

Pensioners' Newsletter – August 2019

News from the South

Hi Everyone: Wow! I like it hot but 30+ degrees is a bit much even for me and I do not like the flying ants that seem to have come out with the heat over the past few days. I hope all of you are keeping safe in these temperatures and drinking plenty of water. Despite the lack of an office at this time we are still running the trips as planned, with Sylvia working from home until the new office is available. We hope it will not be too long before we can get back to normal, but until then continue to enjoy the summer and the VPA outings.

John Boast

News from the North

I do hope you are all enjoying this lovely summer weather. Let's hope it continues now the children have broken up for the holidays. As I have said that I will probably have jinxed it!

We have had some lovely social evenings - well attended and with good entertainment arranged by Simon. Julie Ann Scott came in June and as ever was very well received.

We have been fairly lucky with our trips weather wise. In June we headed for the Lake District with only a few showers to dampen the day. On the way we stopped off for coffee at Brockholes Nature Reserve - a lovely tranquil place to enjoy a 'cuppa' and well worth a visit. We then headed for Ambleside for lunch followed by a boat trip down to Lakeside. All in all it was a good day.

In July our trip was to Morecombe. Our coffee stop took in a bit of nostalgia with Brief Encounter at Carnforth Station, the original setting for the film. Then it was on to Morecambe with just time for a blow along the prom before afternoon tea at the Midland Hotel which was courtesy of the Club. Unfortunately the August trip to Llandudno has been cancelled due to low take-up numbers.

Regarding the trip to Lancaster on September 19 we will be taking on board a blue badge guide to show us the sights before free time to explore. Finally, a holiday has been booked for next April. We will be going to Newquay, Cornwall on April 6 for five days. Names will be taken at the next Club night.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer and hope to see you at the Club. Bye for now

Dave Williams

VPA New Office Accommodation

Unfortunately, our new office accommodation is still not ready to move into. We will keep you advised as and when we have any news. In the meantime please continue to contact us by using Sylvia's home address and telephone number: Mrs Sylvia Pemberton, 27 Rycroft Way, Luton, LU2 7TU or ring her on 01582 759851.

How Things Have Changed!

We thought that those of you who have not visited Kimpton Road recently would be interested in seeing images of what is changing. Jean Skipp very kindly took the images shown below:



Shows the buildings on the old W Block site to the left and old P Block site to the right where the cranes are



Broadly the same view but with a greater emphasis on the old P Block development



Shows the extent of the housing on the old W Block site until the trees stop more building



Further down Kimpton Road in the direction of the airport used to sit H Block - Small Pressings. This is now owned by Express Newspapers and houses (mainly) their printing and distribution activities for the periodicals and papers shown



This site used to be the Showrooms and is now a car park for visitors and Plant Security



A brand new Hampton Hotel stands on the site of the old M Block (headquarters for personnel activities) and Medical Centre



Looking down Kimpton Road with Plumbs Hardware shop to the right, the brick building to the front right housed the Nat West bank. The Hampton Hotel can be seen further down the road on the right. To the left is a closer view of what happened to P Block



Thank goodness that some things have never changed. How many of us used Plumbs for our DIY needs, Kimpton News for our papers and crisps etc., William Hill for the odd flutter and the cafe for other food needs? The shop was owned by Mr Plumb, a bearded gentleman, who sold it to Dave and Paul when he retired in the 70s. Brothers Dave and Paul are still there!!



And another building that has not changed – S Block, the Main Building, which now houses the Luton Chamber of Commerce and several other companies. It is now known as Hart House.

Vauxhall War Memorial, Kimpton Road

Strawberry Star, the owners of the land surrounding the War Memorial, have erected hoardings to protect the Memorial during the development. They plan to remove the wing walls, landscape the area on both sides and incorporate a ramp to allow wheelchair access. They also plan to appoint a specialist to clean the plaques.



War Memorial

The Remembrance Day Service will go ahead this year as usual and will be held on Sunday, November 10.

June 1 - Brighton

An almost full coach left for a fun packed day at Brighton. The weather was warm and sunny and by all accounts a good day was had by all.

June 19 – River Medway Cruise

The VPA crowd started off on a high as the coach was early and the threatened rain held off until the drive home. The journey to Maidstone was made in good time, even allowing for a coffee and comfort stop mid-way. The group arrived only a couple of minutes from the water edge to board the cruise. This was perhaps the only cruise that Jayne McDonald hasn't been seen on this year! A prompt serving of fish and chips was given to all and our group could relax, munch and enjoy the beautiful scenery aided by a running commentary. One interesting piece of knowledge - unlike most of the swans on the Thames which belong to the Queen - the swans on the Medway belong to the town. Everyone sat and enjoyed the experience of the boat passing through a lock while having a drink and a chat with fellow sailors. Once the cruise was

over there was time to sit in the sun slurping an ice cream before getting back on the trip for the journey home. Everyone involved helped make sure the day went well and special thanks to Sylvia and Dave for organising it.

June 20 - VPA Golf Section Annual Singles Championship

The 2019 Singles Championship was, as has been the case in previous years, held at the Redbourn Golf Club. The course was in excellent condition and the warm, sunny weather was ideal for the 22 players involved. The winner was a newcomer to the VPA Golf Section, Phil Watson, who won on a count back; second was Mike King and in third place was Pete Durham with ex-IBC man Billy Goodyear coming in fourth.

The star of the day, Phil Watson, also won the nearest to the pin at the 138 yard 4th hole with Jim Gleasure winning other nearest the pin prize on the more difficult 151 yard 16th hole.

Three out of the four top placings were newly retired, so some of the more experienced members need to up their game to see off these up-stars (as per Mike Roberts).

The event was greatly enjoyed by all concerned and after some lunch and chat in the clubhouse the usual raffle was held with all proceeds going to the Keech Hospice.

The next VPA Golf Day will be held on Tuesday, October 1 at the Aylesbury Vale Golf Club. All registered players will be sent entry forms by email.

July 18 - Mamma Mia

48 VPA members boarded a coach to travel to our great metropolis to see the stage version of Mamma Mia at the Novello Theatre. Beforehand, however, there was a 90 minute stop at Camden Lock to look round the market and grab a bite to eat before making for the West End and being dropped off right outside the theatre. As expected the show was very good with everyone inside up and dancing for the final songs. After the show it was off to a rather upmarket fish and chip bar in Islington (chandeliers similar to Harry Ramsden!) all washed down with a glass of prosecco. Thanks to Sylvia and Dave for their usual job.

August Quiz

- 1 What is the only country to share a border with Portugal?
- 2 What stone does an engagement ring usually contain?
- 3 In which musical would you hear the song 'Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious'?
- 4 What US state is called 'The Sunshine State'?
- 5 What did Cinderella lose at the ball?
- 6 Which team has won the football World Cup the most times?
- 7 Bertie Bassett advertised which sweet?

8 What according to Lady Macbeth would not sweeten her little hand?

9 What is 11 multiplied by 12?

10 From which sitcom did the phrase 'lively jubbly' come?

11 In folklore what was the name of Robin Hood's chaplain?

12 Which insect's bite can spread malaria?

13 In cockney rhyming slang what does 'apples and pears' mean?

14 What is the square root of 100?

15 What kind of music did Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington play?

16 Whose birthday is celebrated on January 25th?

17 Which Australian natural structure is called Ulura by the aborigines?

18 Which instrument is James Galway famous for playing?

19 What is the name of the afternoon nap taken in hot countries?

20 What is the emblem of Ireland?

Answers in the October edition of the Newsletter.

June Quiz Answers

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1 4 | 11 Alex Higgins |
| 2 December | 12 Bashful |
| 3 Venus | 13 The Dukes of Hazard |
| 4 Wolves | 14 Ludwig |
| 5 Niagara | 15 Tax Evasion |
| 6 18 | 16 Rupee |
| 7 Giraffe | 17 USA |
| 8 Rolls Royce | 18 Pinocchio |
| 9 Rice | 19 E |
| 10 George Bush | 20 New York |

Upcoming Events in the South

Aug 22 - Sussex Prairie Gardens/Carvery Lunch
City and village trip. Scenic tour of pretty West Sussex villages before stopping for a carvery lunch. Afternoon is spent at the Prairie Gardens (new landscaped attraction). Tea and cake.
£42.00 pp members/£45.00 pp non-members

Sept 4 – RHS Wisley Flower Show

Visit the RHS immaculate gardens, plus browse the many stands selling plants/gardening accessories.
£20.00 pp members/£22.00 pp non-members

Sept 18 – Oxford – (coach only)

£12.00 pp members/£14.00 pp non-members

Oct 16 – Mystery Tour

£12.00 pp members/£15 pp non-members

Nov 20 – Thursford Christmas Show (Matinee)

Top Class festive musical extravaganza
£50.00 pp members/£55.00 pp non-members

Dec 2-6 – Turkey and Tinsel

Warners Hotel, Sinah Warren

Enjoy an early celebration of Christmas and New Year on a return visit to this excellent hotel complex.

£260.00 pp members/£270.00 pp non-members

Dec 11 – Christmas Party

£24.00 pp members/£27.00 pp non-members

Day trip bookings will only be confirmed on receipt of a non-refundable £10.00 deposit pp.

For the longer events in May and December this deposit rises to £30.00 pp.

To book for a trip(s) please ring the office on 01582 427921 or write in to the office address at the end of this Newsletter. As usual VPA members may bring a maximum of one non-VPA member per trip.

Note the higher price for non-members. We do require your pension number and a contact number on application and also a stamped addressed envelope for each trip. Please also note that any member/non-member who cancels a booking 4 weeks or less before the date of the trip may also be requested to pay for the cost of any event tickets purchased by the VPA. Finally, travel insurance is not included in the price of any of our trips. We strongly advise that you make your own arrangements to give peace of mind.

2019 Golf Events

Oct 1 – Pairs Championship

Aylesbury Vale Golf Course

Upcoming Events in the North

September 19 - Lancaster

Leaving Club at 9.00 am

Cost £10.00 pp

September 27 – Lunch, Vicars Cross Golf Club

More details to follow at our Club night

October 9 - Blackpool

Leaving Club at 10.30 am

Cost £10.00 pp

October 17 - Salford Quays and Hat Museum

More details to follow at our Club night

Cost £10.00 pp

November 25 - Tinsel and Turkey, Bognor Regis

Royal Norfolk Hotel **SOLD OUT**

5 day holiday

Full day trip to Portsmouth and half day trip to Chichester. Two lunches at Hotel

Cost £215 (to be confirmed)

Deposit of £40.00 required when booking

April 6 2020 – Newquay

5 day holiday

Tea Dances

August None

September 10, 17, 24

In Memoriam – Luton

Anderson, Harold Adolphus, Division 033

Died 16.5.2019, Aged 86, Retired 1994

Backhouse, Raymond Stanley Douglas, Div 033

Died 8.5.2019, Aged 89, Retired 1993

Bull, Ronald Albert, Staff

Died 10.5.2019, Aged 91, Retired 1990

Bunyan, John Malcolm, Division 380

Died 29.3.2019, Aged 74, Retired 2007

Cole, Dennis Arnold, Division 051

Died 30.6.2019, Aged 84 Retired 1999

Coughlin, Samuel, Vauxhall

Died 30.4.2019, Aged 95, Retired 1989

Dalley, Derek George, Division 135

Died 2.6.2019, Aged 82, Retired 2001

Drakeley, Kenneth, IBC

Died 10.5.2019, Aged 82, Retired 1994

Hand, John Trevor, Division 180

Died 30.5.2019, Aged 78, Retired 1994

Haye, Emmanuel, IBC

Died 4.5.2019, Aged 83, Retired 1994

Hill, Michael John, Division 032

Died 23.5.2019, Aged 70, Retired 2002

Holland, Raymond Frederick Louis, Div 515

Died 6.4.2019, Aged 83, Retired 1993

Kellett, Brian, Division 046

Died 5.6.2019, Aged 79, Retired 2002

Lunnon, Roy Mansell, Division 074

Died 28.5.2019, Aged 89, Retired 1994

McDermott, Robert Ivan, IBC

Died 19.5.2019, Aged 76, Retired 2002

Oates, Peter, Division 527

Died 10.5.2019, Aged 82, Retired 1998

Richards, John James, IBC

Died 14.5.2019, Aged 92, Retired 1992

Russell, Kenneth George, Division 527

Died 26.6.2019, Aged 81, Retired 1993

Sims, Gareth, Division 499

Died 9.6.2019, Aged 77, Retired 2003

Stephenson, Louis Martin, Vauxhall

Died 19.5.2019, Aged 80, Retired 1994

Thrusell, Philip John, Division 486

Died 16.4.2019, Aged 65, Retired 2013

Walker, James, IBC

Died 12.5.2019, Aged 85, Retired 1999

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Alston, Hazel Ann, Division 650

Died 25.5.2019, Aged 81, Retired 1994

Caldwell, Brian William, Division 630

Died 27.6.2019, Aged 84, Retired 1998

Hemingway, John, Division 670

Died 18.6.2019, Aged 81, Retired 2002

Hutchinson, Alexander, Division 627

Died 30.5.2019, Aged 91, Retired 1993

Kelly, Peter Francis, Division 629

Died 20.6.2019, Aged 83, Retired 1998

Lewis, James, Division 642

Died 9.5.2019, Aged 86, Retired 1998

Mainey, Kenneth Gordon, Division 663

Died 18.6.2019, Aged 89, Retired 1994

Mathers, David, Division 663

Died 13.6.2019, Aged 85, Retired 1998

Mitchell, Colin, Division 638

Died 5.6.2019, Aged 71, Retired 2006

Moss, Neville, Division 643

Died 13.4.2019, Aged 86, Retired 1998

Webster, John Pollock, Division 678

Died 22.6.2019, Aged 76, Retired 2002

All information on deceased pensioners is provided by the Pensions Department.

All contact information will be included in October

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Company.