance

Thank you to those of you who sent feedback on Cigna services to me or Jens for discussion at the annual Cigna meeting. Jens reported at our AGM on improvements to the service which are being implemented by Cigna. Human Resources have agreed minor changes to the Cigna cover which will result in a small increase in subscriptions. Here is a summary in case you missed the email from pensions@ecmwf.int:

The contribution rate for the Cigna International Health Insurance Scheme is reviewed annually based on the scheme usage and projected medical cost inflation. As you will be aware, the Centre was fortunate to be able to keep the contribution rate flat for a long time, but for 2024, a small increase is required: the staff/pensioner contribution rate will increase from 1.44% (2023) to the new rate of 1.52%, effective 1 January 2024 (you will see this backdated to 1st January in your February pension statement).

The Centre has also reviewed the cover provided under the policy, and the following changes apply with effect from 1 January 2024:

- The cover level for General Practitioner consultations increases from 80% to 100%.
- The cap for psychological treatment increases from GBP 1,000 p.a. to GBP 2,000 p.a.
- The cap for dental treatment increases from GBP 765 p.a. to GBP 2,500 p.a.

An updated version of the Cigna scheme brochure will be issued shortly. If you experience any problems with Cigna, please contact Jens Alfs directly, best via email using the pensions@ecmwf.int mailbox.

ECMWF Alumni Group

Gary Harding, who worked at the Centre from 1978 to 1987 but is not a pensioner because he did not stay for more than 10 years, has set up a LinkedIn group for ECMWF Alumni to allow pensioners and non-pensioners who worked at ECMWF to remain in contact.

You may already be aware of LinkedIn as a forum where businesses, organisations and individuals can post information they think others might be interested in. ECMWF has its own LinkedIn group as well as many other related organisations such as ESA, WMO, Met Office, etc.

The introduction to the group Gary has set up says "This is a group intended for people that used to work for ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts) to allow them to 'keep in touch' with past colleagues and friends. It is also a place where we

can talk about the history of ECMWF, particularly as we approach the 50th anniversary of the Centre's founding in 1975. This is not an official ECMWF group and ECMWF confidential information should not be posted here.”

The group currently has 64 members.

If anyone would like to join they can find the group by searching on LinkedIn or by emailing Gary at: Gary.Harding@gmail.com or Gary.Harding@outlook.com
Mobile and WhatsApp: 07949 141214

Annual pension adjustment

At the time of writing the annual pension adjustment figures have not been published. However, it is anticipated that the adjustments will be implemented in February, backdated to 1 January 2024.

ECMWF 50th anniversary

The Pensioners Association is considering putting together a collection of pensioners' memories of their time at ECMWF to mark the 50th anniversary of ECMWF next year. If you would like to contribute or have other ideas about how we could celebrate the anniversary please get in touch with Madeleine at secretary@ecmwf-pensionersassociation.org.

Contact with HR

Just a reminder, if you have any queries to raise with HR the best way to contact them is to email pensions@ecmwf.int. It is helpful if you use the subject line to indicate the nature of your enquiry so that HR staff can route the email to the person who is most likely to be able to deal with it. Also, if your personal circumstances change, please inform HR.

The Centre HR staff are now able to answer direct telephone calls remotely. If you are unable to email and your enquiry is urgent you may call Helen on 0118 949 9671 during normal working hours; this is her direct line and is not continuously monitored. Alternatively, or if there is no reply, please 'phone the switchboard 01189499000 and, if they cannot put you through to the pensions team, please ask them to email your name and phone number to pensions@ecmwf.int and someone will ring you back.

If you have any items of general interest to your fellow pensioners, please send them to the Secretary for possible inclusion in the next newsletter.

Best wishes to you all,

Sylvia Baylis
Chair, Pensioners' Association