

Pensioners' Newsletter – June 2014

News from the South

Hi everyone,

What strange weather we are having. One day hot and sunny and the next raining! I played in the latest VPA golf day at Abbey Hill in Milton Keynes recently and got soaked! It didn't stop raining from start to finish.

However, we all enjoyed the day and had a good meal afterwards. A full report is included in this Newsletter so remember you don't have to be Tiger Woods to join in, just contact Mike Roberts or Jim Heaney. All our other outings are proving to be very popular this year, so make sure you book the ones you want to go on in good time to avoid being disappointed. I hope the weather is kind to us and that you all enjoy a great summer.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear all: it is hard to credit that we are already almost half way through the year - it must be something to do with getting older.

Everywhere around is bursting with colour and so many things appearing earlier. I guess the mild winter has a lot to do with it and now with the sunshine everywhere looks green and fresh.

Our spring trips have been successful. Those who went on the day trip to Leeds had an enjoyable day. The highlight of April for those who joined us was the trip down to Falmouth. We were blessed with five days of warm sunshine and very little rain. It was a lovely trip, the hotel and food were superb and we had great trips out. The gardens at Trebah and Llanhydrock were just at their best with azaleas, camellias, magnolias and rhodies in full bloom. Some people sampled Cornish pasties and some cream teas and I know some sampled both; now I wonder who they could be!

As I write, I believe there are still places available on the trips to Wensleydale and Styal, so act quickly if you wish to go. Further details are available towards the end of the Newsletter.

Till next time - I hope the weather stays kind to you and you enjoy the summer.

Regards,

Dave Williams

Age UK Lifebook

Some years ago I was appointed executor to the will of a relative. One thing that stays with me to this day is that he had left a list of all contact details etc. concerning all of his affairs.

These ranged from pensions, gas and electricity providers, motoring organisations, etc. Now I know for too many of us this exercise is rather liking drawing up a will, we put it off in case it tempts fate.

However, Age UK will provide, free of charge, what they call a LifeBook.

It has been developed so you can find what you need without searching through file after file. It will not only make you more organised but will prove invaluable to a family member or friend should they need to locate important information in the event of an emergency. It is easy to fill in; simply follow the step-by-step instructions in the various sections with your details, contacts and location of various data. You don't have to do it all at once - just complete it at your own pace.

The Lifebook is available in both booklet and computer versions.

For those with a computer you can get started by visiting www.ageuk.org.uk/lifebook Others can call 0845 685 1061 quoting ref LFB302.

We will be featuring Age UK again in our August Newsletter. If you do not wish to wait until the next issue, please visit:

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/local> or
<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are>
or <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do>

Monday Club

In the continued absence of Ted Read, it is timely that we thank those that are running the club until he returns. We know how important this club is to those that attend and the Committee are very grateful to the following who ensure that it takes place - Jean and Bob Bavister, Joe Clements, Brenda Potter, Jean Glenister (who we are pleased to see is up and about again) and Maureen Clark. Maureen is helping out and we especially thank her for her efforts.

VPA Dance Section

The section has been established for many years and is run by Olive and Ted Read. It meets fortnightly on a Wednesday in the Riverside Suite at Venue 360, Gipsy Lane starting at 2.00pm and finishing at 4.00pm. The cost is £1 per person and refreshments are available from the Balcony Bar at Venue 360. There are around 60 members, with Ted providing the music for members to waltz, quick step, foxtrot, jive, cha cha, old time, sequence dance, etc., although it has to be stated that throwing your partner over your

shoulder is frowned upon (no-one likes a show off!).

New members are always welcome so if it takes your fancy why not turn up and give it a try. You can find a list of dates later in this Newsletter. It is recommended that you check the date before going as we sometimes have late cancellations at Venue 360.

April Quiz - Answers

1. Rupert Murdoch
2. Kenya
3. Let it Be (released) or Abbey Road (recorded), either gets a point
4. 1960
5. Keith Richards (quashed on appeal two months later)
6. Ian Fleming
7. Chemistry and Research Assistant
8. Ian Botham
9. Uganda
10. The Bodyshop
11. Shaddup your face
12. Jim Hacker
13. Iranian
14. The Satanic Verses
15. 1982
16. Stonehenge
17. Channel Tunnel
18. Ronnie and Reggie Kray
19. Jesus Christ Superstar
20. Agatha Christie

Three entries tied for first place with a perfect 20, and the name pulled out of the hat was David Walton who receives our congratulations and a £10 M&S voucher.

June Quiz

I thought we would base this month's quiz on a lateral thinking theme.

1. What starts with an E, ends with an E and usually contains only one letter?
2. What common word has four successive vowels?
3. Why are 1998 pound coins worth more than 1995 pound coins?
4. What word (in capitals) is the same upside down and backwards?
5. I have a large money box, roughly ten inches square and six inches tall. How many two-pound coins can I put in it before it is no longer empty?
6. Mary's father has 5 daughters Nana, Nene, Nini, Nono and.... What is the name of the fifth girl?
7. How far can a horse run into a wood?
8. What do you possess but is used more by other people?
9. What can go up a chimney down, but can't go down a chimney up?
10. What has roads but no cars, rivers but no water and hills but no trees?

11. Why are manhole covers circular when it is easier and cheaper to make them square?
12. A woman has seven children. Half of them are boys. How is this possible?
13. A farmer and his hired help were carrying grain to the barn. The farmer carried one sack of grain and the hired help carried two sacks. Who had the heavier load and why?
14. What is so fragile that when you say its name, it breaks?
15. What is represented by mce, mce, mce? Closing date is Friday July 18. Good luck with your entries.

Why Men Are Never Depressed

They never lose their last name
They can wear a white t-shirt to a water park
Car mechanics tell them the truth
Wrinkles add character
Phone calls are over in 30 seconds flat
A five-day holiday only needs one small bag
Underwear is £4.99 for a three pack
Three pairs of shoes are more than enough
The same hairstyle lasts a lifetime
They can wear shorts no matter how their legs look.

Thursday April 24 - Canterbury

83 VPA Pilgrims left Luton at 9am, arriving at Canterbury at 11am and were disgorged from the coaches in the middle of the city.

Canterbury is a very interesting and busy place with the main attraction being the Cathedral.

At the beautiful archway leading into the cathedral the entry fee was displayed - £9.50 for pensioners. After the initial cries of how much and O Father! (how many remember Derek Nimmo?), those that did take the plunge (cue font jokes) had a most enjoyable visit and said it was well worth the money.

Other attractions on offer were a walk on the city walls, a river trip in a punt with a running commentary on places of historical interest or visits to one of the museums.

There are pubs and cafes on most corners of this splendid pedestrianised city, with narrow lanes mixed with historical buildings which in turn were mixed with all the top departmental stores. Truly an eclectic mix of old and new. You will have to ask Bill Saul what eclectic means as he, and Irene Bartlett, provided the words for this trip and the one that comes later covering the Cotswolds.

Finally, the weather which was overcast on arrival improved through the day, and a happy and tired bunch arrived at Luton having had a brilliant day.

Thursday May 8 - Abbey Hill - Team Texas Scramble

Despite heavy and persistent rain, all of the 24 turned up at the Abbey Hill Golf Club in

Milton Keynes for the annual Texas Scramble Team Golf competition, writes Mike Roberts. Playing conditions were very difficult with surface water on some fairways and greens but this did not deter some teams from achieving excellent scores. One of these teams comprised Bob Bolton, Alan Smith, Vince Weatherhead and Dick Shortland who won the competition. Runners-up were Jim Gleasure, Peter Slocombe, Eric Thompson and Dick Mumford. Jim Gleasure won the Nearest the Pin prize on the 8th hole whilst Geoff Fountain won the Nearest the Pin prize on the shorter 17th hole. All the exercise was merely the prelude to the important matter at hand, namely the meal and drinks at the 19th hole.

We are currently updating the Golf Club contact list and should any VPA members who have not enlisted but would like to please contact Mike Roberts on mikerobertsverulam@msn.com

Tuesday May 13 - Cotswolds by steam & Cheltenham

51 wheeltappers and shunters (remember them) left Luton at 08.30am, arriving in good time to reach the GWR (Gloucester Warwickshire Railway) station to board the 12.15 pm from Toddington to Cheltenham Racecourse. As the engine approached the station gushing smoke and whistling away, the smell and noise rekindled memories of a youth spent "copping" names and marking them off in an Ian Allen trainspotter's book. The group boarded the train and sat in a reserved section in a beautifully restored carriage, with full waiter service providing cake and tea/coffee. Shades of Downton Abbey! The journey itself ended at the Racecourse having travelled through the magnificent Cotswolds countryside, and the group were met by the coach to go on to the Evesham Garden Centre where refreshments could be purchased along with a multitude of items in the onsite shops. The weather was kind, with rain only falling when it did not cause a problem. Once again a good day was had by all. Thanks are passed on to the members organising these trips, namely Sue, Sylvia and Dave.

Upcoming Events in the South

Annual outing to Brighton - coach only
£12 pp

Friday June 20

Blenheim Palace Flower Show (inc. admission to House and Gardens) - £23 pp

Wednesday July 16

Mystery tour - coach only - £13 pp

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

Thursday June 12 - Whipsnade Park - Singles Stableford

Tuesday October 7 – Buckingham Golf Club

Tea Dance Schedule

June 4, 18

July 9, 23

August 6, 13

September 3, 17

October 8, 29

November 12, 26

December 10

Upcoming Events in the North

Tuesday June 17

Trip to Wensleydale.

Departs from Club at 8.30 am. The steam train is booked for 12 noon and the coach will leave at 2.30 pm for Ripon where there will be a meal stop.

Cost £17 pp

Wednesday June 25

Evening trip to the Liverpool Empire to see The Lion King is **now full**

Wednesday July 9

Trip to Quarrybank at Styal which is a National Trust property.

Cost £10 pp, but if you are a member and remember your ticket cost will be £5 for coach. Leave Club at 9.00 am

Monday November 24

Five day Turkey and Tinsel holiday has been arranged at the Belgrave Hotel in Tenby. This is an all-inclusive holiday, the cost of which is £200 pp.

More details closer to the time.

Wednesday October 1

Trip to Liverpool Empire to see Wicked.

Cost £30 pp

Further details of these trips and any others I will give you as they become available

Tea Dances

June 10, 17 and 24

No tea dances in July.

Luton Lottery (drawn May 14)

C. Claridge	P1008262	£334.95
F.H. Bird	P2004990	£83.74
A.A. Dear	P014338H	£83.74
S.R. Whitworth	P1010156	£41.87
C.J. Gilheany	P1012012	£41.87
D.J. Kearney	P1007163	£41.87
J.G. Aries	P024692A	£20.93
P.F. Keely	P1017984	£20.93
N. Dalel	P1004877	£20.93
D. Staddon	P1003861	£20.93
M.Q. Khan	P2004803	£20.93
M.G. Archer	P1006688	£20.93

E/Port Lottery

No results available.

In Memoriam – Luton

Alleyne, Clarendon, Division 046
Died 16.4.14, Aged 81, Retired 1997

Atherton, John Raymond, Division 401
Died 24.3.14, Aged 87, Retired 1988

Bellingham, Desmond William, Div. 828
Died 21.3.14, Aged 88, Retired 1987

Bonaccolta, Sebastiano, Division 889
Died 20.3.14, Aged 87, Retired 1987

Carroll, Patrick, Division 032
Died 27.3.14, Aged 72, Retired 2001

Carter, Eric Charles, BCV
Died 29.4.14, Aged 83, Retired 1989

Cragg, John Anthony, Division 539
Died 2.4.14, Aged 78, Retired 1990

Dickson, Kenneth Askew Maurice, Staff
Died 17.3.14, Aged 100, Retired 1978

Evans, Paul, Division 401
Died 18.3.14, Aged 59, Retired 1982

Francis, Taliesin Morgan, Division 825
Died 22.4.14, Aged 100, Retired 1976

Grygiel, Tadeusz, Division 256
Died 20.3.14, Aged 87, Retired 1987

Knapman, Kenneth McKenzie, Division 570
Died 25.3.2014, Aged 92, Retired 1987

Love, Stephen Raymond, Division 226
Died 29.4.14, Aged 60, Retired 2013

Lynes, Douglas George, Division 854
Died 2.5.14, Aged 90, Retired 1982

Major, Alec, Dunstable
Died 20.3.14, Aged 93, Retired 1982

Matthew, Claudius Archibald, Div 844
Died 28.3.14, Aged 77, Retired 1999

McEvoy, Kenneth, Division 570
Died 16.3.14, Aged 90, Retired 1982

McKay, P.J., Division 255
Died 22.3.14, Aged 86, Retired 1987

Newman, Robert Waclaw, Division 485
Died 23.3.14, Aged 88, Retired 1987

Parmar, Ishwerial, Division 527
Died 26.3.14, Aged 83, Retired 1993

Pugh, Francis Graham, Division 049
Died 2.5.14, Aged 74, Retired 2004

Roberts, William Owen, VML

Died 28.4.14, Aged 90, Retired 1981

Robinson, Ronald Stanley, Division 525

Died 14.4.14, Aged 76, Retired 1993

Shadbolt, Derek Henry Guy, Staff

Died 23.3.14, Aged 93, Retired 1982

Telford, Archibald, Staff

Died 30.3.14, Aged 79, Retired 1990

Thomas, Dorrell Harriett, Division 032

Died 24.4.14, Aged 84, Retired 1994

Van-Ross, Marjorie Dorothy, Staff

Died 21.3.14, Aged 92, Retired 1975

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Amer, Brian Edward, Division 608

Died 22.3.14, Aged 76, Retired 2002

Dickson, Rodger, Division 617

Died 25.3.14, Aged 74, Retired 2002

Lee, Ronald, Division 641

Died 26.4.14, Aged 79, Retired 1999

Ogbuehi, Johah, Division 691

Died 29.4.14, Aged 82, Retired 1994

Roberts, A. Division 627

Died 7.5.14, Aged 85, Retired 1989

Rutter, Derek William, Division 670

Died 12.4.14, Aged 83, Retired 1993

How To Access the Newsletter and 2013

AGM Minutes on the Internet

www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner_pages

Register For E-Mail Prompts

If you wish to receive an e-mail prompt when the Torque Magazine and Newsletter are available on line, please send your e-mail address to: annisa.whitehall@vauxhall.co.uk

Useful Telephone and Contact Information

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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

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