

# ***Pensioners' Newsletter – October 2020***

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## **News from the South**

Hi Everyone:

I hope you have all been able to enjoy the extended summer weather we have been having over the past few days. I seem to be spending a lot of my time clearing my garden of acorns, but as soon as I do another lot appear!! At least the squirrels will be happy during the winter. Despite the current situation regarding Covid-19, Sylvia and Dave have been working hard on arranging the trips for next year. However we are not able to finalise these at this time as we do not know what the rules regarding travel and attendance at indoor events will be by then. We will be reviewing the situation early in the New Year and hope to be able to offer you a full and comprehensive programme for 2021. As we move into the winter I would like to remind everyone that the Vauxhall Welfare Fund remains fully operational so if you hear of any Vauxhall pensioners who are in need of some help please let Cherie Denton know through the Welfare web-site. Please stay safe.

*John Boast*

## **News from the North**

Hi All:

Well here we are nearly in October and not a lot has changed. In fact after a slow return to something resembling near normality we now find ourselves back almost to where we were months ago, and I don't know about you but the rules seem to be getting more and more difficult to understand. Still if it keeps us well and gets rid of the virus we must go with them. It's unfortunate that most holidays have had to be shelved, but there is always another year. Mind you I think I was saying that months ago! I think by the time we can get out to Canada our grandson will be walking.

Although the Club has yet to re-open the Committee has worked hard to keep up contact with everyone. I believe the Kirby Lonsdale trip was successful and I guess people were glad to meet up with old friends. The coach seating was well distanced as on the next trips. We enjoyed the Ludlow trip and the visit to Anglesey as well. At the time of writing a trip to the Lake District is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> but as the rules have changed yet again some people have decided to withdraw for safety reasons. As far as I am aware there are two trips in the pipeline for October, but am not sure of details as they may well have to be changed or cancelled so all arrangements will be made individually by phone. Unfortunately the lunch which was arranged for the Brook Meadow

also had to be cancelled as they decided at the eleventh hour that they could not accommodate us. I am also not sure if the Christmas meal arrangements are in place, so again you will be kept informed nearer the time of venue and date.

I am afraid I cannot be more specific about trips, dates, etc. but I am sure you will understand. The April holiday still has a couple of places left so if you want details you can ring me on 0151 6088701.

I have no idea when the Club will re-open for our social nights, but be assured when we know you will know too, so until next time stay safe and keep smiling. Cheerio

*Dave Williams*

## **Internet Explorer**

Microsoft will end support for Internet Explorer 11 across its Microsoft 365 apps and services like Office 365, OneDrive, Outlook and more on August 17, 2021. Microsoft is also ending support for Internet Explorer 11 with the Microsoft Teams web app later this year, with support ending on November 30.

There are a number of alternative web browsers available, including Microsoft Edge and Google Chrome.

Should you need to check which version of Internet Explorer you are using, in the search box on your taskbar, type Internet Explorer. Once open select the Help button and then select About Internet Explorer to see version details.

## **Keep the Covid Scammers Away**

As if the health and social issues around the pandemic are not enough we now have to be alert to the possibility of scammers taking our money. Since February it is reported that some £55 million has been taken by these lowlifes, of which around 75% has been stolen from people over 60 years of age. By the nature of the scams it is very difficult to track the people responsible down. By far the best way is for people like us to be vigilant and make sure we do not succumb.

A lot of high value scams have involved online trading platforms. In these a victim will typically respond to an online advert, and accepts the offer from a broker to create an online trading account. To do this they have to give access to their bank accounts details etc. to the scammers who then simply help themselves to the money. In the last six months these type of scams have increased dramatically as, because of the pandemic and low interest rates, we all want more from our money.

Please be wary of any investment which is offered to you unsolicited - either by an unexpected phone call, text, junk mail or over social media. Certainly never act with haste and always give yourself plenty of time before making a decision.

Remember that if an opportunity seems too good to be true then it almost certainly is!

Investment opportunities that are time limited, or offer a high rate of interest with little risk, or are an offer "exclusive to you" should be avoided at all costs.

Ensure you check if the company or individual you are contacted by is genuine. You can do this by looking at The Financial Conduct Authority's list of scammers at [fca.org.uk/firms/financial-services-register](http://fca.org.uk/firms/financial-services-register). You can also check on this register to see if the website address being used is legitimate.

If you think you have been scammed contact your bank or building society immediately as the quicker they are notified the better the chance of getting your money back. You can also report a suspect scam to Action Fraud at [action-fraud.police.uk](http://action-fraud.police.uk) On so many levels we live in troubled times. Please do all you can to protect your health and now your money.

### **The Bobby Scheme**

In our October 2011 Newsletter we carried an article entitled Free Home Security Checks. With winter coming and the longer periods of darkness I thought it opportune to remind you of the details of the Bobby Scheme (previously known as the Bobby Van Team).

The Bobby Scheme is a local charity which provides a free service to the elderly and vulnerable to review their home security to reduce crime and the fear of crime. Although the service is free there may be a charge for some specialist equipment supplied with the permission of the homeowner.

How it works is that Bobby men visit the premises and carry out a survey and provide security advice and reassurance. The Bobby men are trained lock fitters and crime prevention advisors who can fit a range of security devices to help people feel safer in their homes. They can also supply and fit key safes, although there is a charge made for this activity. The Bobby Scheme is recognised nationally and has been endorsed as a key crime prevention initiative. For the Bedfordshire area please ring 01234 842619 and speak with Janet Heinsen for any further clarification required and to book a visit. You can also visit the website

[www.bedspolicepartnership.org](http://www.bedspolicepartnership.org) for details.

The Bobby Scheme only operates within the county of Bedfordshire although a similar scheme operates in Cambridgeshire and can be contacted on 01480 413311.

For other areas I would usually advise that you ring your local police station. Even your local branch of Age Concern may be of help. If possible try the internet.

### **October Quiz**

The theme this month is Pot Luck:

- 1 Dipsophobia is the fear of what?
- 2 In what decade of the 20th century was John Thaw born?
- 3 What word can go after soap and before offer?
- 4 Kendall, Walker and Royle have all managed which football club?
- 5 Who wrote the novel Tom Sawyer?
- 6 How many yards in a furlong?
- 7 What is the only English anagram of the word tend?
- 8 Edwina Currie represented which political party?
- 9 Which country does the drink ouzo come from?
- 10 How many times is the word jingle sung in a chorus of jingle bells?
- 11 In which country is the city of Gothenburg?
- 12 Mal Donaghy is associated with which sport?
- 13 In which city did Tony Bennett leave his heart?
- 14 By what name is endive known in the US?
- 15 Which UK car manufacturer produced the Prefect?
- 16 What is 60% of 3000?
- 17 Who sang about his ding-a-ling in 1972?
- 18 What is the colour of the cross on the Swedish flag?
- 19 With which country is the name of the soldier Robert Clive linked?
- 20 Who led the Family Stone?

### **August Quiz Answers**

- 1 Ariel
- 2 Barclay Card
- 3 Paula Hamilton
- 4 Mrs Merton
- 5 Lily Savage
- 6 Joan Collins
- 7 Daz
- 8 Oxo
- 9 Sainsbury
- 10 BT
- 11 Nescafe
- 12 Jennifer Aniston
- 13 Bring Me Sunshine
- 14 Flora
- 15 Paul Gascoigne
- 16 Pizza Hut
- 17 Shredded Wheat
- 18 Arthur Fowler
- 19 Furniture
- 20 Kwik Save

### **Yet More Jokes (?)**

Since there appears to be no let-up in the corona virus situation I am afraid that you are stuck with yet more jokes (?) this issue.

To those of you who deride this feature I can only say give me a better alternative or provide me with some other jokes.

Did you hear about the mathematician who is afraid of negative numbers? He'll stop at nothing to avoid them.

A man tells his doctor "Doc help me I'm addicted to Twitter". The doc replies "Sorry I don't follow you".

What do you call a line of rabbits hopping backwards? A receding hare line.

What did one hat say to another? You go on ahead I'll stay here.

What did the bald man say when he received a comb as a present? I'll never part with this.

What do you call a magic dog? A labracadabrador.

What do you call a woman with one leg? Eileen.

What is the difference between a poorly dressed man on a unicycle and a well-dressed man on a bicycle? Attire.

What do you call two monkeys that share an Amazon account? Prime mates.

What do you call a boomerang that will not come back? A stick.

Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards? He was only going through a stage.

### **Amazing Facts**

Here is a list of fun and interesting facts about the United Kingdom, including infamous wars, landmarks and the capital city London.

The tube route in London from Leicester Square to Covent Garden is the most popular route for tourists. However it is faster to get from Leicester Square to Covent Garden on foot.

Big Ben is not actually a clock. Big Ben is the name of the 13 ton bell. The tower that the bell is enclosed in is St Stephen's Tower.

The River Thames that flows through London has over 20 tunnels and 200 bridges.

A strange law that was never abolished is that all men over the age of 14 must carry out 2 hours of longbow practice per day.

Throughout the years, London has been under many names. During the Roman invasion it was called Londinium. It was also called Ludenwic in Saxon times.

England won the shortest war in history. The war broke out between England and Zanzibar in 1896. Zanzibar surrendered after an astonishing 38 minutes. There is believed to be around 30 000 John Smiths residing in Britain.

In York, excluding Sundays, there is no law against shooting a Scotsman with a bow and arrow.

London is one of the most cultural diverse cities in the world. About 25% of residents were born outside of England.

Britain is only small. There is no found place in Britain that is more than 75 miles from the sea.

To the present day Britain is the only country that does not have its name on postage stamps.

The famous London Eye is the tallest observation wheel in the world. Each of its rotations from start to finish takes about 30 minutes.

British citizens are addicted to tea. On average an Englishman drinks more tea than any other nation. They drink up to 20 times more than American citizens.

In England's medieval times animals were punished in the royal courts for any damages they inflicted on people or properties of people.

Back in Shakespeare's day mattresses were fastened to bed frames by ropes. This enabled the ropes to be pulled to make the mattress tighter making it firmer to sleep on. Hence the saying "goodnight – sleep tight".

Even though she is the sovereign of the United Kingdom Her Majesty the Queen is not allowed to enter the House of Commons because she is not a member.

In 1945 a large flock of starlings landed on the minute hand of St Stephen's Tower (Big Ben) which made the time of the clock go back by 5 minutes.

The lance ceased to be an official battle weapon among the British Army in 1927.

There are more chickens than humans in Britain. Berwick-Upon-Tweed was at war with Russia for 110 years.

Although the London tube system is the largest underground system in the world, it is the most unreliable and high priced.

The London subway has 409 escalators. They cover a distance every week which is about equal to several trips around the entire globe.

Barengaria of Navaree, who was married to King Richard never stepped foot on English soil.

The Queen of England once had extensive power and authority over almost the entire world.

In Chester you can only shoot a Welsh person with a bow and arrow inside the city walls after midnight.

Although the great fire of London destroyed much of the precious city there were only 6 recorded fatalities.

### **Upcoming Events in the South – 2020**

All trips have been cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic.

### **Upcoming Events in the North – 2020**

**Monday, April 5 2021 – Eliot Hotel, Newquay**  
5 day holiday

Departure time and car parking details to follow.  
Visiting the Eden Project, Bodmin and Padstow.  
Approximately £200 pp.

**Tea Dances** - temporarily on hold

#### **In Memoriam – Luton**

**Bavister**, June Constance, IBC  
Died 1.8.2020, Aged 86, Retired 1987  
**Belcher**, Rex Sidney, IBC  
Died 20.8.2020, Aged 75, Retired 2000  
**Bingham**, Anthony, IBC  
Died 17.8.2020, Aged 69, Retired 2008  
**Bird**, Alan, IBC  
Died 22.6.2020, Aged 74, Retired 2006  
**Brownie**, Donet, IBC  
Died 30.6.2020, Aged 81, Retired 1994  
**Burr**, Churchill Simpson, IBC  
Died 12.7.2020, Aged 80, Retired 2005  
**Deller**, William John, Division 333  
Died 5.6.2020, Aged 75, Retired 2002  
**Dowland**, Dennis Thaddeus Lescott, Div 032  
Died 10.8.2020, Aged 80, Retired 2002  
**Dudley**, John Victor, Division 032  
Died 21.7.2020, Aged 71, Retired 2002  
**England**, Timothy Walter, Division 046  
Died 13.6.2020, Aged 72, Retired 1999  
**Faunt**, Karoly, Division 135  
Died 10.7.2020, Aged 83, Retired 2002  
**Foster**, John Edward, Division 135  
Died 7.12.2019, Aged 94, Retired 1988  
**Hall**, Kanta, Division 041  
Died 2.7.2020, Aged 77, Retired 2002  
**Horan**, Edward Frank William, Division 099  
Died 20.7.2020, Aged 85, Retired 1993  
**Makus**, Robert David, Staff  
Died 29.8.2020, Aged 84, Retired 1990  
**Mathew**, Edward George, Division 150  
Died 1.7.2020, Aged 83, Retired 1994  
**Morgan**, Robert, Division 100  
Died 14.6.2020, Aged 86, Retired 1993  
**Saunders**, Michael Francis, Division 319  
Died 20.7.2020, Aged 84, Retired 1994  
**Stephens**, Geoffrey, Division 306  
Died 25.7.2020, Aged 79, Retired 1995  
**Taunton**, Julian, Division 329  
Died 21.7.2020, Aged 82, Retired 1992  
**Wilson**, Natwarial, Division 527  
Died 29.7.2020, Aged 80, Retired 2005  
**Zala**, Sophie Rose, Staff  
Died 21.7.2020, Aged 99, Retired 1980

#### **In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port**

**Aldred**, Kenneth Gordon, Division 674  
Died 5.8.2020, Aged 88, Retired 1994  
**Blake**, Gerard Anthony, Division 616  
Died 10.8.2020, Aged 81, Retired 1992

**Crawford**, Donald Harvey, Division 642  
Died 11.4.2020, Aged 79, Retired 2002  
**Evans**, Derek, Division 691  
Died 10.8.2020, Aged 86, Retired 1994  
**Flynn**, Dennis, Vauxhall  
Died 28.8.2020, Aged 90, Retired 1987  
**Foxley**, Joseph James, Division 618  
Died 24.8.2020, Aged 71, Retired 2004  
**Gerrard**, Brian, Division 610  
Died 23.5.2020, Aged 80, Retired 2003  
**Green**, Malcolm Joseph, Division 639  
Died 8.7.2020, Aged 84, Retired 1997  
**Kelly**, George Henry, Division 691  
Died 18.7.2020, Aged 82, Retired 1998  
**Martin**, Edwin Owen, Division 642  
Died 30.7.2020, Aged 76, Retired 2002  
**McClellan**, John, Division 616  
Died 28.7.2020, Aged 90, Retired 1993  
**Roberts**, George, Division 678  
Died 28.6.2020, Aged 65, Retired 2017  
**Rowlands**, Russel John, Division 643  
Died 10.6.2020, Aged 79, Retired 1999  
**Sachdev**, Gideon Strachan, Division 616  
Died 1.8.2020, Aged 91, Retired 1990  
**Saxby**, Brian, Division 627  
Died 23.5.2020, Aged 74, Retired 2002  
**Stead**, Kenneth Alan, Division 629  
Died 16.8.2020, Aged 80, Retired 1993  
All information on deceased pensioners is provided  
by the Pensions Department.

#### **How to Access the Newsletter and 2019 AGM Minutes on the Internet**

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

#### **Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAsociation](https://www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAsociation)

#### **Useful Telephone and Contact Information VPA South**

**All contact details for the new VPA office will be announced when these are known. In the meantime please phone 01582 759851.**

**Vauxhall Pensions Department** 01582 282956

Email [marion.mcdonald@gm.com](mailto:marion.mcdonald@gm.com)

**Welfare Fund** 07460 171565

Email [welfarefund@vm.co.uk](mailto:welfarefund@vm.co.uk)

Website [www.vauxhallwelfarefund.org](http://www.vauxhallwelfarefund.org)

#### **VPA North**

Dave Williams 0151 6088701

If you have a story you would like to tell, then please get in touch with Norman McGregor email [normanmcgregor3@gmail.com](mailto:normanmcgregor3@gmail.com)

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