

# ***Pensioners' Newsletter – August 2015***

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## **News from the South**

Hi everyone:

I'm afraid I have to start this news from the South with the sad news that David Young, a past Vice President of the VPA, passed away shortly after the death of his wife, Joy. Both of them were regular supporters of all the VPA functions and outings over the years and David dedicated a lot of his time to the VPA. Also, we have been advised that Ron Angus' wife passed away recently - Ron being another stalwart of the VPA. Our thoughts are with the families of David and Ron at this time.

Well, I hope you have been able to enjoy the better weather that has come our way over the past few weeks and, unlike me, have been keeping the garden looking smart. I have to admit that my grass is badly in need of a little rain! Too much time spent out on the golf course. Having mentioned golf, we are looking for additional players to take part in the three VPA matches we hold each year. They are very light hearted affairs where the golf comes second to the friendly banter over a drink and a meal, so if you can play at any standard we would be pleased to have you join us. Just let the VPA office know and come along.

Well, enjoy the rest of the summer sunshine.

*John Boast*

## **News from the North**

Dear all,

I hope you are all having a good summer. The weather has been fairly kind to us so far, although the gardeners among us I know are never happy. It is either too hot/wet/dry or cold. At the moment, the vegetables are crying out to be watered, as everywhere is so dry. Did I just say that because at the moment it is pouring?

As many of you will know, we reluctantly had to move from our concert room for the June club night. We were sorry to leave as the venue suited our needs perfectly, which the Astra bar does not. Most of the problems arise from the design of the room, which we can do nothing about. Simon has tried very hard to work on the sound system, but problems are still arising. Although many feel it does not meet our needs in the short term, we are trying hard to make the best of it, but if that is not possible we may reluctantly have to seek a new venue more suitable for our use.

We had a super day out in June taking a very nostalgic trip on the Severn Valley Steam Train. Again, the sun shone on us all day and the stations at each end were a real trip down memory lane. After the trip we went to Shrewsbury. All in all it was a pleasant day.

Yesterday was the trip to Bolton Market, but as we were on grandchildren duty we were unable to go. I believe the day went well ending with tea at Rivington Hall.

I do hope the rest of the summer is kind to us and for any going away do have a good time and come back safely. Until next time,

*Dave Williams*

## **Ted Read and the Duke**

In our June issue, it was reported that Ted had received an invitation to meet with the Duke of Edinburgh in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the Burma Star Association. Ted and his wife Olive travelled to Buckingham Palace to meet with the Duke on 20 May at 3pm. Within a party of eight people, the Duke met with each smaller group individually and Ted had a meeting of about 10 minutes. He was most interested in the war in Burma due to the involvement his uncle, Lord Louis Mountbatten, had in the conflict. One of his closing comments to Ted was "you must be old now" to which Ted replied "yes, but I am one year younger than you". They both smiled and the Duke then had Ted imprisoned in the Tower of London! I would like to congratulate Ted and Olive on earning this wonderful recognition which was thoroughly deserved.

## **25 Year Club Annual Dinner**

The annual dinner is to be held on Friday 16 October in the Riverside Suite at Venue 360. Guests should arrive from 6.15pm for a 6.45pm start. There will be a three course meal and a magician to amuse. The price is £26 per head and tickets can be obtained from Jackie Jones on 01582 427266.

## **Door Scams**

Age UK Bedfordshire have a free information book covering the topic, which can be ordered by calling 01234 360510. A 'scam' can be anything from criminal fraud to sharp, but legal, selling practices designed to cheat someone. Fortunately, a lot of scams and bad purchases can be avoided if you know what to look for!

## **Top Tips**

Do not give any personal information to organisations or people before verifying their credentials, however they have contacted you. Your bank will NEVER call you and ask you to quote PINs or account details over the telephone or via email.

## **Sign up to local (via the council) & national scams alerts.**

If you have been a victim of fraud, be aware of fraud recovery fraud (where someone purports

to want to help you recover your losses but is actually trying to defraud you further).

**Scam types and how to avoid them:**

*Rogue traders - door step selling often with pushy sales people.* Don't be pressured and as a general rule, it's best to avoid buying anything from a cold caller.

*Bogus callers – people attempting to gain entry to your house under false pretences.* Lock all your outer doors before you open your front door, put the door chain on, look through the window or spy-hole and ask for an identity card.

*Direct mail, email and telephone scams – people attempting to 'sell' you a product or service which is either not what it purports to be or simply doesn't exist.* Some examples are pyramid schemes, miracle health cures, hard luck stories and bogus job offers. Ignore any mail/email or telephone call which does not address you by name. Never open email attachments from people you don't know or click on links within the email. Don't call number starting '09' as these are charged at premium rates and wherever possible independently find a number to check on a company.

Identity theft is a major form of scam. You have the right to be (and should be) protective of your personal information – if you are asked for personal details do consider who is asking and why they would need to know. For example your doctor will need to know a lot of personal information about you, a car sales man won't! Always register lost/stolen personal documents and the loss of a family member with the relevant authorities. Ensure that all paperwork with personal details on (including unwanted mail offering credit) is burned or shredded rather than just put in the bin.

**Finally, if you are in any doubt call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040** or visit their website for advice. You can also log a fraud with them.

**Severn Valley Railway, 14 May**

57 Railway Children left Luton and headed for Kidderminster Station to board a Severn Valley steam train for a journey that took the intrepid travellers through Bewdley and Arley before ending up at Highley Station. The stations were decked out exactly as they were when steam trains ruled the roost (those were the days!). The weather was awful as it rained all day, but with typical VPA fortitude spirits were not dampened. On reaching Highley Station, the group visited the Engine House before lunching in the railway restaurant on stale sandwiches and lukewarm tea served by a surly waitress. Only joking about the last bit! The Severn Railway is 50 years old this year. 50 years since it was saved from the bulldozer and carries about 200,000 passengers a year

and is a major tourist attraction in the area. A great day was had by all.

**Annual Outing to Brighton, 6 June**

100 plus VPA members left Luton bound for the annual trip to Brighton. Those that took a bucket and spade had trouble building sand castles on the pebbly beach! The weather was just about perfect, blue skies and sunshine all day. The place was heaving with people as there was a skinhead convention which offered piercings and tattoos. None of our male members joined in, not even those who were already skinheads. A very enjoyable day was had by all at a typical British seaside resort.

**Golf Championship Whipsnade, 18 June**

Recently, 23 assorted 'old Croc's and young Lion's' roared into action when they played at the Whipsnade Park Golf Club to compete for the coveted VPA Golf Championship and this year's winner was 11 handicapper, Phil 'Tiger' Thrussell, with a very steady 35 points. In second place was Phil Brownin with 33 points and in third place was Mike King (on count back) with 32 points. The nearest to the pin competitions were won by Mike Roberts on the 7<sup>th</sup> hole and Tiger Thrussell on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole. These two very accurate golf shots were rewarded with a bottle of red grape juice for each player. After the competition, the players ensured that liquid levels were topped up as they retired to the bar at the 'nineteenth hole'. Also, to replace a few calories they dined on a healthy portion of bison and beer pie which was followed by an ample portion of apple grumble! Such is life! The traditional raffle was held which helps raise money for the Keech Hospice.

The next event is the Pairs Competition, which is to take place at The Bedfordshire Golf Club, near Stagsden on Wednesday 7 October 2015. The pairs will be drawn in accordance with handicap and VPA members will be playing for the Peter Johnson Trophy.

The details of this event will be sent out via email to all regular players in the near future and should any other golf-playing members with a club handicap wish to participate in this, or other golf events, they may register by sending a brief note to Mike Roberts/Jim Heaney at the VPA Office, UK1-100-020, Griffin House, Osborne Road, Luton LU1 3YT.

**Winchester, 25 June**

48 members set out for Winchester on a day of lovely weather, arriving at 11.45am which gave about five hours exploration time. The Cathedral was an obvious starting point although the entry fee of £10 was felt to be a little on the heavy side. Those that went in said it was well worth it as the beauty of the place

was complemented by a fantastic floral display. Some walked along the banks of the River Itchen and looked around the Winchester City Mill, a fully restored working water mill.



*Sue, Irene and Sylvia looking happy*

A pedestrianised High Street had an abundance of restaurants, cafes, pubs and leads to the Upper High Street. This is steeped in history and contains the last surviving part of the old Royal Palace, home of the legendary King Arthur's Round Table. Some then spent the final hour of the day in one of the many pub gardens to hand with a nice cool drink.

### August Quiz

The theme this issue is 'Around the UK'

- 1 Which is the further north, Liverpool or Leeds?
- 2 On which river does Hull lie?
- 3 Which city's major railway station is New Street?
- 4 In which part of the UK is Newry?
- 5 Which resort beginning with S lies between Whitby and Bridlington?
- 6 How is the Welsh island Ynys Mon also known?
- 7 In which District are Ullswater and Bassenthwaite?
- 8 In which country is Pretwick Airport?
- 9 In which city is Princess Street a major shopping attraction?
- 10 London Zoo is in which Park?
- 11 On which island are Shanklin and Sandown?
- 12 Which two south-coast resorts include the name Regis?
- 13 Which two London Boroughs begin with E?
- 14 Which is the only Scottish region beginning with F?
- 15 Which tunnel is a major link around the M25?
- 16 In which city is Lime Street Station and the Albert Dock?
- 17 Which county lies between Norfolk and Essex?
- 18 In which city is Sauciehall Street?
- 19 On which Channel Island is St Peter Port?
- 20 How many counties have a border with Cornwall?

As usual a £10 M & S voucher goes to the winner. Entries must be received by September 22. Good fortune to all that enter.

### June Quiz Answers

- 1 Blue (Danube)
- 2 Yellowstone

- 3 (in the) pink
- 4 anagram of a magnet = magenta
- 5 Red letter day
- 6 Olive (branch)
- 7 Redcar
- 8 Blue (print)
- 9 anagram of love it = violet
- 10 Purple (heart)
- 11 Red (alert)
- 12 Blue (blood)
- 13 Maroon
- 14 Red (tape)
- 15 Red (rum) = murder backwards
- 16 Black (velvet)
- 17 Blue (touch paper)
- 18 Pink (panther)
- 19 Red (baron)
- 20 Green (back)

The winner was Dave Taylor after the wife's hat was once again used! A M & S voucher is on the way.

### Upcoming Events in the South

#### Wednesday August 26

Lochs & Glens tour including Edinburgh tattoo  
**(fully booked)**

#### Thursday September 17

Visit Bakewell and Derbyshire Dales  
**(fully booked)**

#### Thursday, October 15

Tour of BBC Broadcasting House, London  
**(fully booked)**

#### Monday November 23

Tinsel & Turkey - 4 nights at the Langstone Cliff Hotel in Dawlish Warren  
**(places now available)**

#### Thursday December 3

Christmas Dinner & Dance £23.00 pp

#### VPA Golf Section

Wednesday October 7 - Pairs Competition at Bedfordshire Golf Club, Stagsden

#### Tea Dance Schedule

August 12, 26  
September 9, 23  
October 7, 21

### Upcoming Events in the North

#### Wednesday, 12 August

Anglesey County Show  
£13pp. Leaving Club at 9.00am

#### Wednesday 16 September

Mystery tour  
£10.00pp

#### Wednesday 7 October

Blackpool £10 pp. Leaving Club 10.30am

#### Monday 30 November

2 rooms still available on the 5 day Turkey and Tinsel trip staying at the Abbey Lawn Hotel, Torquay

£179pp (a non-returnable deposit of £50pp is required when booking)

#### Friday 18 December

Christmas Dinner

### **Wednesday 6 January 2016**

Palace Theatre, Manchester to see matinee performance of The Bodyguard  
£25pp

#### **Tea Dances**

No dances during Aug  
September 8, 15, 22, 29  
October 13, 20, 27

#### **In Memoriam – Luton**

**Ali**, Haider, Division 150  
Died 15.6.15, Aged 90, Retired 1990  
**Angus**, Catherine Gargill Wyllie, VM Staff  
Died 12.7.15, Aged 94, Retired 1975  
**Austin**, Robert Arthur, Division 380  
Died 16.6.15, Aged 80, Retired 1995  
**Blindell**, Derreck Percy Charles, Division 891  
Died 23.6.15, Aged 87, Retired 1984  
**Boatwright**, Donald Charles, Division 333  
Died 8.6.15, Aged 79, Retired 1991  
**Brown**, Lindo K. Division 074  
Died 19.6.15, Aged 72, Retired 2006  
**Bunyan**, Peter John, VM Staff  
Died 5.6.15, Aged 87, Retired 1986  
**Cook**, Robert, VM Staff  
Died 20.6.15, Aged 92, Retired 1978  
**Croot**, Richard Fredderick, Division 150  
Died 7.6.15, Aged 93, Retired 1984  
**Dhas**, Subodh Ranjan, Division 527  
Died 28.6.15, Aged 75, Retired 2005  
**Dimmock**, Ronald William Harold, Div 089  
Died 10.7.15, Aged 96, Retired 1982  
**Frampton**, Joan, VM Staff  
Died 6.7.15, Aged 83, Retired 1987  
**French**, Margarete, VM Staff  
Died 2.7.15, Aged 95, Retired 1975  
**Fuller**, Kenneth Peter, VM Staff  
Died 12.6.15, Aged 83, Retired 1988  
**Garrett**, Violet Suzette, Division 150  
Died 12.6.15, Aged 99, Retired 1975  
**Gibbs**, Gordon Brian, Division 333  
Died 15.6.15, Aged 86, Retired 1988  
**Gillies**, Daniel John, Division 150  
Died 22.6.15, Aged 72, Retired 1994  
**Graham**, Thomas Arnold, Division 079  
Died 30.6.15, Aged 79, Retired 1991  
**Gutteridge**, Philip Charles, Division 150  
Died 28.6.15, Aged 91, Retired 1982  
**Jones**, Trevor Geoffrey, Division 089  
Died 2.7.15, Aged 77, Retired 1995  
**Kelly**, Patrick Joseph, Division 380  
Died 7.7.15, Aged 80, Retired 1998  
**Ladyman**, John Charles, VM Staff  
Died 23.7.15, Aged 80, Retired 1993  
**Loveday**, A. VM Staff  
Died 25.6.15, Aged 78, Retired 1993  
**Lovell**, John Clarence, Division 333  
Died 3.6.15, Aged 86, Retired 1988  
**Lyons**, Martin, VM Staff  
Died 6.6.15, Aged 86, Retired 1987  
**McLeod**, Daphne May, Division 346  
Died 15.7.15, Aged 85, Retired 1981

**McLoughlin**, Charles Joseph, Division 150  
Died 7.7.15, Aged 89, Retired 1991  
**Mechelewski**, Stanislaw Josef, VM Staff  
Died 12.6.15, Aged 85, Retired 1988  
**Parkins**, John Charles, Division 150  
Died 6.6.15, Aged 89, Retired 1970  
**Parsons**, Roy Albert William, VM Staff  
Died 2.7.15, Aged 94, Retired 1986  
**Rolls**, R.C., VM Staff  
Died 2.6.15, Aged 83, Retired 1989  
**Rushbrook**, Peter Brian, Division 380  
Died 21.6.15, Aged 82, Retired 1986  
**Russell**, Gordon Brackenridge, Div 150  
Died 17.6.15, Aged 84, Retired 1989  
**Scott**, George Stuart, Division 346  
Died 5.6.15, Aged 91, Retired 1982  
**Tearle**, Leslie George, VM Staff  
Died 10.6.15, Aged 88, Retired 1984  
**Trussell**, Derrick, Division 891  
Died 5.6.15, Aged 80, Retired 1997  
**Wallis**, Derrick Norman, VM Staff  
Died 14.7.15, Aged 84, Retired 1988  
**Webb**, Roy Thomas, Division 079  
Died 10.6.15, Aged 91, Retired 1982  
**Young**, David T., VM Staff  
Died 3.7.15, Aged 88, Retired 1989

#### **In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port**

**Aylott**, John, Division 627  
Died 4.6.15, Aged 83, Retired 1997  
**Baird**, Elizabeth Mary, Division 642  
Died 12.6.15, Aged 83, Retired 2006  
**Connolly**, D. Division 635  
Died 29.6.15, Aged 88, Retired 1983  
**Evans**, Donald Thomas, Division 627  
Died 7.7.15, Aged 83, Retired 1995  
**Hollingsworth**, Thomas, Division 642  
Died 1.7.15, Aged 84, Retired 1993  
**Holme**, James Thomas, Division 663  
Died 2.4.15, Aged 79, Retired 2001  
**Holmes**, Barbara, Division 627  
Died 30.6.15, Aged 95, Retired 1980  
**Marsh**, Alan, Division 610  
Died 13.7.15, Aged 91, Retired 1987  
**Moss**, George William, Division 640  
Died 13.6.15, Aged 75, Retired 2002  
**Oakley**, E. Division 642  
Died 12.6.15, Aged 78, Retired 1998  
**O'Toole**, Thomas Leo, Division 635  
Died 3.6.15, Aged 89, Retired 1987  
**Peterson**, David, Division 616  
Died 14.7.15, Aged 84, Retired 1994  
**Sherlock**, Peter Kenneth, Division 663  
Died 9.5.15, Aged 88, Retired 1991  
**Shore**, Joseph, Division 635  
Died 14.6.15, Aged 75, Retired 2002  
**Shuttleworth**, W., Division 638  
Died 21.7.15, Aged 84, Retired 1993  
All information on deceased pensioners is provided by the Pensions Department.  
The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Company.