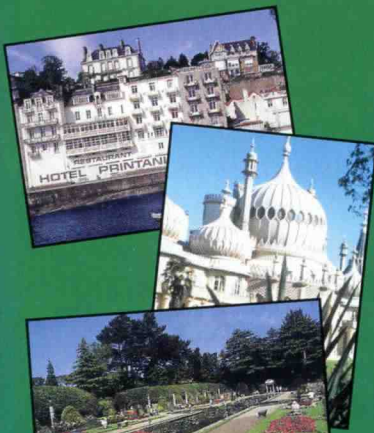


### In this issue ...

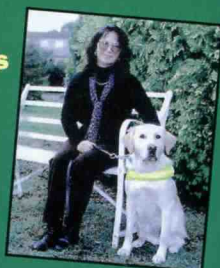


**Great holidays and  
outings for the New Year**  
pages 2 and 3



**Golf  
Society  
meets  
Frankie  
Vaughan**  
page 3

**Training  
guide dogs  
for the  
blind**  
page 11



**and lots more.**

# GREETINGS!

**From Tony Phillips, Xerox Pensions Manager ...**

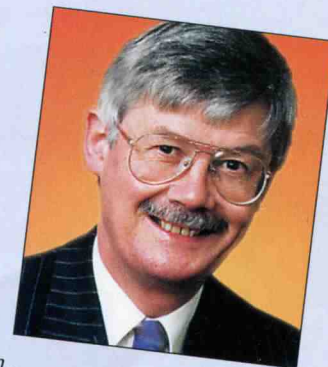
*"As we come to the end of another year, it gives me great pleasure to wish all members of our Pensioners' Association a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I know that all of my colleagues at Xerox Pensions also join me in these seasonal greetings.*

*Our new name, Xerox Pensions, comes as a direct consequence of the recent sale by the Rank Group of its remaining interest in Rank Xerox Limited to Xerox Corporation, following which the word 'Rank' is being removed from all company names. A number of pensioners have expressed concern about this change in ownership but I can assure you that you will not be affected by it in any material way and that your pension will continue to be paid as normal. We are discussing with The Rank Organisation whether it will be able to continue offering discounts to members of the Pensioners' Association and we shall let you know the outcome of this in due course.*

*We have also received a number of enquiries recently about the Chancellor's July Budget, which abolished the tax credits enjoyed by pension schemes on their UK dividend income. Although all pension schemes will be affected by this change, it should not be a cause of concern to you as pensioners, since your pension and the annual increases you receive will not be affected. You can relax in the knowledge that your benefits are quite secure.*

*I hope, therefore, that you can look forward to the New Year with confidence and that you will continue to enjoy the events, activities and services which the Pensioners' Association offers. I am always grateful to have this opportunity to thank all those people who contribute to the Association's success.*

*The hard-working team includes Barbara Keech, XPA Secretary; Lois Dawson, who handles the Xerox Pensions end of things; our Regional Co-ordinators, who play a vital role in liaison and administration; and our team of Visitors, who represent the Association on the ground. Thanks to them for all their efforts and best wishes for another good year ahead!"*



## NEW NAME ... NEW LOGOS

From 1st November, the word "Rank" has been removed from all Rank Xerox company names and hence our name now becomes Xerox Pensioners' Association (XPA). All documentation is being amended to reflect the name changes and will carry these new logos.



### STOP PRESS

**Rank Xerox Pensions recently  
won the coveted  
Pensions Management  
Large Scheme  
of the Year  
Award.**



Come and join us for an early summer break in the beautiful town of Dinard, on France's Brittany coast. We shall be staying in the Hotel Printania, only a few yards from the beach on the Moonlight Promenade overlooking the harbour. The break will be five nights' half-board accommodation including bed, breakfast and evening meal. Rooms are furnished in period style, with private facilities and French and British TV channels. Staff are dressed in traditional costume and the restaurant, with its panoramic views, serves excellent fish and seafood specialities.

Activities will be arranged each day for those who wish to participate and will include:



- Dinard's local market
- The Rance Barrage exhibition
- A visit by water-bus to the walled town of St. Malo
- The "Wedding of Yesteryear Museum" at Dinard
- A visit to the medieval town of Dinan, with return trip by boat
- The Madeleine shopping mall on the outskirts of St. Malo, together with the nearby garden centre and aquarium

The cost of the holiday is £225, which includes return ferry fare and cabin fee (outward journey only), hotel accommodation, the services of a guide during our stay, and coach, boat and water-bus fares for the various activities described. Single rooms are available at a supplement of £50. The cost assumes an exchange rate of FF10 to £1 - any significant movement in the exchange rate (up or down) might necessitate an adjustment to the price. Travel insurance can be arranged for approximately £17 per person.

We shall leave on 4th June, taking the overnight ferry from Portsmouth to St. Malo, which departs at 20.30 and arrives at 08.30 the next morning. Transport to Portsmouth will be arranged, at a small extra charge, if there is sufficient demand. If you wish to make your own way to Portsmouth, car parking is available at a cost of £5 for 24 hours.

## A day at the Seaside

**BRIGHTON – Thursday, 16th April**

A belief in the benefits of bathing in, and drinking, sea-water had already transformed the south coast fishing village of BRIGHTON into the fashionable resort of Brighton by the time the Prince Regent arrived there in 1783. He liked it and decided to stay. John Nash created the breathtaking Royal Pavilion for him there and it became the home of three British monarchs.



**The Royal Brighton Pavilion**

A guided tour of the Pavilion has been arranged during our visit and then, after a light lunch together, we shall have time on our own to explore the antique shops, the yacht marina, and the famous Lanes.

Coach transport to Brighton will be provided where there is sufficient support.



# WALKERS WANTED!

**Best foot forward for our two spring walks:**

## LONDON

**Wednesday, 18th March**

For the townies, here is another of our guided London walks. This time it's almost an urban country ramble through some of the finest canal, park and townscape views in London. We shall meet at Warwick Avenue Underground Station (Bakerloo Line) at 2.30 p.m. and, starting from Little Venice, we shall walk through Regent's Park to Baker Street where we shall have afternoon tea. This is Regency London at its most grand.

## GARDEN VISIT

**COMPTON ACRES, POOLE**

**Tuesday 12th May**

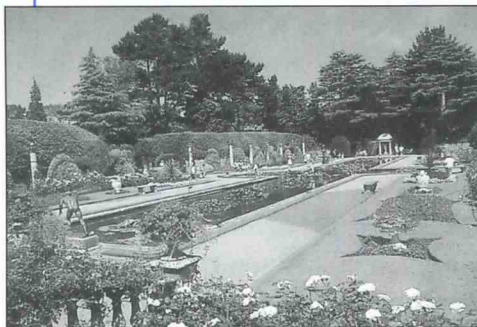
The 9½ acres at Compton Acres incorporate Japanese, Roman and Italian gardens, as well as rock, water and heather gardens. With fine views over Poole harbour and the Purbeck Hills, the gardens also display a fabulous collection of bronze and marble statuary. Upon arrival, we shall have lunch and then spend the afternoon viewing the gardens.

## THE CHILTERNS

**Thursday, 2nd April**

**Doug Nevell** has again kindly agreed to lead a walk in the Chilterns. It will start from Chesham Station, cover a relatively strenuous 8 miles (which we did last year!), with a pub lunch en route at Chenies, and will finish at Chorley Wood Station. The total climb will be around 500 feet. We shall meet at 10 a.m. and the day should finish at around 4 p.m. Make sure you wear clothing and footwear suitable for early spring!

*Watch out in our next issue for details of a gentle summer stroll along the Thames.*



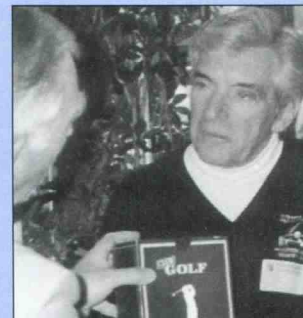
**The Italian Garden at Compton Acres**

***If you are interested in any of the XPA activities featured here, please complete the appropriate application form enclosed with the Newsletter.***

## Frankie Vaughan visits Golf Society

The XPA Golf Society was delighted to welcome **Frankie Vaughan**, brother-in-law of XPA member **Philip Edwards**, to its latest tournament, held at the Hatfield London Country Club in October.

As guest of honour, Frankie presented prizes for the day, including the Invicta Cup, awarded to **Keith Rhodes**.



A keen golfer himself, Frankie has for the past ten years run the "Frankie Vaughan Classic", a celeb-am tournament which raises money for the National Association of Boys Clubs of which he is Vice-President. He remains active in show business as well as being Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire.

The Golf Society is planning a Christmas outing in mid-December, to include a round of golf followed by Christmas lunch. If you are interested in this, or want to find out more about the activities of the Society generally, please contact **Paul Donegan** on 01727 862004.

## Paper Group reunion

The King's Arms in Old Amersham played host in October to the 6th biennial reunion of members of Paper Technology and the Supplies Business Area. This quintessential English pub and its next door neighbour, The Crown, provided the setting for "Four Weddings and a Funeral" ... but no inspiration is required when the Paper Group get together to celebrate the good old days!



**The Paper Group reunited yet again!**



## Meeting the President

Xerox Corporation has a new President and Chief Operating Officer, **Richard (Rick) Thoman**,



who came to introduce himself to staff at Xerox (UK) in September. His visit included attending the formal re-opening of the newly refurbished Bridge House

and a meeting at Marlow with several hundred employees. They crowded into the foyer and lined the balconies of the building to hear his thoughts on the exciting future he saw for the Company. *"We have a set of technologies which demonstrate our market leadership, our focus on customer solutions gives us a unique position in the marketplace and we have splendid people around the world. These are major assets and we need to capitalise on them in order to succeed. We're a great company - and we can be even greater in the next five to ten years."*

Rick Thoman took up his new job in June, reporting directly to **Paul Allaire**, who holds the newly created office of Chairman. A seasoned business leader and general manager, he enjoys an outstanding track record in three very different industries - financial services, food products and, most recently, technology where, as Chief Financial Officer, he led a major turnaround in the fortunes of IBM.

## Farewell 5047!

The last 5047 mid-volume copier came off the Mitcheldean production line in July. Launched nine years ago, the 5047 had a number of novel features for the time, including a new rounded appearance, later copied throughout the Xerox product range. It also had facilities for A3 and A4 double-sided printing and off-line stapling as well as sorting and electronic enhancements which allowed document editing.

In its time, the 5047 scored a number of "firsts" - the first remanufactured product, the first US specification machine refurbished at Mitcheldean and the first customised product. **Nick Farr**, Section Manager, who managed the final phase of production, said *"Our thanks are due to everyone, far too many to mention by name, who worked hard to keep 5047 in production and maintain customer satisfaction over the last nine years"*.

## Xerox on the Net

Internet surfers will now be able to find out all they want to know about Xerox by homing in on the Company's Internet page, launched in August. A joint initiative with Marlow, the new home page provides easy access to a wealth of useful information, including the way the Company does business, its products and services, and the service support provided. It can be accessed through two different Web site addresses:

*Xerox Worldwide:*

**www.xerox.com**

*Xerox Limited Web site:*

**www.xerox-emea.com**



**Please let Barbara Keech know if you are an Internet user and might log on to these Xerox Web sites.**

## Scottish pensioners relive exhibition buzz!



In a novel partnership, current Xerox employees invited ex-employees to take part in Scottish Docuworld, the biggest exhibition the Company has ever mounted north of the border. The Xerox pensioners were invited to *"turn up and be sociable!"* Perfect!

The task was to help with stewarding - greeting visitors, telling them where to go and generally making them feel welcome. No pressure, or at least not much. While putting their experience to work for the benefit of the Company, the pensioners had the chance to renew old friendships.



# Private health – cutting premiums down to size

**In his July Budget, the Chancellor abolished the tax relief on private medical insurance previously enjoyed by around half a million people over the age of 60. This means that premiums will increase unless you consider various options which may reduce them.**

If you have an existing private medical insurance policy, it will continue to benefit from tax relief at the basic rate until it falls due for renewal. But new policies or those renewed after the Budget will not qualify for tax relief.

Premiums for the over-60's had already been rising rapidly, with many older people upset at what they considered to be unfair increases relating to age. With the end of tax relief, the effective rise in premiums will be 30% or more. However, many insurers are working on alternative options for clients with the aim of minimising increases. Here are some which you may want to consider:

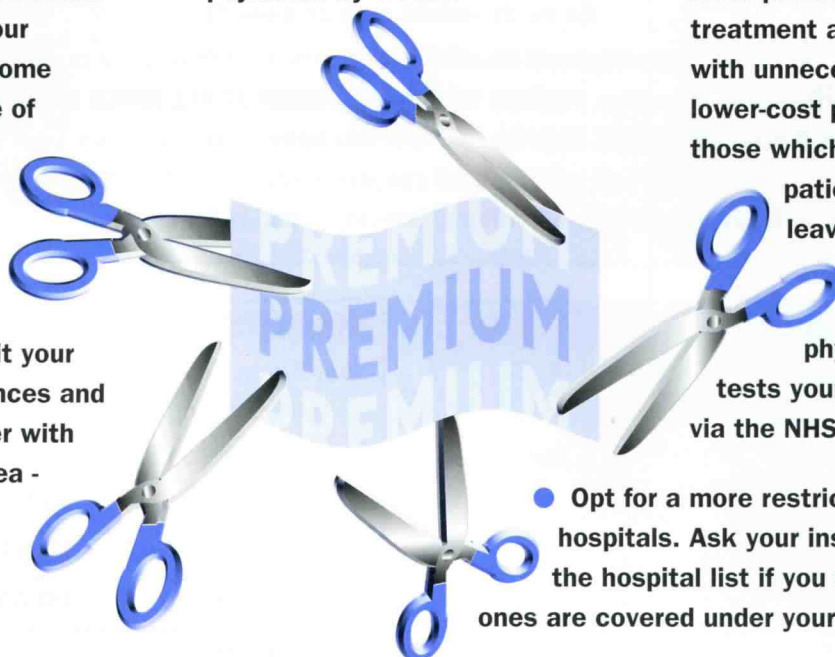
- **Agree an excess whereby you pay the first amount of each claim. Typically, a £100 excess will reduce your premium by 5-15%. Some insurers offer a range of discounts for higher excesses.**

- **Seek advice on the best policy to suit your particular circumstances and needs from an adviser with experience in this area - see the section on *The Private Health Partnership* below.**

- **Pay your premium annually in advance. This could reduce your payments by 5-11%.**

- **Look at schemes which concentrate on core benefits for in-patient and out-patient treatment and ignore those with unnecessary frills. The lower-cost plans tend to be those which offer only in-patient treatment, leaving you to pay for out-patient consultations, physiotherapy and tests yourself or obtain them via the NHS.**

- **Opt for a more restrictive choice of hospitals. Ask your insurer for details of the hospital list if you are unsure which ones are covered under your policy.**



Many XPA members are covered either by BUPA or PPP. Both companies have developed a number of options to help members mitigate the increase in premiums.

**BUPA members** who want to find out more should contact its **Tax Relief Helpline** on 0345 553399 or **Chris Barker** on 01784 893280.

**PPP members** should call their **freephone number: 0800 919321.**

## **THE PRIVATE HEALTH PARTNERSHIP**

This firm of specialist insurance intermediaries can give you impartial advice about the right private health care scheme for you. For a flat-rate fee, currently £11.75, PHP will send you a questionnaire to fill in and,

based on the information you supply, will then provide you with several quotes at varying prices offering different levels of cover. Every year, PHP reviews your scheme with you to ensure that it continues to match your needs. You can contact PHP at: 8 Manor Square, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 3AP; telephone: 01943 851133.

**WARNING:** It may be worth "shopping around" to find the best private health deal but do make sure before you switch that any previous illnesses covered under the old policy will still be covered by the new one and that you won't be penalised for them.

Although all policies renewed before Budget Day (2nd July 1997) continue to enjoy tax relief until their next renewal date, you could lose your tax relief immediately if you make any change to your policy which affects your premiums, for example adding a dependant to your registration or switching to another insurer.



## Xerox Pensioners' Association

### Aims

1. To establish and maintain a two-way personal link with all Xerox pensioners, who are automatically members of XPA.
2. To be informed about pensioners' needs and problems in order to assist where possible.
3. To help pensioners keep in touch with each other.

### Regional Co-ordinators

**Western Region – Jeff McCoy** Chy-Reen, Mayhill, Longhope, Gloucestershire GL17 0NL. Tel: 01452 830600.

**Eastern Region – Paul Johnson** 49 Brandles Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 2JA. Tel: 01462 686736.

**Central Region – John Smith** Blewbury Cottage, Bulstrode Way, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire SL9 7QT. Tel: 01753 884486.

### XPA Secretary

A reminder that our Secretary, **Mrs Barbara Keech**, has a dedicated telephone number - 01895 814226 - which is also a fax line. **PLEASE USE THIS NUMBER AT ALL TIMES AND CALL ONLY BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 5 P.M.** If Barbara is not available, you will either hear an answerphone message or your call will be switched automatically through to Xerox Pensions. Barbara's address is 84 Swakeleys Drive, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middx UB10 8QG.



### Xerox Pensions

Your main point of contact at Xerox Pensions is **Mrs Lois Dawson**, who can be reached at Compton Court  
20-24 Temple End, High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire HP13 5DR  
Telephone **01494 461700**

### PENSION PAYDATES

Your Xerox pension will be paid into your account on the following dates:

January pension	31st December
February pension	30th January
March pension	27th February
April pension	1st April

## MEMBERSHIP FILE

**New members** We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

<b>IHQ</b>	Glyn Williams	John Riley
Rod Arnold	Robert Wilson	Graham Smith
Richard Coleman		Paul Waller
Roger Finning	<b>UK Company</b>	Elizabeth Warner
Maureen Jones	George Boyle	Keith Xerxes
Paul Leonard	Mirella Caffrini	
Denise Morgan	Jan Carter	<b>Welwyn</b>
David Pleasance	Brian Clark	Sue Cunningham
Beryl Turner	Tony Cooke	Patricia Dockree
Les Wade	Edward Fisher	Joan Marshall
Ron Williams	Robin Harrison	Ken Merton
	Gerald Holland	David Newbury
<b>Mitcheldean</b>	Bob Johnson	Anthony Simms
Shirley Crook	Leslie Nicklin	David Thompson
Anne Jordan	Brian Norris	Harold Wappett
James MacLean	Clifford Paul	David Wright
Ralph Perry	Donald Peters	
Derek Williams	Gwen Reilly	<b>XES</b>
		Brian Muir

**In memoriam** We record the deaths of the following members, whose age and last place of work is shown, and offer our sincere sympathies to their families:

<b>IHQ</b>	<b>UK Company</b>
Graham Rudge (52)	Ernie Bore (48)
<b>Mitcheldean</b>	Des Condon (71)
Dennis Brain (68)	Michael Darg (56)
Alf Coopey (71)	Alfred James (81)
Albert Cowmeadow (85)	Reg Reed (74)
Basil Dooley (66)	Violet Walters (77)
Clifford Griffiths (84)	Charlie Walton (46)
Glanville Haines (63)	Albert Whyman (66)
James Hirons (84)	<b>Welwyn</b>
Betty Kirsch (71)	Mary Flint (75)
Arthur Matthews (78)	Jack Harris (88)
Kazimierz Rasiewicz (70)	Andrew Leete (34)
Ray Reed (62)	Bill Morris (63)
David Turner (61)	Evangeline Nudd (83)
Christine Wilks (74)	Henry Romer (74)



## NEW VISITORS

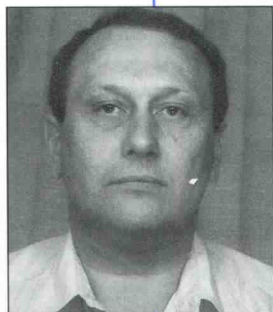
We are very pleased to welcome **Shirley Scott** and **Bob Johnson** to the XPA team of Visitors.



● Shirley Scott will be joining the Eastern region team and will be visiting pensioners in the Welwyn area. She retired in 1993, having worked as a secretary for the Manufacturing Group at Welwyn for 15 years. She spends a few hours each week manning the library trolley at the Lister Hospital in Stevenage and also enjoys reading, knitting, dancing and bowls.

● Bob Johnson will become a member of the Central Region team and will be looking after pensioners in Staffordshire. He spent 28 years with the Company, working in the service area, and recently took early retirement.

In the latter part of his career, Bob was Central Region Support Manager, then Regional After Sales Manager first in the Midlands and afterwards in Bristol and South West. Then, as Bob recalls, *"someone had the bright idea to create Self-Managed Work Groups, whereby my area was halved (the good news) and I became the only manager to 120 staff and 16,000 customers (the bad news) - as you can imagine, the last six years were pretty much a blur!"*



Bob has a passion for motorcycles - *"Bin at 'em since I was 12 and got a few now: five Nortons, a BSA, a Triumph and half a modern Yamaha sports bike which I share with my daughter, Debbie!"*

He is currently restoring a number of bikes for other people and also spends time windsurfing and sailing.

**Thanks to Ray Mabbett** for all his hard work over the years as a Visitor in the Western Region. Ray has decided that the time has now come for him to step down and we thank him and wish him well for the future.

## HAVE BIKE, WILL TRAVEL!

Congratulations to XPA member, **Les Lane**, who recently completed a cycle trip of almost 600 miles from Hereford to Belgium and back which he declares was *"the best two weeks' holiday of my 77 years!"*

Les recalls how one night on his trip, being unable to find suitable B & B accommodation in Surrey, he stretched out for some shut-eye on the pavement. *"The following day, I was woken by a screaming ambulance's siren. I must have looked like death warmed up. So I told the crew that I was mighty fine and off they went!"*

## Remember when?

**Bob Chapman**, who worked for Rank Xerox as Sales Manager for New South Wales and who still lives in Australia, sent us the following photo of his table at the 1963 National Sales Conference. Bob has identified a number of his colleagues - can you recognise any more?





# Pride of Scotland



**XPA group in the garden of the Park Hotel**

**Brian Mattinsley** looks back on an enjoyable XPA visit to Edinburgh and the Scottish borders in August where forty pensioners, friends and family enjoyed excellent weather, a fine hotel, good company and some of the delights which Scotland can offer.

"After a leisurely breakfast on our first full day in the Park Hotel in Peebles, we boarded the coach for a tour of the Border country with our own local guide. First stop Traquair House, where the famous Bear Gates, last opened 250 years ago when Bonnie Prince Charlie left to pursue the British throne, still bar the drive to the house. They will remain shut until the Stuarts have the throne. As my wife commented, 'It'll take more than a squirt of WD40 to get them open again!'

Next stop was Melrose for lunch and a tour of the Abbey (I'm still struggling with the figure of a pig playing bagpipes!) Then on to Abbotsford House, built by Sir Walter Scott from the success of his writing. He also collected enthusiastically - weapons, instruments of torture, and things African. But the real joy was the house itself. Extended each time the revenue from another book

flowed in, the house is large but still retains a consistent style and harmony.

Saturday saw us in Edinburgh for a guided tour of the city in the morning and free time in the afternoon to do whatever we pleased, which included walking the Royal Mile, visiting Holyrood House and sampling the shops. We arrived just before the Tattoo and the atmosphere was tangible. Street entertainers engaged the crowd: fire-eaters, tightrope-walkers, comedians and, on every street corner, pipers. What a

build-up for the evening to come!

Tattoo can mean many things. What we were about to see was not a decoration of the skin! This was the rhythmic tapping which signals the call for troops to return to their quarters for the evening. The Edinburgh Tattoo did more than this. It summoned huge crowds to converge on the Castle Esplanade. Seven thousand of us sat shoulder to shoulder as the evening sky silhouetted the battlements. The lights came up and the scene burst into an extravaganza of sound and colour. The massed Pipes and Drums led the way for a variety of displays from crisp New Zealand marching girls to a lively Caribbean steel band; from realistic military manoeuvres to energetic Highland dancing. The emotion built to the magic of the lone piper high on the Castle playing the lament. This was an evening to remember and, I suspect, more than a few had tears in their eyes."

## TRAVELLER'S TALE ...

Thanks to **Jean Hanks** for letting us know about an enjoyable holiday spent at **Kathleen MacLaughlin's** holiday apartments in Portugal, featured in our April issue.

"We have just spent an enjoyable, quiet and relaxing three weeks at the Quinta de Gomeria, on the Eastern side of Faro airport. The comfortable accommodation is in a small converted farm, set in fields growing figs, almonds and olives. It has its own swimming pool. A walk of about 20 minutes takes you to the beach and main village, where there are several good restaurants serving excellent food, including grilled fish and meat, pizzas and mouth-watering Portuguese dishes, all at reasonable prices." If you would like to find out more about the apartments, Kathleen MacLaughlin can be contacted on 0191 3892445.





# 1997 BUDGET UPDATE

**Jack Bonney, Taxation and State Benefits specialist, has prepared this summary of the main changes announced in New Labour's first Budget in July, particularly as they affect pensioners.**

The Chancellor kept to his pre-election promise not to change tax rates and personal allowances were also left at the levels proposed by the previous Chancellor in November 1996.

However, this Budget was less than generous to pensioners and pensions in the following areas:

## Abolition of tax credits for pension schemes

The impact of this on pension schemes will be severe and widely felt. When a company pays a dividend, it deducts 20% tax and pays 80% to the shareholder. Previously pension schemes were able to re-claim this tax from the Inland Revenue. Now they can no longer do so.

It has been estimated that this could reduce the total income of all pension schemes and other pension providers by £3,500 million in a full year, between 7½% and 10% of their total income. Robert Maxwell only

plundered £400 million and that was a one-off!

However, as Xerox Pensions Manager, **Tony Phillips**, says on the front page, Xerox pensioners currently in receipt of their Company pension *will not be adversely affected in any way.*

Pensioners though who, after retirement, have created their own business and are investing in a further personal pension, will feel the pinch. If you are in this situation, you will need to increase your contributions by at least 10% to maintain your potential pension at the same level.

## VAT on domestic fuel and power

The rate has been reduced from 8% to 5% from 1st September 1997. Age Concern estimates this to be worth 22p a week to the average pensioner – how will we spend it?!

## Abolition of tax relief on private medical insurance

This will mean an increase in premiums and pensioners may want to consider cheaper options (*see page 5 for more on this*).

● **The next Budget will be delivered in the Spring.**

## BRAIN TEASER RESULTS

Last time's Brain Teaser produced an excellent response and a good number of fully correct entries. However, for anyone who found themselves stumped, here are the answers:

1. **4 H of the A**  
4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse
2. **3 PC (RBY)**  
3 primary colours (red, blue, yellow)
3. **24 BB in a P**  
24 blackbirds in a pie
4. **15 M on a DMC**  
15 men on a dead man's chest
5. **7 S on a FPP**  
7 sides on a fifty pence piece
6. **147 - MS at S**  
147 - maximum score at snooker
7. **206 B in the HB**  
206 bones in the human body
8. **88 K on a P**  
88 keys on a piano
9. **32 T in a FS**  
32 teeth in a full set
10. **0141 DC for G**  
0141 - dialling code for Glasgow
11. **64 S on a CB**  
64 squares on a chess board
12. **88 - TFL**  
88 - two fat ladies
13. **240 OP in the P**  
240 old pence in the pound
14. **1,000 M in a K**  
1,000 metres in a kilometre
15. **3 B on a PS**  
3 balls on a pawnbroker's sign
16. **6 W in TP**  
6 wedges in Trivial Pursuit
17. **1 W on a U**  
1 wheel on a unicycle
18. **4 Q in a G**  
4 quarts in a gallon
19. **20 FO in a P**  
20 fluid ounces in a pint
20. **9 L of a C**  
9 lives of a cat

Congratulations to our winner, **Mrs Jo Beavan** of Lydney, whose correct entry was the first one drawn out of the hat.

## COMPETITION THE MISSING LINK

**HEAD  
WOOD  
COVE  
SAC  
SCAR  
CURRANT  
HAT  
BRICK  
KIND**

The same word, added to each of the words in the list to the left, turns each of them into another word.

### Can you find the missing link?

Send your answer on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope, please, to **Lois Dawson** to arrive by Monday 2nd February. Don't forget to enclose your name and address with your entry. There will be a £25 prize for the winner.



# Beautiful Boppard

The recent XPA visit to the Rhine Valley proved to be a super holiday, reports **Ken Kingham**, who picks out the highlights of the tour in the following account.

*"It was unused macs and brollies for sale for the 23 pensioners, partners and friends who enjoyed excellent weather in the well-located resort of Boppard on the River Rhine. After a convenient overnight stop in south-east Holland and a few hours the next day exploring Cologne, we arrived at Boppard in time for a riverside stroll in the sun before joining up for a welcoming drink and dinner in Hotel Ebertor.*

*The next day, we travelled by coach through the picturesque Moselle Valley to the old town of Cochem. There we enjoyed a wine-tasting session, where we were able to sample several local varieties and undertake a guided tour. This showed us how much planning and dedication goes into tending the vines on the*



**At the Loreley vantage point**

*extraordinarily steep riverside slopes.*

*Throughout our visit, we enjoyed the magnificent scenery of the Rhine Valley and all its castles and other interesting buildings. While we relaxed in the coach, **Henk Schrijver**, our tour guide and fellow XPA member, filled us in on the local history, including the story of the Loreley which we had the pleasure of visiting on a clear sunny afternoon.*

*As well as exploring the wider area, we were also happy to enjoy the activities which Boppard itself was able to offer. These included taking a chair-lift to a vantage-point overlooking the greatest bend in the Rhine. 'Vierseenblick', at the top of the chair-lift, means 'Four Lakes View', so called*

*because the eye sees the river divided into four 'lakes' with the rest being hidden in the folds of the steep valley.*

*Dinner was usually taken in the open air on the riverside terrace, accompanied by excellent beer and wine and much conversation. There was usually time for an evening stroll along the two-mile long promenade, where luxury house-boats would often moor for the night. Alternatively, one could visit the nearby hostelrys or take a restful drink in the hotel's Kloster-Keller.*

*Thanks to owner-driver **Stuart Buchanan** for superb handling of his coach, to tour guide Henk for his humour and wisdom, and to our ever active Secretary, **Barbara Keech**, for all her planning and organisation."*

## FOLLOWING UP on two items in the last Newsletter ...

**JUNK MAIL** – On page 9 of the last issue, we told you about the Mailing Preference Service which you can contact if you want to stop receiving unsolicited mail. There are also similar services for electronic junk mail, including both **junk faxes** and **telephone sales calls**, which represent a growing problem. If you want to stop yourself being bothered by junk of this kind, here are the telephone numbers you need:

**Mailing Preference Service:** 0171 738 1625

**Phone Preference Service:** 0800 398893 (BT) or 0500 398893 (Mercury)

**Fax Preference Service:** 0541 554555

**TV LICENCES** – On page 7 of the last issue, we highlighted the rules on TV licences for mobile homes and caravans. **Gordon Martin** of Leeds has written to draw our attention to the fact that, if you get rid of your TV altogether, you will still have to buy a licence unless you also remove your TV aerial!





## Old and new at Mitcheldean

This year's Mitcheldean "At Homes", held on two days in September, provided an opportunity for pensioners to look back at the past, as revealed in a display of memorabilia from the LSA archives. They were also brought up to the present with a tour of the latest technology in the Convenience Copier and Interconnects centres.

Welcomed by training manager, **Brian Fowler**, and refreshed by a cuppa, the XPA visitors were taken on their tour of the plant by apprentices, **Simon Allen** and **Lee Johnson**. One visitor commented on "the nostalgic look back which contrasted with the new technology we saw in use today", while a delighted first-timer declared it "a most enlightening afternoon and I shall come again".



## GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND ... the joys of being a Puppy Walker



Following his retirement from Work Control in Bristol, **John Adamson** has taken on the rewarding job of puppy walking, the vital first step in training guide dogs for the blind.

"After the initial euphoria of early retirement, I began to think seriously about how to fill my time. Purely by chance, I heard of a scheme called 'puppy walking for the blind' and, since both I and my wife, **Audrey**, are keen

on dogs, I found out more.

Having been approved for the job we could hardly wait for the arrival of our first puppy. Dogs used for this work are usually labradors, golden retrievers, German shepherds (alsatians) and collies. All the dogs are bred at the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association's breeding kennels at Leamington Spa and number some 2,500-3,000 puppies a year. They are 'whelped' by people like us, known as 'brood bitch holders'. The large number of puppies required reflects the fact that a blind dog owner only has a working dog for eight years before it is retired and replaced by another.

Your puppy is placed with you at around 6½ weeks old, having already been vaccinated, so that you are able to get him out on the lead immediately. You need to go for short walks first, to get him used to sights and sounds. Make him socialise as much as possible and constantly correct his behaviour, so that he builds up confidence.

Training then progresses to larger towns and into city traffic, shopping complexes, lifts and

stairways. Your puppy will graduate to wearing the coveted blue and yellow coat, which proudly denotes 'guide dog puppy in training'. This tells him that, when the coat is on, he is working. When removed at the end of the session, he can revert to being a hooligan at home!

We keep each puppy until around 10-11 months old when he goes on to the Exeter centre for another 11 months' training. Then he is matched with his new owner. We are now helping to train our fourth puppy and, along the way, we have also fostered six others for short periods covering holidays or sickness. Of course, it is really sad when a puppy leaves ... but we often meet up with them again at the Association's open days. They never forget you!"

This is an extract from a much longer account which John wrote about his experiences. You can obtain the full article from XPA Secretary, **Barbara Keech**. John also says that he would be delighted to talk to anyone interested in this rewarding and worthwhile work - you can contact him on 01275 375124.



## Photo Competition WINNERS!

Congratulations to the three winners of this year's Photographic Competition, which was judged by members of The Camera Club at Mitcheldean.



**Mrs Jo Beavan** of Lydney won the prize for *Natural History* (above).



**Mr W. Hobbs** of Coleford took first place for *People at Work* (top right).



**Ron Moore** of Bristol was the winner in the *Reflections* category (bottom right).

## Open for business

The 126th Open Golf Championship, held in July at the Royal Troon course in Ayrshire, lived up to its reputation as one of the world's premier sporting occasions. And, once again, Xerox (UK) helped the event run smoothly as the official supplier of Document Management Services.

For the Company, the Open Championship is a superb forum for broadening relationships with existing customers in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. A record number - 165 in total - visited the Xerox marquee during the four days of the tournament, including senior representatives from a number of leading companies. A television audience estimated at 43 million had several chances to see the Company's new branding on their screens.

Xerox (UK) has announced that it will again be an Official Supplier to next year's Open Championship at Royal Birkdale.

## Classical Music Spectacular – BOOK NOW!

A Classical Music Spectacular with laser light show will be held at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday 22nd March at 3.30 pm. Tickets £14.50 each. Contact Barbara Keech on 01895 8142260.

## A SPLASH OF COLOUR



Xerox has recently embarked on a major national advertising and direct marketing campaign for colour copiers and printers, highlighting the affordability of the recently launched Empress DocuColor 5750. A series of vibrant colour ads are appearing in newspapers, supported by a mass mailshot on a similar theme, to promote the entire colour range from desktop printers through to publishing systems.

# IT'S YOUR XPA NEWS

... so please send us any items of news or other contributions which you think might be of interest to XPA members. You should get in touch with Barbara Keech, XPA Secretary, or with Lois Dawson at Xerox Pensions.

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