

# ***Pensioners' Newsletter — October 2010***

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## **News from the North**

Hello Everyone: The July Social Night and entertainment which consisted of guitar, ukulele, vocals and comedy, was very well received. If you have any recommendations you would like to see perform at the Club, please inform our MC or any member of the Committee. We do have a Suggestion Box and forms on the table as you enter the Club. Please use them for anything you need to bring to the attention of the Committee and don't forget to add your name.

Our trip to Bury Market on 14<sup>th</sup> July was a new venue for us and was well worth the visit. It was an excellent day, with lovely weather, good food and plenty of shopping. Good feedback from all those who attended.

Shrewsbury Flower Show on 13<sup>th</sup> August was as beautiful as always, but a very wet day throughout. Those who went, nevertheless, enjoyed it.

On a more sombre note, we recently lost a very much thought of member of the Committee and good friend to many of us. Eric Singleton, our Vice Chairman, and husband to Val, passed away and our condolences and love go to Val and her family.

Anyone who has a special story you think we would like to hear about, do share it with us. Do tell me – write it down and I will do the rest.

*Margaret Knoblett*

## **News from the South**

This time the news is all about people. First I am very pleased to wish Charlie Worby a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Charlie was a member of the Visitor's Committee for over 20 years giving up time to visit other VM pensioners needing help or company. He is the second visitor to reach 90 this year, so it seems a good recipe to longevity.

Second I want to mention Bob Bavister who is one of the longest serving members of the VPA Executive Committee. Bob was taken poorly a few weeks ago, but thankfully is on the road to recovery. I am sure I speak for you all in wishing Bob a speedy return to full health and wishing his wife Jean (also a long

serving VPA committee member) all the best in putting up with him now he is feeling better (only joking!!)

Finally Tony Lines has decided to retire from the role of representing retirees on the Pensions Board. Tony carried out this task for 10 years always with our interest at the front of his mind and at a consistently high standard. He will remain with the VPA as a Vice President ensuring we do not lose his huge experience of pension matters. His place on the Pensions Board has been taken by George Taylor a previous trustee of the fund and ex chairman of the Pensions Board. I would wish George all the best in his new role. We will provide a more detailed profile of George in the next Newsletter.

*John Boast*

## **YOUR VPA NEEDS YOU!!!**

The VPA is looking for new Executive Committee members. Your only commitment is to attend the monthly meeting at the Recreation Centre on the last Tuesday of each month. If you would like to get involved please ring the office on the number at the end of this Newsletter.

## **How To Access the Newsletter on the Internet**

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

If you do not have a computer, find someone who has and ask them to print it off for you or ask at your local library for their help. We hope to expand the Pensioners Page to include all manner of details about the VPA although this will take time.

## **Hampton Court**

Around 40 VPA members visited Hampton Court on Tuesday, 17th August. A full and interesting day was had by all between arriving at 10.00 am and leaving at 4.00 pm. Costumed guides were to be found throughout the palace and gardens. Enormous kitchens where whole animals were roasting on spits above open fires certainly whetted appetites. On the walls of the palace priceless tapestries vividly portrayed the splendour of a bygone time. A visit to the maze was a must and for those wanting a rest from walking a ride in a carriage pulled by shire horses was a right royal treat. In addition

some visitors opted to take a river cruise up to Richmond , Kingston or Twickenham. A superb day was had by all.

### **Three Locks Golf Course – 19<sup>th</sup> August**

A new event and venue was added to the VPA golf calendar this year with a team "waltz" (settle down all those in the dancing club - this does not tread on your toes - I can't believe the awfulness of that pun) being played at the Three Locks Golf club at Great Brickhill. Eight teams of three played with the golf reaching the usual high standard. A team comprising Peter Johnson, Les Duncan and Roger Lake took the first prize closely followed by Roger Deane, Lou Chadwick and Peter Farrow. The nearest the pin competitions were won by John Boast and Tony Slade. The day finished with a meal, drinks and a raffle, the latter raising £100 for the Keech Hospice.

### **Mickies Palace**

On the 9th September a full coach load travelled to Mickies Palace in Woodgreen , London. They were met by Mickey Driver, the star of the show and were served with a roast dinner followed by dessert and coffee. As ever, the entertainment was first class and included a comedian and a good old fashioned sing song, where VPA budding Michael Balls sang along with the artists, many who have performed in the west end . It really does resemble a good traditional music hall. Truly a memorable occasion.

### **Reg Hayward**

One of our oldest members, Reg Hayward, passed away on 20th July at the age of 96. He worked for Vauxhall for many years and was a member of the VPA for over 30 years following his retirement. He shared with his late wife Rosamand a great concern for those less fortunate than themselves. To this end they began teaching a young lady to type and such was their success that they rapidly had a waiting list of eager learners. Thus the Dunstable and District Typing Club was formed, meeting for two hours each Friday in the Dunstable Priory Church Hall. The club quickly expanded to over 50 pupils and 30 volunteer teachers. They received recognition for their sterling and dedicated efforts when they were both awarded the British Empire Medal. On their investiture Her Majesty the Queen indicated to Rosamand that she could not recall decorating a husband and wife who worked for such a length of time for the benefit of others. The Club still operates to this day

and provides a fitting reminder of Rosamand and Reg.

### **Introducing Your Committee**

This new feature will highlight a member of the VPA Executive Committee each issue.

Where better to start than with our Chairman, Mr John Boast.

John was born in 1947 and followed his father in working at Vauxhall, joining in 1963 as a 5 year engineering apprentice. He passed out (as did many on hearing of his success!) with an HNC in Mechanical Engineering. He had obtained a wide and practical knowledge of matters engineering and (these are his words) a better understanding of industrial mickey taking. He married Jean in 1968. Jean had a father, mother and brother also working at VM, so you can only imagine the money going into their house! To complete the personal stuff there are two adult daughters (Stephanie and Kirsty) and three grandsons (Daniel, Jack and Jamie).

Initially joining the Engineering Dept as a junior draughtsman, John moved into Reliability Engineering in 1970 and then into Supplier Quality Assurance. Through various promotions he reached the position UK SQA Manager before transferring to the GM Europe headquarters in Zurich in 1991. In 1994 he moved to Ruesselsheim in Germany to take up the position of European Manager of Supplier Quality Improvement. In late 1997 he returned to the UK joining Sales & Marketing with a leadership role in a team charged with improving customer satisfaction with our dealers. There he stayed until taking early retirement in 1999. After retirement he represented VM at the Society of Motor Manufacturers for two years.

His hobbies are his family, photography, golf and playing the guitar.

### **Diary of VPA (Luton) Events – 2010**

#### **Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October - Home Fire Safety Talk**

Jane Clark of the Fire Service will give a talk on the subject of fire safety in the home. As usual, the talk begins at 2.00 pm in the Trophy Room at the Recreation Club. Entrance is £1 and includes refreshments (of the soft variety!)

#### **Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> October - Golf South Beds**

Pairs competition for the Peter Johnston Trophy. Fully subscribed.

### **Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October - Quiz Night**

Held in the Trophy Room at the Recreation Club. Events kick off at 7.00 pm and the entrance fee is £1 with all monies going into the winning prize. Come along for a great evening and realise there is no one approaching Mensa levels taking part.

### **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December - Turkey and Tinsel, Eastbourne (3days)**

A few spaces are available for this ever popular trip, which over the weekend captures the spirit of Christmas three weeks before the real thing. Entertainment is provided in the evenings and excursions during the day. Food is of a very high quality. All of this for £125.00 per person. For more details please ring the office.

### **Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party**

The Christmas Party is held in the Riverside Suite at the Recreation Club and we are pleased to announce that vocal entertainment will be provided by the ever popular Danny Glass Band. Graham Hunter will also entertain you. This traditionally is a hugely popular event and for the above, plus a three course meal, we are only asking the modest sum of £18.50. As the saying goes “book early to avoid disappointment”.

### **Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December - Quiz Night**

Held in the Trophy Room at the Recreation Club. Events kick off at 7.00 pm and the entrance fee is £1 with all monies going into the winning prize.

Remember for details of future activities please contact the VPA office on the number at the end of the Newsletter.

### **St. Mary's Church Hall Monday Club**

Held every Monday, except for Bank Holidays and the annual closure, in the Church Hall at St. Mary's Church, Luton. Proceedings start at 2.00 p.m. and end approximately 4.30 p.m. The cost of 50p. per person covers admission and refreshments. For a further 30p. per card bingo is available

### **Afternoon Tea Dances**

Held on the following dates in the Riverside Suite at the Recreation Club. Dancing is between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. with an admission cost of £1. Refreshments can be purchased at the bar. All dates shown fall on a Wednesday:

6<sup>th</sup> Oct            10<sup>th</sup> Nov            17<sup>th</sup> Nov  
                         27<sup>th</sup> Oct            8<sup>th</sup> Dec

## **Diary of VPA (Ellesmere Port) Events – 2010**

### **Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October - Blackpool Illuminations/Circus/Ballroom**

Departs at 9.30 a.m. Cost £9.50

### **Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November – Heatherlands Court Restaurant.**

Christmas lunch served at approx. 12.30 p.m. Roast beef or turkey with trimmings/sweet/tea or coffee. Cost £10.70 Own transport required. Book now and state chosen menu.

### **Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Supper Vauxhall Social Club**

7.30 p.m. onwards. Time to dig out the diamonds and posh frocks ladies. This year will be a sit down dinner with numbered tables. Have you booked? If not, it's not too late to do so. Good entertainment provided.

### **Tea Dances – Whitby Sports and Social Club (Ex-Shell Club)**

Oct    13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>  
Nov    10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>  
Dec    8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

Our main holiday for 2011 will be Monday to Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April, staying at The Belgrave Hotel, Tenby and the Pembrokeshire coast. Includes two excursions to Cardigan and Carmarthenshire. Cost £219 per person, including insurance and free bar. This can be booked on Social Club nights with a deposit. Don't miss out – this trip is selling well.

## **In Memoriam – Luton**

**Anderson**, John Yeats, Division 117  
Died 21.8.2010, Aged 68, Retired 2001  
**Arnold**, Alfred Cecil, VM Staff  
Died 28.7.2010, Aged 94, Retired 1979  
**Barrington**, Winifred Ivy, VM Staff  
Died 28.7.2010, Aged 89, Retired 1980  
**Brooker**, Stephen Charles, Division 123  
Died 30.8.2010, Aged 60, Retired 2002  
**Burtonshaw**, William George Henry, Div 980  
Died 8.6.2010, Aged 85, Retired 1981  
**Butler**, Arthur Harry, Division 118  
Died 9.8.2010, Aged 91, Retired 1981  
**Clarkson**, Robert William, Division 840  
Died 7.8.2010, Aged 79, Retired 1986  
**Cobbold**, Daphne May, Division 475  
Died 21.8.2010, Aged 83, Retired 1987  
**Conroy**, Cornelius, Division 033  
Died 19.6.2010, Aged 86, Retired 1986  
**Faulkner**, Edward Frederick, Division 150  
Died 14.9.2010, Aged 82, Retired 1990

**Fraser**, Donald Angus, VM Staff  
Died 29.8.2010, Aged 85, Retired 1981  
**Gibbs**, James Edward, Division 146  
Died 21.7.2010, Aged 90, Retired 1981  
**Green**, Robert William, Division 003  
Died 19.11.2007, Aged 90, Retired 1981  
**Gregory**, Pearl May, Division 522  
Died 5.8.2010, Aged 69, Retired 2000  
**Hayward**, Reginald Frederick, VM Staff  
Died 20.7.2010, Aged 96, Retired 1974  
**Heather**, Raymond Thomas, VM Staff,  
Died 13.8.2010, Aged 77, Retired 1987  
**Hill**, Herbert, Division 436  
Died 2.9.2010, Aged 86, Retired 1987  
**Hillier**, Alice Marie, Division 037  
Died 30.6.2010, Aged 78, Retired 1989  
**Hussain**, Mirza, IBC  
Died 24.6.2010, Aged 72, Retired 1993  
**Hussain**, Munir, Division 002  
Died 9.4.2009, Aged 73, Retired 1986  
**Kenny**, Mona Bridget, Division 475  
Died 18.7.2010, Aged 80, Retired 1986  
**Lombardi**, Pietro, Division 454  
Died 19.6.2010, Aged 83, Retired 1983  
**Marchelewicz**, Jerzy (George), Div 834  
Died 14.9.2010, Aged 85, Retired 1986  
**Maycock**, Leslie William, VM Staff  
Died 25.7.2010, Aged 95, Retired 1974  
**McGrath**, Joseph, VM Staff  
Died 1.9.2010, Aged 80, Retired 1987  
**McGuigan**, Francis Patrick, IBC  
Died 6.6.2009, Aged 66, Retired 2006  
**McGuirk**, John, Division 033  
Died 26.5.2010, Aged 78, Retire 1992  
**Middleton**, Colin Calvert, VM Staff  
Died 16.9.2010, Aged 89, Retired 1981  
**Morris**, Geoffrey Skulthorpe, VM Staff  
Died 2.7.2010, Aged 84, Retired 1988  
**Murdoch**, Dorothy June, Division 037  
Died 20.7.2010, Aged 75, Retired 1988  
**O'Brien**, Andrew Michael, Division 135  
Died 3.9.2010, Aged 76, Retired 1989  
**Parks**, Donald Jack, Division 451  
Died 30.8.2010, Aged 78, Reired 1987  
**Rotheram**, Herbert, Division 433  
Died 30.8.2010, Aged 88, Retired 1986  
**Rowley**, Frank Arthur, VM Staff  
Died 19.7.2010, Aged 89, Retired 1981  
**Russell**, Peggy Joyce, VM Staff  
Died 1.8.2010, Aged 87, Retired 1975  
**Sangster**, John Laurence, Division 005  
Died 19.8.2010, Aged 85, Retired 1979  
**Saxty**, Alice Louisa, VM Staff  
Died 11.5.2010, Aged 97, Retired 1972  
**Scott**, Geoffrey, VM Staff  
Died 13.8.2010, Aged 86, Retired 1980  
**Simmons**, Ernest William (Bill) Div 435  
Died 24.8.2010, Aged 92, Retired 1981  
**Taylor**, Bruce Frederick William, Div 136  
Died 13.8.2010, Aged 69, Retired 2001

**Taylor**, Herbert James, VM Staff  
Died 4.9.2010, Aged 84, Retired 1987  
**Tomlinson**, Francis Raymond, BCV Staff  
Died 25.8.2010, Aged 86, Retired 1985  
**Ward**, Bernard, Division 845  
Died 14.9.2010, Aged 93, Retired 1980  
**Williams**, Leon, Division 046  
Died 17.3.2010, Aged 76, Retired 1993  
**Wilton**, William George, Division 999  
Died 18.8.2010, Aged 98, Retired 1976

## **In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port**

**Adams**, Walter, Division 641  
Died 26.8.2010, Aged 82, Retired 1993  
**Clowes**, Barry, Division 663  
Died 19.8.2010, Aged 79, Retired 1993  
**Kynaston**, Philip, Division 691  
Died 14.9.2010, Aged 72, Retired 1993  
**Singleton**, Eric, Division 616  
Died 4.8.2010, Aged 73, Retired 1993

## **Useful Telephone and Contact Information**

### **VPA South**

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VPA Office 01582 427921  
Office is manned Monday, Tuesday and Friday  
between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.

### **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 [norman.mcgregor@googlemail.com](mailto:norman.mcgregor@googlemail.com)

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