

# ***Pensioners' Newsletter – August 2014***

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## **News from the South**

Hi everyone: I hope you are all enjoying the great summer we are having and the heat has not been too much of a problem for you. I also hope that those of you who joined the trips to Brighton, Blenheim Palace and of course the Mystery Tour during June and July enjoyed your days out. I think this is a good time for me to thank Sue Kirby, Sylvia Pemberton and Dave Linney (the team who organise our trips) for the excellent work they do throughout the year. Don't forget, we have outings to Lords Cricket Ground and Denbies Vineyard coming up so why not call the office to see if there are any places left. Also, I know the weather makes it difficult to look that far ahead but it's not too early to book your place at the Christmas dinner - our annual get together at the Riverside Suite, Venue 360. Well I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer, I'm just off to cut the grass, again! There's always a snag.  
*John Boast*

## **News from the North**

Hi folks: What a beautiful spell of summer weather we are all enjoying - just as it should be but so rarely is. My wife and I had a very enjoyable hot sunny week in Tenby, revisiting old haunts; hence we missed the Wensleydale trip, which everybody seemed to enjoy. The weather was fine and they had a super train ride through lovely countryside ending up with a visit to Ripon for tea before leaving for home. As we are taking three small grandchildren away next week the prayer mats are out for the good weather to continue. Unfortunately, as well as a good summer it has also been a somewhat sad one. In July, we said a very sad goodbye to two of our long standing Committee members. Billy Wrenn's funeral was on July 4 followed by Ken Royle's on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Although both had been poorly for some time they still managed to attend the social evenings until quite recently and both will be sorely missed. Many members attended both funerals as well as many of our work colleagues. On behalf of the Club, a donation was sent to both their requested charities. In the case of Billy the Alzheimer's Society and Ken's went to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd. Ken had been our Chairman for many years until he stood down and Bill was champion at sniffing out bargains for our monthly raffle prizes. On a happier note, everybody who went to see the Lion King was blown away by the performance. It was absolutely stunning. Unfortunately the trip to Quarry Mill had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

Till next time, I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer. Whatever you do, and if you go away, come back safely

Kind regards

*Dave Williams*

## **Vauxhall 25 Year Club - Annual Dinner and Cabaret**

This event will take place on Friday October 17 2014 at the Riverside Suite, Venue 360, Gipsy Lane. Tickets are on sale to members only. Please contact Cherie Denton for further information and to order your ticket. Cherie can be reached on 01582 427204. Hurry, as tickets are bound to go fast for what is a very popular evening.

## **Memories**

I was very pleased to receive a phone call from Kenneth Pullan concerning the day Vauxhall was bombed by the Luftwaffe. It all took place in July 1940. Ken was an office boy in F Block Kimpton Road and he was sent to the Heavy Vehicle Design Department in V Block holding a requisition to have some drawings run off in the print room. After said drawings were printed, in an office on the 1st floor, he made for the exit door on the ground floor, stopping on the way for a chat with another office boy. The commissioner on duty was watching the lads, so they cut short the chat and Ken started to make his way back to F Block. Suddenly there was an almighty blast, which blew him off his feet. Being a resilient youth, he picked himself up and continued on his way, thinking that it was merely a gust of wind. This gust of wind was later confirmed as a bomb which struck the stairwell, unfortunately killing the commissioner and an office boy (Ken is not sure if it was the lad he was talking to or not). He arrived safely back in F Block to find a deserted office, so he made his way to the strong room, which was a designated shelter and waited for the all clear. He then returned to his office.

As a footnote, Ken could not use his bicycle to ride home at the end of the day and having no money in his pocket to pay for bus fare, he had to walk home where, he put his parents mind at rest. Incidentally, this all took place on a Friday and by the following Monday the Print Room was working again and Ken had to go back for more drawings. Walking up the road to V Block he noticed the area was riddled with shrapnel and he believed he had a guardian angel looking after him.

Ken started his Vauxhall life as an apprentice in the Experimental Wood Shop and when D Jones started the Styling Department in V

Block after the war, Ken joined it starting with wooden models fabrication, moving through clay to fibreglass plus working on trim bucks. Ken is now 88 years old and started at Vauxhall in July 1940, retiring in 1984, and spent most of his career in the Experimental Wood Shop, latterly as an executive manager. We have not had a memory item for a while now and I am sure there are lots out there, so please send your own memories in. It will be of interest to the readers of this Newsletter and, more importantly, means I have to spend less time thinking how to fill the spaces!

### June Quiz – Answers

- 1 Envelope
- 2 Queue
- 3 Because there are more of them
- 4 Noon (or Oxo)
- 5 One
- 6 Mary
- 7 Halfway - then it is running out
- 8 Your name
- 9 Umbrella
- 10 A map
- 11 A round one cannot fall down the hole
- 12 They are all boys
- 13 Help had 2 empty sacks so farmer with a full sack had the heavier load
- 14 Silence
- 15 Three blind mice (no eyes)

Three entries did particularly well, but David Taylor topped the scoring and will receive a £10 M&S voucher along with our congratulations. To those who say that Dave has won it before, all I can state is that you can only win if you enter.

### August Quiz

The theme this month is collections. For example, a collection or group of horses is called a herd. So try your hand at the following. You never know "it might be you". So what is the name of a group or collection of:

- 1 Admirals
- 2 Harpists
- 3 Pheasants
- 4 Dunces
- 5 Judges
- 6 Lapwings
- 7 Porpoises
- 8 Nuns
- 9 Sailors
- 10 Sardines
- 11 Cubs
- 12 Creditors
- 13 Crows
- 14 Hypocrites
- 15 Lions
- 16 Gossips
- 17 Playwrights

18 Orthodontists

19 Geese

20 Witches

Note that in the event of more than one answer my decision is final. Oh how I love the power! The closing date is Friday September 19 and you can send your entries to the office or to my e-mail, which is shown at the end of this Newsletter. As usual, the winner will receive a £10 M&S voucher. Good luck.

### Brighton – Saturday June 7

This year's annual charabanc outing was to Brighton (the term charabanc came about in the 1920s when local businesses arranged a yearly day trip to the seaside for their workers and used a mode of open topped transport called a charabanc, hence the term 'annual charabanc outing'). Not many people know that, according to a famous actor who largely resides overseas! Anyway enough of the history lesson and my pathetic attempt at satire.

The trip proved very popular with 3 coaches laid on to take 130 members to the sin capital of the south coast. The journey there was accompanied by heavy rain, but when the group arrived late morning it was as if a miracle occurred and the clouds went away, the sun came out and the day became warmer. It being a Saturday, Brighton rocked (sorry for that). There was a carnival, a music festival, stag and hen parties everywhere you stepped and even a wedding group having pictures taken on the beach. I was going to write that this ensured that the marriage got off to a stony start but thought better of it. The pier was buzzing with activity with great bars, restaurants and a fun fair in full swing. For those of a genteel disposition (or indeed followers of Dorothy), there was the famous Lanes full of antique shops and all manner of bric-a-brac and curio stalls, not to mention the Pavilion and the Marina. All too soon it was 6pm and time to begin the journey home. The consensus was that the trip represented great value for money at £12

### Golf - Whipsnade Park - Singles Stableford Thursday June 12

Warm sunshine and clear blue skies greeted the 24 fit and healthy looking pensioners (and we know that looks can be deceiving!) who competed for the coveted VPA Golf Championship. As usual, the golf was played to a high standard with not too many balls hit into the animal enclosures. It was generally agreed that fresh ostrich burgers, although pleasant, were very much an acquired taste! The format of the competition was a singles full handicap Stableford and this year's winner was 19 handicapper Fred Burrell with a

creditable 37 points. In second place was Alan Everitt, with 36 points. Jim Gleasure was third, Geoff Fountain fourth and Alan Currington fifth.

Both the nearest the pin competitions were won by Peter Slocombe, which was quite strange as he seemed to concentrate on the par three holes and finished with the lowest number of points in the actual Stableford competition, which I think represents being last. Let me say that this report was sent to me by Mike Roberts and I thank him for it. More importantly anyone who is offended by any comments now knows who to blame. After the sport, the group retired to the clubhouse to take on board refreshments and maintain liquid levels. As is the custom, there was a raffle in aid of the Keech Hospice.

### **Blenheim Palace Flower Show - Friday June 20**

Two coaches of Royalists and would be gardeners left Luton and arrived at Blenheim at 11am on a beautiful summer's day, with tickets covering the Palace (Royalists) and the Flower Show (gardeners). Blenheim was the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill (commonly known as the patron saint of insurance companies) and has six on-site eating/drinking establishments. Also on offer was a tour of the State Rooms and the Churchill Exhibition, a walk round the formal gardens, including the Secret and Rose gardens, and a ride on the miniature train to the Pleasure Gardens to enjoy the Marlborough Maze and the butterfly house. Plus, of course, the Flower Show itself. Marquees as far as the eye could see full of traders selling their wares with art and craft items mixed in with plants and flowers. By mid-afternoon the temperature had soared and a visit to the beer and wine tasting tent was a must. It was soon 5pm and time to go home and boy was the air conditioning in the coaches welcome!

### **Mystery tour - Wednesday July 16**

59 VPA members boarded the coach and all asked the same question - where are we going? Like it is a mystery tour! Gareth, the driver, entered into the spirit of the day by putting a blindfold on before departure and asking the passengers not to worry! First Hitchin, then Baldock and then the guessing games began - Great Yarmouth, Peterborough, Norwich, etc. All were wrong, as the coach pulled up in Ely right outside the cathedral. The weather was very hot and that combined with the fitness requirements stopped most from taking a tour and climbing to the top of the towers (nothing to do with the £6.50 tour fee). Another must was the tour of Oliver Cromwell's house, which provided a

fascinating insight into his life. Some went on a river cruise on the Great Ouse and saw many river boats and barges along with cafes and restaurants along the river banks. Some visited the Ely museum at the old gaol and the Stained Glass Museum. Before too long, it was back to the coach and home to Luton, with the group having had another super day out.

## **Upcoming Events in the South**

### **Wednesday August 6**

Lords Cricket Ground Tour

Adults £18 pp/grandchildren £15 pp

### **Thursday September 11**

Denbies Vineyard Tour - £25 pp  
(including wine and food tasting)

### **Thursday October 9**

Imperial War Museum Duxford - £27 pp

### **November 24 (4 nights)**

Tinsel & Turkey, Warners Hotel,  
Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales  
£275 pp

### **Thursday December 4**

Christmas Party - £22 pp

If you have any questions regarding the above or require more information, please ring the office where Sue, Sylvia or David will be only too happy to assist.

## **VPA Golf Section - 2014 events**

Tuesday October 7 – Buckingham Golf Club.

A pairs competition, with members playing for the Peter Johnson Trophy.

## **Tea Dance Schedule**

August 6, 13

September 3, 17

October 8, 29

November 12, 26

December 10

## **Upcoming Events in the North**

### **Wednesday October 1**

Trip to Liverpool Empire to see Wicked.

Cost £30 pp

Leaving Club at 1.00 pm

### **Wednesday October 22**

Trip to Blackpool

Cost £5 pp

Leaving Club at 10.00 am

### **Monday November 24**

A 5 day Turkey and Tinsel holiday to Tenby staying at the Belgrave Hotel. This is all inclusive at a cost of £200 pp. There are two trips to Swansea and Cardiff and there is one double room still available.

### **Monday April 20, 2015**

Bookings will be taken at the August social night for a spring holiday to Scotland. This is a 5 day holiday staying at the Duke of Gordon

Hotel in Kingussie. The cost is £169 and a deposit of £50 is required.

#### Tea Dances

No dances in August  
September 9, 16, 23 and 30

#### Luton Lottery (drawn July 9)

H.G. Chauhan	P1007424	£83.87
M.W. May	P35719D	£83.87
T. Phelps	P1011292	£83.87
R.R. Grimwood	P2001778	£83.87
C. Claridge	P1008262	£41.93
M.E. Plummer	P2004475	£41.93
P.J. Thrussell	P1008071	£20.97
M.B. Mayer	P081437F	£20.97
I. Logan	P1008466	£20.97
P.J. Bates	P1010137	£20.97
O. Gayle	P.1005851	£20.97

#### E/Port Lottery

No results available

#### In Memoriam – Luton

**Ballard**, John Courtney, Division 842

Died 28.5.14, Aged 77, Retired 1988

**Bent**, Frederick, BCV

Died 28.5.14, Aged 88, Retired 1985

**Bonner**, Egbert, Division 033

Died 26.6.14, Aged 75, Retired 2002

**Brooks**, R.C. Division 451

Died 29.6.14, Aged 87, Retired 1986

**Carrafiello**, Gennaro, BCV

Died 17.6.14, Aged 91, Retired 1986

**Chappin**, Daphne Joy,

Died 16.5.14, Aged 79, Retired 1985

**Currid**, James, Division 041

Died 29.6.14, Aged 92, Retired 1980

**Davies**, Sylvia Ruth,

Died 22.5.14, Aged 87, Retired 1981

**Demeter**, Laszio, BCV

Died 2.7.14, Aged 86, Retired 1986

**Flint**, Stanley Frank, Division 435

Died 20.6.14, Aged 88, Retired 1981

**Glenister**, Frederick Michael James,

Died 23.5.14, Aged 84, Retired 1983

**Howells**, Ivor Stanley, Division 824

Died 3.6.14, Aged 79, Retired 1988

**Jones**, Ronald Albert Andrew, Div 818

Died 30.5.14, Aged 89, Retired 1987

**Martell**, Mirko, Division 032

Died 15.6.14, Aged 86, Retired 1992

**Owen**, Frank, BCV

Died 28.5.14, Aged 89, Division 1986

**Parsons**, Derrick,

Died 16.6.14, Aged 91, Retired 1985

**Sharman**, Mary, BCV

Died 15.6.14, Aged 90, Retired 1984

**Whiteley**, Dennis, VM Staff

Died 15.6.14, Aged 90, Retired 1986

**Williams**, Margaret Ann, Division 380

Died 1.6.14, Aged 63, Retired 2000

**Woolley**, Walter Clement, Division 053

Died 16.5.14, Aged 90, Retired 1981

**Wright**, Eileen Maude, Division 033

Died 1.6.14, Aged 84, Retired 1981

#### In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

**Arnold**, W.F. Division 111

Died 2.7.14, Aged 91, Retired 1975

**Butroid**, Edward Arnold, Division 727

Died 22.6.14, Aged 88, Retired 1981

**Hughes**, Graham, Division 627

Died 17.6.14, Aged 75, Retired 1981

**Murphy**, William, Division 674

Died 31.5.14, Aged 83, Retired 1988

**Pickard**, Ronald, Division 642

Died 27.6.14, Aged 79, Retired 1998

**Rout**, Victor Elliot, Division 067

Died 23.5.14, Aged 94, Retired 1980

**Royle**, Kenneth, Division 670

Died 28.6.14, Aged 86, Retired 1989

**Shone**, John Anthony, Division 662

Died 25.5.14, Aged 76, Retired 1981

**Simpson**, Ronald, Division 641

Died 1.6.14, Aged 67, Retired 2001

**Wakeley**, Frank, Division 663

Died 4.7.14, Aged 73, Retired 2002

**Worthington**, Brian, Division 304

Died 26.6.14, Aged 76, Retired 1975

**Wrenn**, William, Division 627

Died 20.6.14, Aged 83, Retired 1998

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##### AGM Minutes on the Internet

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

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#### Useful Telephone and Contact Information

##### VPA South

VPA Office 01582 427921

Office is manned Monday, Tuesday and Friday between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.

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##### 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.