

Pensioners' Newsletter – June 2021

News from the South

Hi Everyone:

What is going on with the weather this year? A few weeks ago we were all worried about the lack of rain and the effect on our gardens and now it doesn't seem to know how to stop! Plus it's really cold. Let's hope for a better June, particularly as we expect to begin our VPA outings later that month. We were in fact able to hold our first 2021 event which was the Golf competition for the Steve Brooker Cup, arranged by Mike Roberts and Jim Heaney, in May. Twenty one members took part and a full report on this event is available in this Newsletter. Everyone had a great day so thanks and well done to Mike and Jim.

In order to improve our communication with members and complement our existing Facebook page we are currently working on introducing our own VPA website where this Newsletter and other items of interest will be available to all pensioners. We will provide more details about this and how to access what we will hope will be a popular addition in the next Newsletter. Please keep safe

John Boast

News from the North

Hi all:

Well at long last it looks as if life is beginning to return to normal (or as near normal as possible at any rate). It has been a long haul and we seem to have cancelled out 2020 which at our age we can hardly afford to do! Still onwards and upwards as the saying goes. The weather has not helped, but maybe summer will be just around the corner but which corner I am not sure. When we remember April and May last year we had beautiful weather. As you will know the April trip had to be cancelled at short notice and that trip has been rescheduled for August 26.

May 20 was our first outing and apart from the weather which let us down I think everybody enjoyed the day. It was just so nice to be out and about and meet up with friends who we had not seen for so long. As the weather was so bad we went on to Buxton for a while, but nothing, not even the weather, could dampen our enthusiasm for getting out.

On Thursday, May 20 a full coach went to Trentham Gardens. The weather was perfect and we had a lovely day. People did different things - we had a mooch round the shops, a picnic in the sun, a lovely walk round the lake and the Italian gardens – there was something for everybody. I am pleased to share with you the dates for trips for the rest of 2021 which can be found under Upcoming Events in the North towards the end of this Newsletter. All trips unless otherwise

informed will leave the club at 9:00 am and at the moment trips are free. For those going on the December holiday we will need the balance of your payments by the September Club night at the latest. Our AGM will now be held at the Club on Tuesday, June 29 at 1:30 pm. It is important that as many people as possible attend. Our Club nights will re-commence on Tuesday, July 6 when we will have a meal. Let's hope that all these dates can go ahead as arranged and that nothing stops them. Till next time stay safe and warm regards

Dave Williams

Cost of Electrical Appliance Usage

A survey by the energy company Utilita has shown the cost per hour of everyday electrical appliances around the house. All costs are in £ per hour In descending order of cost they are:-

£1.66	Electric shower
£0.92	Heating
£0.65	Electric fan heater
£0.46	Fan assisted oven
£0.43	Kettle
£0.41	Hairdryer
£0.37	Tumbledryer
£0.37	Dishwasher
£0.22	Toaster
£0.19	Iron
£0.15	Coffee machine
£0.15	Microwave
£0.13	Vacuum cleaner
£0.06	Food processor
£0.04	Computer
£0.04	Fridge freezer
£0.03	Slow cooker
£0.02	Playstation
£0.02	X Box
£0.02	Incandescent (old fashioned) light bulbs

Probably best not to let the grandchildren see this as they will have another reason to keep using the playstation or x box. Interesting also that no inclusion of the tv or radio.

Online Holiday and Travel Fraud

Following a year of travel bans, quarantine, uncertainty and missed holidays, many of us are desperate to get away for a break, whether it be a holiday in the sun or a weekend by the sea in the UK.

Unfortunately cybercriminals or scammers or just plain scum are thinking about them too with a view to exploiting your desperation for a break with fake websites, adverts, emails, social media posts, texts and phone calls for holidays, flights and accommodation that does not exist. Avoid potential disappointment and financial losses by visiting www.getsafeonline.org

Avoiding Rogue Traders

Rogue traders operate in many different ways - cold calling at the door, websites, adverts in papers and magazines and they can also leaflet drop. By With Confidence is a national scheme which is operated in all of the local authority areas within Bedfordshire. All businesses are vetted, approved and monitored by Trading Standards.

If you cannot find an approved local trader the following might help you locate what you are looking for:

- ask friends and family for recommendations
- check out a company on the internet, particularly any reviews that have been posted
- always get at least three written quotes for the work required including timescale, materials and waste disposal
- ask to see a copy of their public liability insurance certificate
- check what guarantees and warranties are offered and get them in writing
- ask to see references from previous customers
- do not deal with anyone who does not take card, cheque or bank transfer as payment
- get written receipts for any monies paid.

If you have had an experience with a rogue trader report it by telephoning 101 and/or to Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 2231133 or via the local council website.

For incidents where the rogue trader is still on the property or due to return call 999 and inform the police.

VPA Golf Club - May 20

The Texas Scramble competition was held at the Abbey Hill Golf Course, Milton Keynes. Despite the wet and muddy course conditions the standard of play was good with all teams managing to get round the course in under the 71 stroke par.

The winners of the Steve Brooker Cup were Bob Bolton, Bill Goodyear and Dick Shortland who were 3 shots better than the second place team of Alan Everitt, Vince Weatherhead and Phil Watson. Coming in third was the team of Jim Heaney, Peter Johnson and Alan Smith. The nearest the pin prizes for the short 8th and 17th par

3 holes went to John Fulcher and Peter Johnson respectively.

All of the participants were delighted to get back onto the course and meet with colleagues to catch up and share the banter, particularly at the nineteenth hole. The usual raffle was held with monies raised donated to the Keech Hospice.

The next VPA Golf day will be held at the Redbourne Golf Club on Thursday July 1, with a further event planned for Tuesday September 28. As usual all registered players will be sent entry forms by email. If not registered the contact for enrolling is Mike Roberts who can be reached on mikerobertsverulam@msn.com

June Quiz

The theme this issue is 'on the map':

- 1 What do Washington, Basildon and Cwmbran have in common?
 - 2 What is the world's longest mountain range?
 - 3 Which country has IS as its international registration letters?
 - 4 Where is Transylvania?
 - 5 What is a sea comprising many islands known as?
 - 6 What colour is the Bakerloo Line on the London underground map?
 - 7 Orly airport is close to which city?
 - 8 What is the capital of Tasmania?
 - 9 Where are Waverley and Haymarket stations?
 - 10 Where is the administrative HQ of Hampshire?
 - 11 Which South American country was named after Venice?
 - 12 What is the capital of the US state of Ohio?
 - 13 In which East Anglian town is the Greene King brewery based?
 - 14 Which country has the longest coastline?
 - 15 What is the largest country in Africa?
 - 16 Which is the largest of the Yorkshire divisions?
 - 17 Which Square is in front of the Palace of Westminster?
 - 18 Which is the second largest National Park in England?
 - 19 What are the smallest units of local government in rural areas?
 - 20 On which river does Sheffield stand?
- Hope you enjoy and good luck with the answers

April Quiz Answers

- 1 Cooking
- 2 Smillie
- 3 Fairy Liquid
- 4 Coronation Street
- 5 Ball
- 6 Rory Bremner
- 7 Judy Finnegan
- 8 Ireland
- 9 Beattie
- 10 Only Fools and Horses
- 11 Merton
- 12 Mirren
- 13 Peter Cook
- 14 Lily Savage
- 15 Bob Mortimer
- 16 Birds of a Feather
- 17 Lynda
- 18 Patrick Moore
- 19 Ruby Wax
- 20 Home Decorating

Tribute to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Prince Philip was well known for his gaffs. Here are just a few:

To a Scots driving instructor in 1995 – "How do you keep natives off the booze long enough to pass the test?"

Caribbean hospital in 1966 – "You have mosquitoes. I have the press."

1967 – "I'd like to go to Russia very much, although the bastards murdered half my family."

To singer Tom Jones after 1969 Royal Variety Performance – "What do you gargle with, pebbles?"

To a civil servant in 1970 – “You’re just a silly little Whitehall twit.”

On Duke of York’s house in 1986 – “It looks like a tart’s bedroom.”

On the Princess Anne kidnap attempt in 1974 – “If he had succeeded, she would have given him a hell of a time.”

To a female solicitor in 1987 – “I thought it was against the law for a woman to solicit.”

When asked to stroke a koala in Australia in 1992 – “Oh no, I might catch some ghastly disease.”

To a tourist in Budapest in 1993 – “You can’t have been here long – you haven’t got a pot belly.”

To fashion writer Serena French in 1993 – “You’re not wearing mink knickers are you?”

In Cayman Islands in 1994 – “Aren’t you descended from pirates?”

Advice to a Caribbean rabbit breeder in Anguilla in 1994 – “Don’t feed your rabbits pawpaw fruit. It acts as a contraceptive. Then again, it might not work on rabbits.”

Advice for a successful marriage in 1997 – “Tolerance is essential. You can take it from me the Queen has tolerance in abundance.”

To a car park attendant who didn’t recognise him in 1997 – “You bloody silly fool.”

To a Brit student trekking in Papua New Guinea in 1998 – “You managed not to get eaten then.”

On getting a hamper from the US ambassador in London in 1999 – “Where’s the Southern Comfort?”

To a youth club teen in 2002 – “So who’s on drugs here? He looks as if he’s on drugs.”

Spotting robots bumping together at the Science Museum in 2000 – “They’re not mating are they?”

To aspiring astronaut Andrew Adams, aged 13 in 2001 – “You could do with losing a little bit of weight.”

To Elton John on his gold Aston Martin in 2001 – “Oh, it’s you that owns that ghastly car is it?”

To a female cop in bullet-proof vest on Isle of Lewis in 2002 – “You look like a suicide bomber.”

After being told Madonna was to sing a Bond theme in 2002 – “Are we going to need ear plugs?”

At London’s City Hall in 2002 – “If we could stop the tourism, we could stop the congestion.”

To a Brit in China in 1986 – “If you stay here much longer, you’ll go home with slitty eyes.”

To the President of Nigeria who was in national dress in 2003 – “You look like you’re ready for bed.”

To a schoolboy who invited the Queen to Romford in 2003 – “So you can write then?”

At a party in 2004 – “Bugger the table plan, give me my dinner.”

To NHS nurse in 2013 – “The Philippines must be half empty as you’re all here running the NHS.”

To designer Stephen Judge in 2009 – “You didn’t design your beard too well.”

To multi-ethnic Britain’s Got Talent winners Diversity in 2009 – “Are you all one family?”

Meeting mobility scooter rider David Miller in 2012 – “How many people have you knocked over this morning?”

To Abu Dhabi expats in 2014 – “Are you running away from something?”

Peering at an old fuse box in 1999 – “It looks as though it was put in by an Indian.”

To a photographer during an event to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain in 2015 – “Just take the f.....g picture.”

Sadly passed away on Friday, 9th April 2021

The Top 30 Fake ‘Facts’

It seems as if mother might not know best after all! Recent research of 2000 adults have accepted urban myths believing them to be true. Evidently if enough people tell us the same thing we are inclined to accept it as true.

The top 30 false facts are:

1 Chameleons change colours to blend in with their surroundings

2 Heat escapes through your head

3 Sugar causes hyperactivity in children

4 The Great Wall of China is the only man made construction visible from space

5 You should urinate on someone stung by a jellyfish

6 A penny dropped from the top of the Empire State Building will kill a person it hits

7 Hair and fingernails continue to grow after death

8 Dogs sweat through their tongues

9 Humans only have five senses

10 We only use 10% of our brains

11 Bats are blind

12 Drinking alcohol raises your body temperature

13 Swimming after you eat brings on cramps

14 Dogs only see in black and white

15 It is safe to eat food that has been on the floor for less than five seconds

16 If you touch a baby bird with your bare hands the mother will reject it

17 Bulls get angry when they see the colour red

18 Shaving off hair makes it grow back thicker

19 Goldfish only have a three second memory

20 Cracking your knuckles too much will cause arthritis

21 Adding salt to water makes it boil faster

22 Contact lenses can get lost behind your eye

23 We swallow eight spiders a year in our sleep

24 Going out in the cold will give you a cold

25 It takes seven years for your body to digest gum

26 All deserts are hot

27 Putting your laptop on your lap will cause infertility

28 Contact lenses can freeze to your eye in cold weather

29 Lightning never strikes twice

30 Babies are grown with an adult size head and their body grows into it.

Proposed Golf Dates

June 18 – Singles Competition, Redbourn

Sept 29 – Pairs Competition, Aylesbury Vale

Upcoming Events in the South – 2021

Subject to Covid-19 restrictions:

Thursday, June 24 – Brighton

Coach only

Please note change of date

Thursday, July 15 – Bletchley Park

Home of the code breakers during World War Two

Thursday, August 12 – Wye Valley/Royal Forest

of Deal – drive into the forest, which is full of myth, legend and tradition, for morning refreshments. Lunch in Monmouth, birthplace of Henry V followed by a cruise looking out for various wildlife, including cream tea

Thursday, August 26 – Nottingham

Princess Cruise on River Trent + roast beef dinner

Please note change of date**Thursday, September 16 – Countryfile Adam Hanson's Farm**

Tour the Cotswolds and a visit to the TV famous farm, including carvery lunch

Thursday, October 7 – Gloucester**Warwickshire Steam Railway**

Fish and chips lunch while rolling through the countryside being drawn by a vintage steam locomotive

Thursday, October 21 – Mystery Tour

including carvery lunch

Thursday, November 18 – London – Carvery Lunch/Christmas Lights

Afternoon visit to London for Carvery Club lunch before a coach tour of the Christmas lights, with Blue Badge guide

Monday, November 29 – Friday, December 3

Turkey and Tinsel – 4 night half board festive break at Warners Hotel, Alvaston Hall, Cheshire with daily excursions

Wednesday, December 8

Christmas Dinner and Party in the Riverside Suite

Upcoming Events in the North - 2021**Tuesday, June 8**

Betws-y-Coed and Llandudno

Thursday, June 24

Grassington and Ilkley

Friday, June 25

Meal at Woodcote Hotel

7:00 pm for 7:30 pm

Tuesday, June 29

AGM Commencing at 1:30 pm

Tuesday, July 6

Meal at the Club

Details to be advised

Thursday, July 22

Kirby Lonsdale and Grange-over-Sands

Thursday, August 26

Shropshire and Church Stretton

Friday, September 3

Arley Hall and Nantwich Food Festival

Thursday, September 23

Canal cruise and meal on board

Wednesday, October 27

St Anne's and Morecambe

Thursday, November 18

Bents Garden Centre

November (date to be arranged)

Chatsworth House

Monday, December 6

Turkey and Tinsel

Porthcawl

(Fully booked, but may be able to secure more rooms)

Tuesday, December 28

Aladdin Panto at Llandudno

Tea Dances - temporarily on hold

In Memoriam – Luton

Connell, Roger John, IBC

Died 5.4.2021, Aged 68, Retired 2010

England, Cecil Robert, IBC

Died 23.4.2021, Aged 79, Retired 2006

Golding, Melvyn T., Division 527

Died 28.4.2021, Aged 77, Retired 2002

Iorilo, Umberto, Division 055

Died 28.3.2021, Aged 86, Retired 1999

John, Margaret, Division 082

Died 4.4.2021, Aged 82, Retired 1996

King, Eric Sydney, Division 046

Died 15.4.2021, Aged 89, Retired 1994

Robinson, Peter, Division 526

Died 10.4.2021, Aged 87, Retired 1992

Sibley, Brian Charles, Division 180

Died 12.4.2021, Aged 85, Retired 1993

Stein, Doris, Division 531

Died 6.2.2021, Aged 78, Retired 1998

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Delmotte, Daniel Andre, Division 642

Died 2.4.2021, Aged 89, Retired 1997

Evans, Dennis Harold, Division 641

Died 21.4.2021, Aged 89, Retired 1992

McLoughlin, Steven, Division 663

Died 25.3.2021, Aged 68, Retired 2012

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

Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAssociation

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

Welfare Fund 07460 171565

Email welfarefund@vm.co.uk

Website 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

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