

# PENSIONERS' UPDATE

# 2011

ISSUED TO PENSIONERS AND DEPENDANTS OF THE BRITISH STEEL PENSION SCHEME

MAY

## CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

### Welcome to the Pensioners' Update 2011.



Pension issues have featured very highly on the agenda of the Coalition Government since coming to power over a year ago and a number of important announcements and proposals have been made. One particular area which has generated widespread coverage is the announcement that the basis on which pensions are increased will change from the Retail Prices Index (RPI) to the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). Although it was

announced initially that the change would apply to State benefits and public sector pension schemes and subsequently extended to private sector schemes, there has been a great deal of uncertainty about which private sector schemes the change would apply to. Further information on this topic is provided on page 5, however given its importance, I think it is worth summarising the position for BSPS Pensioners.

The vast majority of BSPS pension benefits are defined in the Scheme Rules specifically by reference to RPI, and the Government has confirmed it will not pass legislation to override these provisions. Accordingly, Scheme benefits which are indexed by reference to RPI will continue to be so indexed. For those over State Pension Age, increases to the Guaranteed Minimum Pension in respect of service between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997 are set by Statutory Order and, with effect from April 2011, will be increased by reference to CPI. The examples on page 4 show how this applies.

With effect from April 2011, State pension benefits you receive will generally be indexed by reference to CPI. Additionally you may have heard in the news that some large occupational pension schemes are now applying CPI rather than RPI to index benefits already accrued - that is because of the specific wording of the rules of these schemes.

The matter is likely to run in the media for some time as final legislation has not yet been published and we will keep you informed of any significant developments.

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This year is a very significant one for our Scheme as the next full actuarial Valuation takes place as at 31 March 2011, at which date despite the assets reaching a near record value of approximately £11.4 billion, there is likely to be a funding deficit on an on-going basis because of growing liabilities.

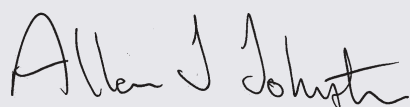
During the year, the Actuary presented his preliminary findings on the Scheme's mortality experience over the 2 year period to 31 March 2010. Scheme longevity experience continues to improve at a faster rate than expected and this will require to be taken into account when agreeing the Valuation assumptions with the Company later in the year, further increasing liabilities. Over the last 20 years, increasing life expectancy has added around £2 billion to BSPS liabilities.

The Trustee board marks the occasion of a Scheme pensioner reaching their 100th birthday by sending a birthday card and gift voucher. Where circumstances allow, a Trustee director or Scheme Officer will personally deliver the Trustee board's good wishes. During the year visits were made to Cecilia Holt and Arthur Barnfield, and I would like, once again, to offer congratulations to Cecilia and Arthur as well as all our other pensioners who reached this significant milestone during the last year.

Over the last 10 years, the number of pensioners who are aged 100 or more has increased from 17 to 80. Looking forward, a report by the Office for National Statistics published in April this year projects that over a quarter of the current UK population aged 16 or under will reach age 100. Whilst it is good news that longevity has improved, and is predicted to continue to improve, it provides a significant challenge to all defined benefit pension schemes.

The sale of Teesside Cast Products Limited and Redcar Bulk Terminal Limited to Sahaviriya Steel Industries UK Limited (SSI), a subsidiary of Thailand's largest steel producer, was completed on 24 March 2011. Scheme Officers were on site to present road-shows to explain the deferred benefit provisions of the Scheme following the sale.

All the best to you and yours



**Allan Johnston**

Chairman of B.S. Pension Fund Trustee Limited

Please bear in mind when reading the Pensioners' Update that different provisions may apply to benefits originally accrued under pension schemes which have been subsequently merged into the BSPS. If you are unclear about how you may be affected please contact the Pensions Office. Information is provided for guidance only and is not legal advice. It is correct at the time of going to press.

# GEOFF'S COLUMN



Geoff Deeley is the Scheme's Pensioner Member Nominated Director. Geoff has been a Trustee Director since 1997 and is very familiar with the issues that concern pensioners. Following the Scheme's communication survey last year, Geoff undertook to provide a summary of how Scheme annual pension increases are calculated.

A number of pension schemes have been merged into the BPS over the years and their rules still determine the pension increases applying to their members. These can differ from the BPS provisions. Geoff's article is written from a BPS perspective, which applies to the vast majority of Scheme Pensioners.

**All pensioners have been sent a letter at the end of March containing details of how their Scheme pension has been increased. If you have any questions about the increase applied to your pension, please contact the Pensions Office.**

Scheme pensions are generally increased each year on 1 April by reference to the annual increase in the RPI over the 12 months to the preceding January. Increases in respect of service after 1 April 2006 are subject to a cap of 4% per annum. Additionally, increases in respect of service before 1 April 2006, for members of the former Acquisition Section, are subject to a cap of 5% per annum.

RPI for the year to January 2011 was 5.1%. Increases were applied to BPS pensions on 1 April 2011.

Over the last 5 years, Scheme pensions have been generally increased by reference to RPI as follows:

2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
5.1%	3.7%	0.1%	4.1%	4.2%

In common with most similar schemes, the BPS is contracted-out of the State Second Pension - S2P (formerly the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme - SERPS). If you were an employee member of the BPS between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997 part of your Scheme pension is a **Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP)**. GMP broadly mirrors the pension you would have received from the State had the BPS not been contracted-out.

For those over State Pension Age (with some exceptions), we have to split the pension into different elements, so that we can accurately calculate the annual pension increase. The table below explains how we do this:

Pension	Increase
GMP earned from 6 April 1978 to 5 April 1988	Increase paid by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)*
GMP earned from 6 April 1988 to 5 April 1997	Scheme pays in line with the increase in the Consumer Prices Index up to 3%*
Excess amount of Member's Scheme pension over total GMP	Increased by reference to the rise in the Retail Prices Index from January to January subject to the Rules of the Scheme

\* Increases to GMP are set by means of Statutory Order. As the table shows, the DWP is responsible for increasing GMP accrued in the Scheme for the period from 6 April 1978 to 5 April 1988. In addition, if the increase granted in the Statutory Order is higher than 3%, the DWP pays the balance of the increase to the GMP earned from 6 April 1988 to 5 April 1997. The relationship between increases which the Scheme makes to your GMP and increases which the DWP make to your State pension is complicated and may differ from this position depending on your circumstances.

**Any increases made to your GMP by the DWP are added to your State Retirement Pension. Any enquiries about these increases can be made to the DWP by telephoning 0845 9150150.**

Note: The GMP does not come into payment until State Pension Age. BPS pensions in payment before that time are increased each year in full in line with the Rules of the Scheme. In other words, the full pension payment is increased by reference to the rise in the Retail Prices Index from January to January.

For illustrative purposes, the following examples show how a BPS pension of £9,000 would have been increased by the Scheme at 1 April 2011 for a member of the former Main Section depending on whether they have reached State Pension Age.

Example 1, where the Pensioner has not reached State Pension Age:

Element	Pension at 31 March 2011 £ per annum	% Increase at 1 April 2011	Increased pension £ per annum
<b>Scheme Pension:</b>			
Service before 1 April 2006 (including any GMP element)	8,000.00	5.1%	8,408.00
Service from 1 April 2006	1,000.00	4% (capped)	1,040.00
<b>Total Pension</b>	<b>£9,000.00</b>		<b>£9,448.00</b>

Example 2, where the Pensioner has reached State Pension Age:

Element	Pension at 31 March 2011 £ per annum	% Increase at 1 April 2011	Increased pension £ per annum
<b>Scheme Pension:</b>			
Service before 1 April 2006	7,000.00	5.1%	7,357.00
Service from 1 April 2006	1,000.00	4% (capped)	1,040.00
GMP earned from 6 April 1978 to 5 April 1988	400.00	Nil	400.00
GMP earned from 6 April 1988 to 5 April 1997	600.00	3%	618.00
<b>Total Pension</b>	<b>£9,000.00</b>		<b>£9,415.00</b>

As it happens the switch to CPI does not affect the value of the revised Scheme pension this year as the Scheme is only required to increase post-88 GMPs in payment up to a 3% Cap (the CPI increase was 3.1% and RPI was higher).

It is comforting to know that since 1975 our Scheme has provided a considerable degree of inflation proofing, and it is reassuring to note that BPS pensions in payments since then are now more than nine times their original value because of annual increases.

Regards,



Geoff Deeley

# SCHEME NEWS

## Pensions Increase Update

The Government announced in July 2010 that it intended to adopt the CPI as the measure of price inflation for the purposes of regulating minimum requirements of occupational pensions. CPI is generally lower than RPI, and this announcement has caused a great deal of concern and uncertainty for many UK pensioners.

The effect of the announcement on private sector schemes depends on the precise terms of scheme rules and the exact details of any legislative change. The Government has confirmed that it has no intention to legislate for a statutory override to scheme rules which would make it compulsory for schemes to adopt CPI. It has also confirmed that it is not minded to provide assistance to employers and/or trustees who would wish the option to switch to CPI on past service but are hindered by scheme amendment powers and/or statutory restrictions.

**References to Index and Indexation in the BSPS Rules are generally defined by reference to RPI. Assuming that the Government proceeds to legislate in accordance with its current proposals, accrued Scheme benefits will continue to be indexed by RPI.**

Once in payment, the post 1988 GMP element is increased in accordance with a Statutory Order, and therefore with effect from April 2011, will be increased by reference to CPI. Separate provisions may also apply in respect of former Schemes which were merged with the BSPS as part of the Long Term Pension Review.

## Scheme Website Revamp

The use of the internet continues to grow with the number of households having access to the internet in the UK increasing to 73% in 2010 and the number of adults using the internet on a daily basis or nearly every day increasing to 30.1 million, almost double the number quoted in 2006 (according to the Office for National Statistics).

The Scheme is fully committed to providing all members with clear communication and recognises that more people are turning to the web as a source of information. In response to feedback from the 2010 Member Survey, and to ensure that the website provides you with timely, well-organised information, the site is being revamped during 2011.

The first phase of the revamp gives the site a fresh look making it easier to find current and informative content. Over the coming months we will be making further

improvements and adding new content. We invite you to visit the new site regularly and provide us with feedback regarding its effectiveness or additional information that you would like to see included.

You can find the website at [www.bspensions.com](http://www.bspensions.com).

## Pension Payments

Monthly pensions are due in advance on the first working day of each month\* and are usually paid into your bank account on the last working day of the preceding month. This is to allow for possible delays in the banking system. Payments to building society accounts and bank accounts outside the UK can take longer to process. The payment dates for the rest of 2011/12 Scheme Year are as follows:

Thursday, 30 June 2011	Wednesday, 30 November 2011
Friday, 29 July 2011	Friday, 23 December 2011
Wednesday, 31 August 2011	Tuesday, 31 January 2012
Friday, 30 September 2011	Wednesday, 29 February 2012
Monday, 31 October 2011	Friday, 30 March 2012

\* Pensioners who have a pension payable from the former Corus Engineering Steels Pension Scheme continue to receive their pension on the 6th of each month.

For security reasons, it is not possible for us to accept notification of change of bank account details over the telephone. If you are changing your bank account please let us know as soon as possible so that we can update our records and continue to ensure that your pension is paid to the correct account. Contact details are shown on page 11. Please remember to quote your National Insurance number in any correspondence.

To avoid possible disruption in the payment of your benefits, please remember to let the Pensions Office know as soon as possible if you change address.

Many scheme communications are returned marked "Not at this address". When this happens Scheme Officers will carry out investigations to ensure that the pension is being paid to the correct recipient. If we are unable to contact the beneficiary, Scheme Officers will generally suspend pension payments for security reasons.

## Payment Advice Slips

A payment advice slip is attached to your P60 certificate each year. This sets out the pension that you will receive (including any annual increase due from 1 April) during the Scheme Year. Thereafter, for cost and efficiency reasons, advice slips are only issued if your net pension differs by £30 or more from the previous payment.

## P60 (End of Year Certificates)

P60 certificates are issued annually with a letter explaining the value of the increased Scheme pension to all pensioners and dependants at the end of March. The 2011 P60 included the following information:

- Pension payments made during the tax year 6 April 2010 to 5 April 2011. The tax year is different from the Scheme Year therefore the amount quoted on your P60 will differ from your annual scheme pension.
- The tax code used during the year.
- The tax paid or refunded during the tax year.

You may need your P60 as proof of income received or if you have any queries about the level of tax you have paid during the tax year so you should keep it in a safe place for future reference.

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) notifies both you and the Pensions Office of the tax code which should apply for the new tax year (6 April 2011 to 5 April 2012). The Pensions Office can only accept tax code changes directly from HMRC. Your new tax code reflects your circumstances in the forthcoming tax year (2011/12) and so is likely to be different to the one shown on your P60 (which refers to the 2010/11 tax year).

The Scheme deducts tax at source from your pension based on the tax code provided by HMRC.

If you have any queries relating to the tax code used or tax matters relating to your pension you should contact:

### HM Revenue & Customs

Centre 1

East Kilbride

Glasgow G79 1AA

Tel No: 0845 3000 627

Please have your National Insurance number ready and quote the Scheme reference 961/084191X.

## Help With Your Tax

If you are unsure of how to deal with your tax matters, there are a number of charitable organisations available that provide free professional help on tax issues for people on modest incomes.

One such organisation is Tax Help for Older People (T.O.P.). Their contact details are as follows:

### Tax Help for Older People

Pineapple Business Park

Solway Ash

Bradford

Dorset DT6 5DB

Telephone Number: **01308 488066**

You can contact them by email:

**taxvol@taxvol.org.uk**

For more information you can visit their website at **www.taxvol.org.uk**.

## Audit Check in respect of Non-UK Pensioners

Scheme Officers need to check that Scheme pensions remain payable to the appropriate recipients. The majority of Scheme pensions are paid to members in the UK and the Scheme has developed long-standing arrangements to provide the necessary assurances.

Benefits are currently paid to 1,397 pensioners and dependants in 52 other countries around the world and a different approach is required in these circumstances. Last year Scheme Officers carried out an audit of pensions paid outside of the UK. As a result of this exercise a number of pension payments have been suspended, and appropriate action to recover any overpayments commenced.

The Trustee board recognise that these checks on pensions in payment may occasionally inconvenience Scheme beneficiaries and their families. We thank you for your patience and cooperation and trust you will appreciate the need for these actions in order to protect the interests of the Scheme and ensure Scheme payments are only made to those who are entitled to receive them.

# THE STATE PENSION

## Proposed Reforms

In addition to changes in the way pensions are increased, the Government has also commenced consultation regarding the level of the basic State Pension and the State Pension Age (SPA) from which it should be paid.

The current level of full basic State Pension for a single person is £97.65 per week and in a Green Paper published on 4 April 2011, the Government is consulting on two proposals which could result in this being increased to around £140 per week. At the moment pensions can be topped up to £132.60 a week through the "means tested" pensions credit, and any change is likely to coincide with the removal of additional "means tested" payments.

If implemented, the new State Pension would be payable to anybody reaching SPA on or after the date the change becomes law, irrespective of income levels. Anybody who had already reached SPA before that date, whether or not they had actually claimed their pension, would not be affected.

The new State Pension would continue to be based on an individual's National Insurance (NI) contribution record.

The full pension would be payable after 30 qualifying years of NI contributions and there would be a minimum level of 7 years of NI contributions to qualify.

The SPA is the earliest age at which you can draw your State Pension. In response to increased longevity, the Government has set out proposals to increase the SPA to 66 by April 2020.

Further increases to age 68 are already scheduled to take place by 2046, and the Government has indicated that it is minded to accelerate these changes. The Green Paper sets out two options for linking future rises in the SPA to increases in life expectancy. The first is to use a formula to automatically link increases in life expectancy to increases in SPA. The second is to introduce a system of regular reviews to consider the latest life expectancy projections.

The public consultation ends on 24 June. A White Paper is to be issued later this year if the Government decides to proceed with any of its proposed reforms, although any changes to the basic State Pension are unlikely to be implemented before 2014/15 at the earliest.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## British Steel Archive Collection

A British Steel Archive Collection has been completed by a project team consisting of academics from the University of Teesside working with the Teesside Archives, a repository of documents from the Cleveland area. The Collection provides a business history archive of the iron and steel making industry in Teesside from the mid 19th century to the late 20th century. As part of the project, hundreds of photographs were collected and catalogued to create an impressive gallery of digital photos providing a visual history of steel-making in the area. The website gives a comprehensive background detailing the history of steel works which operated locally, together with an insight into companies and employees throughout this time. The Collection is a fitting tribute in the year in which Teesside steel-making has entered a new stage.

If you would like to know more about the collection, further details and online gallery are available at [www.britishsteelcollection.org.uk](http://www.britishsteelcollection.org.uk).

## Jaguar / Land Rover Discounts



The Tata Group Employee Privilege Scheme offers discounts to all BSPS Pensioners when buying a new Land Rover or Jaguar.

The terms vary between models but you can claim\* up to 20% off the list price of a new Land Rover\*\* including Freelander, Range Rover, Range Rover Sport and Defender models (excluding the Defender Special Vehicles). A discount is available of up to 15% off the price of a new Jaguar including X-Type, SXJ and XK models. XF models are also available and offered at 10% discount.

Discounts apply to the list price net of VAT and are available at the point of order. They do not apply to factory-fitted options, and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. The offer applies to new vehicles first registered in the name of the pensioner and must be kept in their name for a minimum 12-month period.

If the Sales Manager of your local dealership is unsure of the process, please ask them to contact the Privilege Team at Jaguar Land Rover on **0800 055 6481**.

\* on receipt of proof of identity, including photo ID, together with a BSPS statement. Under this arrangement only one Jaguar/Land Rover product can be purchased on these discount terms in 12 months

\*\* at the time of writing Land Rover Discovery has been 'suspended' from the scheme.

# USEFUL ORGANISATIONS

## The Bereavement Register

Many of us have experienced considerable upset when mail is unexpectedly received for a partner, relative or friend after they have died. It may not be feasible to advise every company individually of a loved one's death, however the Bereavement Register offers a service designed to prevent unwanted mail in these circumstances.

The Bereavement Register was formed in 1991 to help reduce the amount of junk mail issued to individuals after their death. It provides a free service to register the name of the deceased. Many companies responsible for bulk mailing exercises subscribe to this service and update their records from the information held on the Register allowing them to remove the deceased's name from their mailing lists.

The Bereavement Register expects that within 6 weeks of registering details of the deceased's name, there should be a significant reduction in the amount of mail received. If after 6 months, unwanted mail is still being received, this can be forwarded to the Bereavement Register and they will contact the issuing company directly.

Further details of the service provided by the Bereavement Register and how to register details can be found at [www.the-bereavement-register.org.uk](http://www.the-bereavement-register.org.uk).

You can also contact them at:

### **The Bereavement Register®**

Freepost

Sevenoaks, TN13 1XR

Tel: 01732 467940

Tel: 0800 082 1230 - 24 hour automated registration service

Fax: 01732 460036

Email: [help@thebereavementregister.org.uk](mailto:help@thebereavementregister.org.uk)

## Preference Services

If you simply want to reduce the number of unwanted telephone sales calls, junk mail, junk faxes and SPAM (unsolicited email) you receive, you can register your personal details with the telephone, mail, fax and Email preference services. Contact details are below.

## - to reduce/stop addressed direct marketing mail

### **Mailing Preference Service**

Freepost 29 LON20771

London, W1E 0ZT

Tel: 0845 703 4599

Web: [www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk)

## - to reduce/stop unaddressed (i.e to the occupier/ householder) mail & leaflets delivered by the Royal Mail.

Please send or email your name and address to the address below:

### **Royal Mail Door to Door Opt Outs**

Freepost RRBT-ZBXB-TTTS

Kingsmead House

Oxpens Road

OXFORD, OX1 1RX

Email: [optout@royalmail.com](mailto:optout@royalmail.com)

## - to reduce/stop unsolicited marketing faxes

Web: [www.fpsonline.org.uk](http://www.fpsonline.org.uk)

Tel: 0845 0700 702

## - to reduce/stop unsolicited telephone sales calls

### **Telephone Preference Service**

70 Margaret Street

London, W1W 8SS

Web: [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)

Tel: 0845 070 0707

## - to reduce/stop unsolicited marketing e-mails & SMS (text) messages

Contact the **Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)** as follows:

Tel: 01625 845 700

E-Mail: [mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk)

# PENSIONER ASSOCIATIONS

Pensioner Associations for Scheme pensioners and those in receipt of dependants' pensions are located throughout the country. The Associations are run independently and have no formal association with the Scheme. If you would like to join an Association, or would like to receive further information, please refer to the contact details shown below.

## Cumbria Retired Colleagues Association

**Alan Reay** Telephone 016973 20837  
**Tom Whitehead** Telephone 01900 63044  
**Email:** Tomandsueat24@hotmail.com  
**Membership:** 947

The Association is open to all British Steel pensioners living in the Cumbria area who are over the age of 55. The Association continues to attract recruits with 65 new members joining recently, many from Track Products in Workington.

The Association appointed John Lawson, formerly of Corus Rail, as its President in 2010, following the sad death of Max De Redder. Two former committee members, Joe Dockray and Len Studholm have also passed away during the year. All three members provided a great contribution to the Association and will be sorely missed.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held each year in December. At the 2010 AGM, Hugh Smart, the Scheme's Chief Investment Officer, provided an insight into the Scheme's investments, asset allocation and Fund performance. The Association greatly appreciated Hugh taking time to share his knowledge which in turn provided a great deal of reassurance to those present.

All the Association's social events have been very well attended during the year. In June almost 200 members enjoyed a sociable afternoon over a buffet in the Trades Hall in Workington after viewing a presentation on the history of "Steelmaking in West Cumbria".

There were 2 summer coach outings to Durham and Morecambe. Not only did the trips attract an excellent turnout (235 and 125 members respectively), but the trips met with fine weather conditions too!

Planning is currently underway for the 2011 summer and Christmas social events. Further information will be issued to members.

## Llanwern Works Retired Employees Association

**Roy Manby** Telephone 01633 856005  
**Email:** roy@amanbyr.freemove.co.uk  
**Membership:** 840

Association membership is free and open to everyone over age 55 who worked at Llanwern Works.

One of the many benefits of joining the Association is the opportunity to participate in the various social functions. Almost 300 people will take part in this year's summer trip to Poole in Dorset on 15 June. Fingers are crossed for appropriate summer weather.

The autumn outing will take on a slightly different format than previously with a day trip to Stratford upon Avon. A boat trip along the famous River Avon may prove a welcome diversion from the tempting shopping Stratford has to offer.

A traditional Christmas Dinner with dancing afterwards will be organised for early December.

## London Retirement Association

**Richard Hewitt** Telephone 01932 883348  
**Email:** rhewitt@comset.co.uk  
**Membership:** 300

The Association was set up in the 1980s for retired employees from any of the London Offices of British Steel, Corus, Tata Steel and the Iron and Steel Statistics Bureau (ISSB) or any associated Companies. All new members are welcome. Membership is free but the Association relies upon member donations to help meet running costs.

The Association is run by a small committee of members, assisted by 25 "Keep in Touch" officers who are responsible for maintaining contact with members within their own designated area. This is achieved by sending birthday and Christmas cards, making telephone calls, or home and hospital visits (if appropriate).

The Annual General Meeting is held in London, and is combined with a reunion dinner or lunch. This function is normally well attended with over 80 members enjoying a great occasion of fun and friendship.

The Association also celebrates members' birthdays and a special gift, such as a shopping voucher, is presented to members every five years from the age of 70 onwards. The Association also pays its respect to any member who dies by making a donation to the member's favoured charity or similar organisation as a tribute to them.

Newsletters, covering a wide range of interests and topics, are published and distributed to every member three or four times a year.

### **National Federation of Occupational Pensioners**

**Tom Bowman Telephone 01642 874 073**  
**Email: t\_bowman@ntlworld.com**  
**Membership: 9,200**

The National Association of British Steel Pensioners (NABSP) merged with the Federation of Royal Mail and BT Pensioners to form a new body, now known as the National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (NFOP). The Federation will be attending the fourth Retirement show which is being held at the SECC, Hall 3, Glasgow on Friday 11 and Saturday 12 November 2011. This gives the Federation the opportunity to meet existing and potential members and explain the benefits offered by the organisation.

The British Steel branch of the Federation aims to serve the interests of British Steel pensioners by presenting their views on the Scheme and, on wider pensioner issues, to the Government. The organisation believes that only through a large strong organisation, exerting sustained pressure, can success be achieved in gaining benefit improvements in the State pension and Winter Fuel payments, and retaining the best index for pension rises. 2011/12 may well prove a difficult year due to the Government's financial position.

Geoff Deeley is a member of the Federation and currently serves as the Pensioner Member Nominated Director of the British Steel Pension Scheme.

By joining the Federation you will receive a membership package which includes support from Head Office staff, access to telephone help lines providing free legal, computer, tax and benefit advice, and a magazine 8 times per year. Federation members have access to a confidential welfare fund, if required, in times of need.

The monthly membership subscription can be deducted from your Scheme pension or by alternative means if you prefer.

All new members are welcome and a membership application form is enclosed with this Update.

### **Port Talbot Retired Employees Association**

**Bob Leonard Telephone: 01639 773371**  
**Membership: 40**

Members meet every Wednesday in the British Legion Club in Port Talbot (excluding August and over the Christmas period).

The Association normally hold social events around 4 times per year and 2011 is likely to be another busy year.

In late spring, almost 40 people travelled to North Wales for a relaxing short break at the Bodelwyddan Castle Hotel. This holiday will be closely followed by a cultural trip to the Museum of Welsh Life in St Athan's. The museum was rebuilt to recreate Welsh daily life throughout history from Celtic times to the present day and is a very popular heritage attraction. The day trip will be rounded off with evening dinner at a local club in Port Talbot.

A further short break holiday is being planned for later in the year, and will probably take the popular form of an early "Tinsel and Turkey" Christmas celebration.

Membership is open to all former company employees and partners can become Associate members.

# CONTACTING THE PENSIONS OFFICE

When contacting the Pensions Office, please quote your National Insurance number and indicate whether your enquiry relates to your membership of the former Corus Engineering Steels Pension Scheme (CESPS).

You can contact us in the following ways:



**Email**

pension.enquiries@tatasteel.com



**Fax**

0141 248 5299



**Website**

www.bspensions.com



**Telephone**

If your surname begins A-K

0330 440 0800

If your surname begins L-Z

0330 440 0801



**Writing from the UK** (no need for a stamp)

**British Steel Pension Scheme  
FREEPOST RLXS-ZXKT-AUER  
GLASGOW G2 7BW**



**Writing from outside the UK**

**British Steel Pension Scheme  
6th floor, Sentinel  
105 Waterloo Street  
GLASGOW G2 7BW  
Scotland, United Kingdom**



Standard office hours are 8.45 am to 4.45 pm Monday to Friday. If you telephone outside these hours or during statutory holidays, you will normally be able to leave a message and we will reply to you as soon as possible.



**Receive Newsletters On-Line**

Many more people have access to computers and find it more convenient to receive their Scheme communications by email. It is also good news for the environment. If you would prefer to receive future newsletters electronically (rather than a paper copy), please advise the Pensions Office of your email address by one of the means shown above. Please quote your National Insurance number in any correspondence.

**The Pensioners' Update is available, as always,  
on audio tape, Braille, CD and large print formats.**

If you have used this service before,  
we will automatically send you a copy in your preferred  
format after you receive the printed version.

To register for this service for the first time, please telephone us on

**0330 440 0802**

and let us know which version you require.

**This service is provided free of charge.**

#### **Your feedback**

We are very keen to receive feedback on all communications issued by the Pensions Office.

If you have any comments on this edition of the Pensioners' Update,  
or if you have any suggestions for future editions, please write to:

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