

Pensioners' Newsletter – August 2010

News from the North

Hello Everyone: I hope you are all enjoying the wonderful weather we are having at the moment - long overdue of course. Nevertheless, it's very welcome.

Some of our trips out have not yet taken place, so I am unable to give you any feedback, but that will come in the next Newsletter.

The main holiday for next year is being planned and details will also be contained in the next Newsletter. The date for the holiday will be February/March 2011.

Bookings on all outings, trips and holidays need to be made early, with a non-refundable deposit, as they soon become fully booked. We do have a reserve list in case of any cancellations – you may have missed out on one of the trips you wanted to go on, so take a look at the reserve list. All this happens between 7.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. at our monthly meetings which take place on the first Tuesday of every month. No telephone bookings please!!

Margaret Knoblett

News from the South

Well, here we are at the end of July already. The year seems to be going past so quickly. Still, we have been enjoying some dry sunny weather over the past few weeks, although I guess the gardeners amongst you would like to see some more rain.

Personally, I am more than happy seeing my little white ball bouncing down the hard fairways and what's more it gets me out of cutting the grass!!

Glyn Morgan, one of our team of Home Visitors, celebrated his 90th birthday on 21st July, so congratulations Glyn and thanks for all the time you give to visiting pensioners who need help, or just a chat with someone who worked at Vauxhall. In a future Newsletter I hope to have an article about the Home Visitors, what they do and how to contact them if you need their support.

Continue to enjoy the good weather and remember the VPA Committee would like to see you at any of the events planned for the coming months.

John Boast

Audley End House and Gardens – 3rd June

On 3rd June, a party of VPA members visited Audley End, a fine example of a Capability Brown landscape. In the morning, people walked round the estate with its many differing types of layout, including pond and kitchen gardens.

There were also numerous greenhouses to enter and admire the large variety of plants, along with the likes of lemons, limes and grapes.

The house opened for visitors after lunch who were able to view a servants wing as it used to be, as well as enjoying a butter making demonstration.

The formal flower gardens could be viewed from the first floor (although presumably not from the servants quarters!). All in all a most interesting and enjoyable day.

Caddington Golf Day – 19th June

The annual VPA Singles Competition was held at the Caddington Golf Club on Tuesday, 15th June, with a field of 21 budding Tiger Woods!! An excellent course proved challenging to all involved and was won by Terry Hares on count back from Mike King, who came in second, with Malcolm Large taking bronze position.

The three nearest the pin prizes were won by Tony Slade, Eric Thompson and Mike King (yes it's that man again!). The day ended with a fine buffet meal and a raffle which raised £60 for the Keech Hospice.

Annual Trip to Brighton 19th June

An intrepid group of excited members travelled by charabang (or the nearest we could get to it) to Brighton on Saturday, 19th June.

The weather held out with some sunshine breaking through and, according to reports, a good time was had by all. The fact that we returned with the same number of bodies we left with is either a credit to the organisers or a reflection of the beer prices in the resort!!

Trip to Ireland – 20th-25th June

A group of members departed from the Heritage Centre on the morning of Sunday, 20th June and travelled to Chester for an overnight stay at the Ramada Hotel. Lunch was taken in the town centre, where entertainment was in the form of the annual pageant.

After crossing the Irish Sea, they journeyed to the Burren Castle Hotel on the outskirts of Lisdoonvarna, taking in magnificent scenery en route.

Tuesday was devoted to a full day visit to Galway where some people shopped, some visited the Cliffs of Moher, which are often used in TV and film productions. The evening entertainment at the hotel was a night of Irish music which I am sure was all the better with a glass of the black stuff!!

On Wednesday, there was a scenic tour with the chance to see the surfers (sea – not internet).

Thursday was the day to return to Dublin, stopping at midday at the town of Athlone. There was time for shopping, etc. in the afternoon in Subline to round the day off.

Friday was an early start to catch the high speed ferry to Holyhead and thence to home.

A good time was had by all and, in particular, the group were complimentary about the coach driver for both his motoring skills and level of help and courtesy.

Armed Forces/Veterans Day Celebration Day – 3rd July

This celebration was held on Saturday, 3rd July. Many military vehicles were on show, Army and Air Force cadets displayed their skills and the Vauxhall Male Voice Choir performed during the afternoon.

About 50 VPA members took part in this high profile event.

Speakers Events

On Tuesday, 20th July, a packed audience was entertained by John Bates (ex-Engineering and Fleet Sales) who spoke about interesting and unusual collectables.

For those with long memories, some of the items would not have disgraced the wonderful world of K-Tel (as advertised on television).

John combined humour with knowledge and held his audience transfixed for the afternoon.

Please see local press for further and more precise details.

RHS Gardens, Wisley – 22nd July

An almost full coach party visited the RHS Gardens at Wisley. Leaving Luton at 9.15 a.m. on 22nd July, the group arrived in Wisley at 10.30 a.m. following a very good journey.

Weatherwise, the day was a mixture of showers and sunshine, although in true pioneering style, our members did not let the rain defeat them.

The displays of plants and shrubs (both outdoors and in the Kew style glasshouse) were vigorous and colourful. A huge bonus was that every different showing was clearly named, even the 20+ types of water lilies in one of the ponds.

There were a good number of water features to break up the day's walk. A full day with lots of exercise significantly raised the fitness levels of all within the group.

We arrived home at 6.30 p.m. tired, but happy and not even troubled by an arduous trek on the M25!!

Diary of VPA (Luton) Events – 2010

Tuesday, 17th August - Hampton Court

Visit the world famous gardens, maze and palace (including Henry VIII Great Hall, Young Henry VIII exhibition and the Chapel Royal). All for the sum of £18.50 per person. Optional river trips are available within the facility.

Thursday, 19th August - Golfing Event Three Locks, Leighton Buzzard

The Three Locks Club is situated at Great Brickhill, Milton Keynes. The format will be a

three player team Waltz. As ever, new players are always welcome.

Thursday, 9th September - Mickies Palace
(Music Hall Show) £21.00 per person

This is one of our most popular trips and the price of £21.50 per person includes travel, admission and lunch. The entertainment follows a music hall theme and is hugely enjoyable.

Other events for the rest of the year are:

Friday, 1st October - Blackpool (2 days)
£125 per person

Tuesday, 12th October - Home Fire Safety Talk

Thursday, 14th October - Golf South Beds

Tuesday, 19th October - Quiz Night

Friday, 3rd December - Turkey and Tinsel, Eastbourne (3days)

Thursday, 9th 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. A comedian will also be there to entertain you, and unlike Ken Dodd, we promise he will not go on until past midnight! 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, 14th December - Quiz Night

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. If you are not keen on bingo, then the conversation is lively and do not let coming on your own hold you back, as you will be sure of a warm welcome.

Afternoon Tea Dances

Held on the following dates in the Riverside Suite in 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:

4 th Aug	6 th Oct
25 th Aug	27 th Oct
1 st Sept	10 th Nov
15 th Sept	17 th Nov
29 th Sept	8 th Dec

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

Friday, 13th August - Shrewsbury Flower Show

Departs at 9.00 a.m. Cost £15.00

Wednesday, 22nd September – Anderton Boat Lift

Cost £9.00

Wednesday, 13th October - Blackpool Illuminations/Circus/Ballroom

Departs at 9.30 a.m. Cost £9.50

Thursday, 11th November – Heatherlands at Pensby. Own transport required. Christmas lunch served at approx. 12.30 p.m. Cost £10.00

Friday, 17th December - Christmas Supper

In Memoriam – Luton

Beardsmore, Jack, Division 454

Died 5.6.2010, Aged 90, Retired 1983

Bird, Denis Wilfred, Division 861

Died 11.6.2010, Aged 79, Retired 1987

Bourlett, Alexander Alfred Augustus, Staff

Died 28.6.2010, Aged 89, Retired 1981

Brown, Rue, Division 032

Died 3.5.2010, Aged 73, Retired 1998

Catling, Alec Edmund, Division 074

Died 20.5.2010, Aged 79, Retired 1986

Chambers, John, Division 055

Died 5.6.2010, Aged 71, Retired 1995

Claridge, Harold Reginald, Division 015

Died 19.6.2010, Aged 79, Retired 1993

Clarke, Bernard David, Division 525

Died 9.3.2010, Aged 69, Retired 2004

Courtney, John William, Division 135

Died 24.3.2010, Aged 71, Retired 1998

Crawley, Cyril Harry, Staff

Died 20.5.2010, Aged 92, Retired 1974

Dee, Michael, Staff
Died 2.6.2010, Aged 76, Retired 1988

Dudney, John, Division 113
Died 6.6.2010, Aged 81, Retired 1991

Duffy, James, Division 020
Died 16.5.2010, Aged 89, Retired 1980

Ellingham, Arthur, Division 451
Died 18.5.2010, Aged 81, Retired 1987

Elliot, Colin, IBC
Died 23.3.2010, Aged 74, Retired 1994

Fensome, Mavis Christine, Division 777
Died 29.6.2010, Aged 89, Retired 1980

Fisher, Keith Alan, Millbrook
Died 28.5.2010, Aged 73, Retired 1996

Fletcher, John, Division 222
Died 21.5.2010, Aged 93, Retired 1981

Fulcher, Robert Derrick, BCV Staff,
Died 2.7.2010, Aged 81, Retired 1986

Gibson, James, Division 049
Died 9.5.2010, Aged 64, Retired 1987

Goodman, Edward William, BCV Staff
Died 28.6.2010, Aged 83, Retired 1986

Henderson, Thomas Marshall, Division 033
Died 31.5.2010, Aged 74, Retired 1998

Hubbard, Harold Andrew, Staff
Died 5.6.2010, Aged 88, Retired 1981

Human, Ivor Sidney George, Division 033
Died 23.6.2010, Aged 87, Retired 1981

Jenkins, Derrick Roy, Division 002
Died 10.6.2010, Aged 81, Retired 1986

Lally, John, Division 052
Died 30.5.2010, Aged 84, Retired 1991

MacLaren, Michael, Division 511
Died 12.5.2010, Aged 77, Retired 1995

Malone, John, Division 150
Died 13.5.2010, Aged 74, Retired 1998

Marsh, Raymond Peter, Division 887
Died 6.7.2010, Aged 78, Retired 1986

McGuinness, John Alphonsus, Staff
Died 6.6.2010, Aged 94, Retired 1980

Menlove, Arthur Edward, Division 869
Died 19.5.2010, Aged 88 Retired 1981

Mimms, Alan James, Division 845
Died 27.10.2009, Aged 83, Retired 1986

Orchard, Kenneth, IBC
Died 13.6.2010, Aged 70, Retired 1994

Pritchard, David, Division 431
Died 20.7.2010, Aged 84, Retired 1987

Read, Michael Cyril George, Division 009
Died 5.7.2010, Aged 66, Retired 2006

Richards, Phyllis, Staff
Died 21.5.2010, Aged 86, Retired 1981

Roberts, John Baird, Staff
Died 4.6.2010, Aged 88, Retired 1981

Samworth, Keith James, BVC Staff
Died 2.6.2010, Aged 76, Retired 1988

Smith, Kenneth Henry, Division 036
Died 9.6.2010, Aged 90, Retired 1981

Smith, Frederick George, Division 074
Died 28.5.2010, Aged 83, Retired 1992

Spooner, Fredrick Walter, Division 033
Died 7.9.2009, Aged 92, Retired 1980

Tompkins, Donald Peter, Division 824
Died 14.5.2010, Aged 76, Retired 1988

Vulpio, Erasmo, Division 005
Died 2.6.2010, Aged 82, Retired 1986

Webb, George Henry, Division 074
Died 28.3.2010, Aged 81, Retired 1993

West, Christopher Walter, Division 017
Died 2.7.2010, Aged 78, Retired 1987

Williams, Leslie Ernest, Division 041
Died 14.4.2010, Aged 86, Retired 1986

Woolfitt, Bernard Rex, BCV Staff
Died 2.5.2010, Aged 82, Retired 1985

Wright, Ernest Frank, Division 838
Died 1.7.2010, Aged 86, Retired 1981

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Fenton, Anthony, Division 629
Died 24.5.2010, Aged 78, Retired 1989

Fleming, James Francis, Division 642
Died 3.7.2010, Aged 72, Retired 1998

James, William, Division 642
Died 12.5.2010, Aged 75, Retired 1993

Mullally, Jimmy, Division 638
Died 8.6.2010, Aged 79, Retired 1996

Simpson, Michael Arnold, Division 691
Died 14.7.2010, Aged 76, Retired 1990

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.

Vauxhall Pensions Department 01582 721122
E-mail marion.mcdonald@uk.gm.com

Cherie Denton, Vauxhall Welfare Officer
01582 427204
E-mail cherie.denton@gm.com

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

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