

# **Pensioners' Newsletter – June 2017**

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## **News from the South**

Hi everyone,

As I write this, I am sitting looking out of the window at a bright sunny day with a clear blue sky. I always think that this is the best part of the year. The trees are coming into leaf and the first flowers are giving the garden some colour. Somehow everything looks clean and new, and the days are getting longer which means more time for golf. Talking about golf, Mike Roberts continues to do a great job, aided by Geoff Fountain and Jim Heaney, in organising our VPA golf days and you can find a report on the latest event in this issue. These are open to all VPA members and we would like to see more of you golfers out there taking part. They are fun days and players of all skill levels are welcome, so why not get in touch with Mike and join us at the next event? Let's all hope for a great summer ahead, when we can get out and about or just sit in the garden enjoying a drink with friends.

*John Boast*

## **News from the North**

Dear all,

Oh my goodness, where has the time gone? I don't know about you, but I can hardly believe we are almost half way through the year – a sign of getting older I hear you say.

We continue to enjoy our stay at the Whitby Club. Unfortunately, the entertainer at the April evening was poorly and had to leave, but our own Simon quickly stepped into the breach and entertained us. Sadly, also in April, we lost another long-time committee member when Bill Dobson died. Bill had been poorly for quite some time and had continued to attend for as long as he was able. He had been in a nursing home for quite a while, so our condolences go to his wife Hilda.

Although we could not go, I believe those that went on the Fleetwood trip had a good day.

The lunch at Eastham Golf Club was well attended and we enjoyed a good meal, so thank you to the committee for arranging it. It would be lovely if we could see the social evenings so well attended.

Last week, we had our mystery tour. An almost full coach sallied forth in beautiful sunshine to the Lake District. After a coffee stop in Grasmere we carried on to Bowness. It was a lovely trip, made better by the beautiful weather.

As yet the Cheshire Show trip on the June 21 hangs in the balance. Unless we have more names soon, I am afraid it will be cancelled. If it does go ahead, the cost is £17 and the coach will leave at 9am.

If you have summer holidays booked, I hope the weather is kind to you and you enjoy your break.

We have just returned from a lovely holiday on the Red Sea – a week of sun, pampering and a great deal of snorkelling. I just wish I had an underwater

camera, because the sea life was amazing.

Whatever you do, enjoy the summer and stay safe.

Until next time, cheerio.

*Dave Williams*

## **Microsoft Windows XP/Windows 8**

Following the recent cyber attack which affected the NHS, Microsoft have made a “highly unusual” decision to make available a security update for those still operating Windows XP/Windows 8. Updates for these versions of Windows ceased in 2014. The security update is available on the Microsoft website free of charge. Please ensure you access the genuine Microsoft website before downloading.

## **New speeding penalties**

From April 24, far heavier penalties are being imposed on drivers who break the speed limit. In summary, the penalties fall into three bands, A, B or C, with A being the most lenient and C the most severe.

I will use a 20mph limit as an example, but the increments shown apply to all limits, e.g. in a 30mph zone, band A kicks in at 31mph to 40mph. Anyone caught travelling between 21mph and 30mph will get 3 points on their licence (band A). Between 31mph and 40mph, the penalties are 4-6 points on your licence or a disqualification for 7-28 days (band B). 41mph and above carry 6 points or disqualification for 7-56 days (band C).

Additionally, the following fines will be imposed:  
Band A – a fine of between 25% and 75% of your weekly income.

Band B – a fine of between 75% and 125% of your weekly income.

Band C – between 125% and 175% of your weekly income, which is capped at £1,000 or £2,500 depending upon the type of road where the offence took place.

## **Another scam to beware of**

Householders are being visited by persons claiming to be from Ofgem, the gas and electricity regulator. They tell people all energy providers operating in the area have been overcharging and they have been ordered by Ofgem to refund customers. They then ask you to fill in a ‘compensation form’. And guess what information they ask for? That's right – name, address, date of birth, energy supplier and bank details. In other words, everything a fraudster needs to scam you.

Ofgem would never go door to door in this manner. Plus, if the overcharging had been true, it would surely have been in national or local papers, or radio and television.

We put these scam alerts in the newsletter initially to warn VPA members of them, but it is hoped that where possible you would tell neighbours or family of their existence to widen the safety net of awareness.

### **Change of event in the South**

The Twickenham tour that was planned for July 20 has been cancelled due to a low demand for tickets.

However, due to the sterling efforts of the office, a more than suitable replacement has been slotted in.

Tickets have been obtained for *Beautiful*, a musical based on the highly successful career of Carol King. A two-course carvery lunch at the Strand Palace Hotel is also included. All this plus the coach for £50 per person. Well done to the office for such a speedy and imaginative reaction.

### **Proposed pantomime trip**

Due to lack of interest in a pantomime trip, it has been decided not to go ahead with this proposal.

### **ICE**

The NHS are encouraging people with mobile telephones to add the contact number of a person to call in the event of an emergency into your contact lists under the name of ICE (In Case of Emergency). This may save precious time in an emergency and could well be the difference between life and death.

### **Gordon Bunting needs help!**

We received the following email from Gordon, who worked at Vauxhall for 33 years, latterly as a team leader in 409 stores AC Block. He wrote: "On retirement, I moved to St Osyth and recently new neighbours (Ray and Lynn) moved in next door. In the course of conversation, it came up that Lynn's father was the pilot of the Autair plane that crashed into DU Block on December 23 1967. Her husband Ray has researched her father's life. He was called Captain Harold Gainsford Dryhurst, and was a bomber pilot during WW2. Ray was informed that there was a plaque in memory of the two pilots who lost their lives. If you remember the crash, or know the whereabouts of the plaque, please e-mail me on [gordonbunting789@outlook.com](mailto:gordonbunting789@outlook.com)"

### **April 20 - Under Bearskins/Imperial War Museum**

A group of 52 left Luton at 9.00am, traveling to London. Coffee was taken at 10.20 at the Methodist Central Hall, after which we were joined by our guide Martin for a walking tour which included Wellington Barracks, the Flanders Field Memorial, the chance to listen to the Band of the Coldstream Guards rehearsing for their St George's Day concert and to watch Drum Majors rehearsing for Trooping of the Colour on Horse Guards Parade. All in all, a very interesting and informative time. Lunch of fish and chips (but no peas!) was eaten in the Inn of Courts pub, before we made our way to the Imperial War Museum. With so much of interest to hand, suffice to say all needs were catered for and all too soon it was time to board the coach and return home. A super day and many thanks to the VPA office for organising it.

### **Birdies galore for VPA golfers**

The VPA golf section started their 2017 season with a Texas scramble competition played over 18 holes at the Abbey Hill course in Milton Keynes on May 11. The standard of play was very high, with all of the teams going round in at least three under par 71. Results were close, with the eventual winners of the Steve Brooker cup being the team consisting of Peter Johnson, Jim Heaney, Lou Chadwick and Tony Brown. Their gross score of 63 was an incredible four shots better than the 2016 winning total. Second was the team of Jim Gleasure, Alan Smith, John Boast and Mike Roberts with a score of 65. The prizes for nearest to the pin were won by Tony Brown (short hole) and Lou Chadwick (most difficult hole). All 20 players had a very enjoyable day, playing in warm spring weather on a course in exceptional condition. The usual raffle for the Keech Hospice raised £90, plus it was decided to support John Fulcher with his upcoming charity London to Brighton cycle ride. The next golf day will be at the Redbourn Golf Club on Thursday June 22. All registered players will be sent entry forms by email and should any other VPA club golfer wish to participate, the contact is Mike Roberts on [mikerobertsverulam@msn.com](mailto:mikerobertsverulam@msn.com)

### **June quiz**

The topic this month is books:

- 1 Which detective did Dr Watson assist?
- 2 Mrs Beeton was famous for writing on what subject?
- 3 Are Penguin books hardback or paperback?
- 4 Was St Trinian's a school for boys or girls?
- 5 What relation was Charlotte to Emily and Anne Bronte?
- 6 Who is Agatha Christie's most famous female detective?
- 7 Which ex MP wrote *A Parliamentary Affair*?
- 8 What sort of factory is associated with Roald Dahl's Charlie?
- 9 Who wrote the autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom*?
- 10 Which animal was Beatrix Potter's Mrs Tigglywinkle?
- 11 Who did Laurie Lee write of Cider with .....?
- 12 In which Dickens novel did Uriah Heep appear?
- 13 In which book did John Brain introduce Joe Lampton?
- 14 For what type of book is Samuel Pepys famous for?
- 15 Who wrote *The Female Eunuch* in 1970?
- 16 Which ex-jockey wrote a book of short stories named *Field of Thirteen*?
- 17 Whose horror stories included *Carrie* and *The Shining*?
- 18 Who wrote *Das Kapital*?
- 19 Which fictional barrister was created by John Mortimer?
- 20 The Day of the Jackal is about an assassination plot on whom?

The usual prize of a £10 M&S token goes to the winner and the closing date for entries is Friday July 14. Good luck.

#### **April Answers**

- 1 Big Top
- 2 Candy floss
- 3 Helter skelter
- 4 Fortune teller
- 5 Waltzer
- 6 Carousel
- 7 Flower show
- 8 Stilt walker
- 9 Fairground attraction
- 10 Lion tamer
- 11 Ghost train
- 12 Dodgems
- 13 Firework display
- 14 Tossing the caber
- 15 Hog roast
- 16 Fiesta
- 17 Running of the bulls
- 18 Steam engine rally
- 19 Mardi Gras
- 20 Fire eater

In a three way tie to decide the winner, luck favoured Gordon Bunting, who will shortly receive a voucher.

#### **Upcoming events in the South**

##### **2017 Events**

**June 3** - Brighton (coach only)

£12.00pp members/£15.00pp non members

**June 12** - TLH Resort, Torquay (five-day break)

Details through the office

£230.00pp members/£240.00pp non members

£30pp deposit required on booking

**June 22** - Windsor (coach only)

£11.00pp members/£13.00pp non members

**July 20** – *Beautiful – The Carol King Story*

Aldwych Theatre, London (inc carvery lunch at Strand Palace Hotel)

£50pp members – **Sold Out**

**August 19** - Portsmouth (coach only)

£12.00pp members/£15.00pp non members

**September 6** - RHS Wisley Flower Show

£21.00pp members/£24.00pp non members

RHS Members £10.00pp

**October 19** - Mystery tour

£10.00pp members/£13.00pp non members

**November 22** - Mighty Wurlitzer Christmas Concert and London Lights Tour

£35.00pp members/£38.00pp non members

**December 4** - Tinsel & Turkey (five days)

Warner's Hotel, Sinah Warren, Hayling Island

£235.00pp members/£255.00pp non members

£30pp deposit required on booking

**December 14** - Christmas meal – format to be decided at time of writing.

If interested in any of the above, please send a stamped addressed envelope to the office (per trip required), and include your pension number, a contact phone number, a deposit of £10.00pp and full details of your name and the trip required. VPA

members may bring a maximum of one (1) person each per trip.

Please note that members who cancels a booking four weeks or less before the date of the trip forfeit their deposits and may be requested to pay for any event ticket purchased by the VPA on their behalf. Travel insurance is not included in the price of any of our trips. Please make your own arrangements.

#### **VPA Golf Matches - 2017**

**June 22** - Singles Championship - Redbourn

**October 3** - Pairs Championship - Aylesbury

All golf playing VPA members with a club handicap are most welcome and can register for events by writing to either Mike Roberts or Jim Heaney at the VPA office (address at the end of this newsletter).

#### **Tea dance schedule**

Please phone office for details.

#### **Upcoming events in the North**

**June 21** - Cheshire Show

Cost £17pp. Leaving Club at 9am

**July 19** - Bakewell and Buxton

Cost £10.00pp. Leaving Club at 9am

**August 16** - The Arboretum

Cost £10.00pp. Leaving Club at 9am

**September 14** - Mystery Tour "Autumn Tints"

Cost £10.00pp. Leaving Club at 9am

**October 11** – Blackpool

Cost £10.00pp. Leaving Club at 9am

**November 29** - War Horse at the Liverpool Empire

Cost £36.00pp. Leaving Club at 1pm

**December 4 to 8** – four-night Turkey and Tinsel holiday at Belgrave Hotel, Tenby (**reserve list stage already**)

There will be a summer and an autumn lunch - venues and dates still to be decided.

#### **Tea Dances**

June 13, 20, 27

July no tea dances

#### **In Memoriam – Luton**

**Bell, Hilda Jean, IBC**

Died 20.4.17, Aged 86, Retired 1988

**Conquest, Sidney Walter, Division 527**

Died 26.4.17, Aged 87, Retired 1993

**Dove, William Albert, Staff**

Died 5.5.17, Aged 89, Retired 1988

**Durrant, Kathleen, Division 192**

Died 29.3.17, Aged 97, Retired 1977

**Ellis, Herman Joseph, Division 032**

Died 8.5.17, Aged 77, Retired 1995

**Evans, Barry, Division 032**

Died 16.3.17, Aged 76, Retired 2002

**Flynn, Noel Francis, Division 089**

Died 24.3.17, Aged 80, Retired 2000

**Giles, Jack Dales, IBC**

Died 6.3.17, Aged 77, Retired 2002

**Grover, Peter Ronald, Staff**

Died 1.5.17, Aged 88, Retired 1989  
**Harrison**, Sidney, Division 114  
Died 26.4.17, Aged 83, Retired 1999  
**Higby**, Keith, IBC  
Died 17.3.17, Aged 69, Retired 2008  
**Hollands**, William Robert, Division 439  
Died 26.4.17, Aged 89, Retired 1987  
**Impey**, Roy Reginald, Division 117  
Died 10.5.17, Aged 78, Retired 1995  
**Khan**, Abdur Rahim, Division 490  
Died 14.3.17, Aged 85, Retired 1987  
**Leo**, Lionel Hubert Richard, Division 493  
Died 23.8.16, Aged 91, Retired 1982  
**McCambridge**, William John, Division 046  
Died 30.1.17, Aged 94, Retired 1987  
**Mead**, Brian Frederick, Division 525  
Died 13.4.17, Aged 88, Retired 1993  
**Petti**, Giovanna, IBC  
Died 16.3.17, Aged 90, Retired 1988  
**Prospere**, Francois, IBC  
Died 5.4.17, Aged 70, Retired 2003  
**Romain**, Lewis, IBC  
Died 22.1.17, Aged 81, Retired 1994  
**Rosenthal**, Ronald George, Staff  
Died 6.4.17, Aged 88, Retired 1987  
**Ross**, William, IBC  
Died 25.4.17, Aged 77, Retired 2003  
**Sanson**, Leonard S., Staff  
Died 10.4.17, Aged 88, Retired 1987  
**South**, Leonard Michael, Division 193  
Died 24.4.17, Aged 90, Retired 1982  
**Stapleton**, Anthony Leslie, IBC  
Died 24.3.17, Aged 83, Retired 1988  
**Stretton**, Dudley Arthur, Staff  
Died 23.4.17, Aged 86, Retired 1986  
**Terrell**, Anthony John, Division 355  
Died 30.3.17, Aged 81, Retired 1993  
**Tullett**, David Henry, Division 229  
Died 30.4.17, Aged 94, Retired 1982  
**Weston**, Veronica Sheila Georgina, Staff  
Died 13.4.17, Aged 90, Retired 1981  
**Willett**, Thomas Eric, Staff  
Died 4.5.17, Aged 97, Retired 1975  
**Wilson**, Edwin Wilfred, Staff  
Died 4.4.17, Aged 87, Retired 1987

### **In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port**

**Anoruo**, Godwin, Division 639  
Died 31.3.17, Aged 87, Retired 1994  
**Arrowsmith**, Lawrence, Division 638  
Died 4.4.17, Aged 63, Retired 2013  
**Baxter**, Walter Elliott Alexander, Division 638  
Died 16.4.17, Aged 95, Retired 1985  
**Davies**, Cyril Kingsley, Division 691  
Died 24.8.16, Aged 83, Retired 1993  
**Dobson**, Herbert William, Division 610  
Died 13.4.17, Aged 87, Retired 1989  
**Fleetwood**, Edward Martin, Division 642  
Died 16.4.17, Aged 79, Retired 2001  
**Lacey**, George, Division 641  
Died 2.4.17, Aged 81, Retired 1998  
**Lewis**, Robert, Division 642

Died 2.4.17, Aged 81, Retired 1990  
**McCrae**, John Henderson, Division 642  
Died 14.4.17, Aged 91, Retired 1987  
**Morning**, Edward, Division 610  
Died 6.4.17, Aged 78, Retired 2003  
**Munro**, Alexander, Division 610  
Died 20.4.17, Aged 93, Retired 1982  
**Popplewell**, Joe, Division 628  
Died 13.4.17, Aged 83, Retired 1998  
**Prior**, Edward, Division 628  
Died 26.3.17, Aged 87, Retired 1988  
**Reilly**, Desmond John, Division 640  
Died 12.5.17, Aged 73, Retired 1998  
**Ruscoe**, Roy George Thomas, Division 642  
Died 5.4.17, Aged 84, Retired 1997  
**Smith**, Kenneth Arthur, Division 608  
Died 30.3.17, Aged 85, Retired 1992  
**Sparks**, Brian Phillip, Division 638  
Died 9.4.17, Aged 75, Retired 1995  
**Stamper**, William Thomas, Division 610  
Died 6.4.17, Aged 74, Retired 2002  
**Thompson**, Douglas Ludwig Lennerman, Div 616  
Died 23.3.17, Aged 88, Retired 1993  
**Williams**, Francis William, Division 617  
Died 25.3.17, Aged 86, Retired 1997  
All information on deceased pensioners is provided by the Pensions Department.

### **How to Access the Newsletter and 2016 AGM Minutes on the Internet**

[www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner\\_pages](http://www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner_pages)

#### **Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAsociation](https://www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAsociation)

#### **Register For E-Mail Prompts**

If you wish to receive an e-mail prompt when the Torque Magazine and Newsletter are available online, please send your e-mail address to:

[hana.tucker@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto:hana.tucker@vauxhall.co.uk)

#### **Useful Telephone and Contact Information**

##### **VPA South**

VPA Office 01582 427921

Office is manned Tuesday and Friday between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

E-mail [vpa@gm.com](mailto:vpa@gm.com)

VPA Office, UK1-100-020, Griffin House, Osborne Road, Luton, LU1 3YT.

Vauxhall Pensions Department 01582 721122

E-mail [marion.mcdonald@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto:marion.mcdonald@vauxhall.co.uk)

Cherie Denton, Vauxhall Welfare Officer 01582 427204

E-mail [cherie.denton@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto:cherie.denton@vauxhall.co.uk)

##### **VPA North**

Anne Atherall 01244 325891

If you have a story you would like to tell, then please get in touch with Norman McGregor via the VPA office or

e-mail [normanmcgregor3@gmail.com](mailto:normanmcgregor3@gmail.com)

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the company.