XEROX PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2005 NUMBER 70

Moving stories

This issue of XPA News takes a look at mobility – whether it be simply for pleasure or a matter of day-to-day convenience. If you depend on a car and are having difficulties, you'll find a helpful article on page 6 – there are organisations around the country that offer help, whatever your level of need. If motors appeal to you for their own sake, we have a couple of stories from fellow enthusiasts giving more inspiring examples of the way our members branch out once they have the time to indulge their passions.



Transport of delight

Colin Killick was a Service Engineer with West London Service for 26 years and has recently written to tell us about his involvement with the *RT935 Preservation Society*. The Society is a group of transport enthusiasts who have spent the last 20 years renovating a 1948 London Transport double-decker bus – a forerunner of the famous Routemaster.

The bus has had an interesting history. London Transport sold it to a dealer in 1971 and he hired it out to TV and film companies. The vehicle appeared in a number of popular television programmes throughout the

70s. Many of us will remember *The Good Life*, *Sykes*, and, for the younger generation,

Grange Hill - and there were many others.

Colin's group bought the bus in 1980. It was found to be mechanically satisfactory but the body frame under the outside bodywork was in very poor condition. And so, during the Winter months – over the last 20 years – the whole framework has been lovingly restored so that each Spring it is ready to take family and friends to transport shows, steam rallies, road runs and trips to the coast.

In the last few years, Colin has persuaded two other ex-West London Service Pensioners (Clive Wyatt and John Powell) to join the group and they are now fully committed members. (*Pictured left to right are Colin, Clive and John.*)

Our second 'motorised' article appears overleaf.



Celebrating Nelson

Anne Pearce writes:

Although I have always had an interest in dressmaking and needlework generally, I had never attempted patchwork and quilting and was pleased to discover The Nelson Quilters in North Walsham – a friendly group of very talented ladies with National Award winners

among them. I joined them in 1998 and since then have made their Nelson Quilters banner and various quilts, wallhangings and cushions.

The name of the group comes from our famous local hero, Horatio Nelson, who was a boarder at Paston



School, North Walsham. Because of this association, we decided to stage an exhibition, themed 'The Sea' to coincide with the Nelson Bicentenary in October 2005. I represent the Group on the Town's Working Party organising a three-day event for the weekend of 21st/23rd October.

Apart from the Quilt Show and an exhibition of children's paintings each day, there is to be a children's concert and a town supper with music on the Friday. On the Saturday, there will be a themed

street fair and an evening concert, then a parade led by the Sea Scouts to a civic service on Sunday.

We hope these celebrations will really put the town 'on the map' and that people will no longer say 'North Walsham – where's that?'!

Bowling along...

Derek Blundy from Newick, East Sussex, writes:

When we retired, my wife and I wanted to pursue activities where we could both be involved. Within our village, we had a bowling green and in the next village, a six-rink indoor bowling club, ideal for use in the winter months. Now, some eight years later, we are both established bowlers and enjoy all the competitions. We also run the bar at the indoor club, making good profits, and have introduced some good wines.

An old ambition realised

During my time in Malaya, I had always wanted an MG sports car. I saved my overseas allowance but when I left the RAF in 1958, not only did I not have enough money but cars were not available – all went for export. The idea was shelved. Eventually, when our daughter, Alison, was 20, she decided to buy a 1980 MGB GT. I was detailed to go and inspect the car, which was enough to restart my old ambition. I bought a 1975 MG Roadster and we all joined the local MG club. As well as bowling, we go on all the rallies and trips.

Rally 2005

This Summer, a new trip came up starting from Laon in Picardie. We booked our place and, on 4th June, off we went. Crossing via the Tunnel was only half an hour and we were soon on our way – on the motorway with no traffic! We turned off on to the N2 and were soon in Laon. I was surprised to see a plateau about 150 feet up with a cathedral on the top. Laon is divided into an old and a new city, the old part, dating back to the 8th century, being around the cathedral. The old and new parts are linked by a unique cable car called a POMA.

We booked into our hotel, located beside a large lake. The views and countryside were stunning. Next morning, we set off to the rally with the other cars. We were staggered to find that there were 485 cars, mainly French, German and Italian, and including some real oldies.

Off we went to have lunch at Hirson. The mayor gave a speech and, as we did not understand, we just clapped along with all the others. Music was provided by a Mecanophone, which was a pre-war Renault van with 42 klaxons on the front, the music driven by cardboard discs and some sort of wind distribution device. It was fantastic and, I suspect, home made.

Off again in the afternoon to Chimay in Belgium for tea and another stopover, chatting to all the other participants – fortunately their English was very good. The whole route was closed to other traffic on a Saturday – can you imagine that in the UK? – and controlled by motorcycle riders, possibly off-duty



Derek and Bobbie Blundy with their MG

policemen. Back in the hotel, it was a quick shower and off to the Gala Dinner, which had seven courses, all French, but certainly tasted okay, and French wines to wash down the food.

On the Sunday, everyone congregated again in the old city and finally there was a drive around the ramparts. All the locals participated with flags and cheers for the very old cars. We were then homeward bound. It was all very enjoyable but very condensed, so we are going back again this summer to explore the local area. Laon is near Reims and the Ardennes, and the countryside is spectacular.

Plenty to do

So far with the MG Club we have had trips to the Keukenhof Gardens in Holland, Honfleur, Forges Les Eau and in September we are going to Epernay. Wherever we have been in France, we have found the locals very friendly. We also go to the local runs around East Sussex and Kent.

So, if you are feeling a bit fed up with nothing to do, our advice is to start bowling or buy a classic car. There is good company and plenty of anecdotes on the bowling green and lots of jobs to do on the cars!!

Pension Dates 2005/6

Your Xerox pension will be paid into your account as follows:

PENSION	PAID IN
October	Friday 30th September
November	Tuesday 1st November
December	Thursday 1st December
January	Friday 30th December
February	Wednesday 1st February
March	Wednesday 1st March



Saturday 4th February, The Abbey Hotel Golf & Country Club, Redditch

Your Newsletter – your ideas

We receive many letters saying how much you enjoy hearing about the way other members are using their retirement years to pursue hobbies or even start new careers. We would like to build on this. Is there anyone out there

who would like to take on a regular column in XPA News? Perhaps you are a keen gardener or cook; perhaps you enjoy country walks and could share the things you see and the pleasure you derive from them.

There are two issues of the newsletter

next Spring!

There are two issues of the newsletter a year, so it would not take too much time.

However, if the idea of having to come up with something on a regular basis is a bit daunting, perhaps you would consider making occasional contributions in the form of gardening tips or recipes.

If you feel you could rise to the challenge, Barbara or Margaret would love to hear from you. You can find their contact details on page 4.



We are sorry to announce that at the end of the year Anne Pearce is giving up visiting and looking after our folks in Norfolk. We thank her for all her sterling work and for arranging the Christmas get-togethers over the past years.

This means that we will be looking for a volunteer and, because our pensioners in that area are fairly well spread about, the volunteer would need to be mobile.

As detailed in the last issue of XPA News, we also require another Visitor in the Welwyn Garden City area.

If anyone is interested in helping with this valuable activity, please contact the East Region Co-ordinator, John Handscombe on 01462 814009.





XPA website: www.xpa.org.uk

Xerox Pensioners' Association

All Xerox pensioners are automatically members of XPA

AIMS

- 1. To establish and maintain a two-way personal link with all pensioners.
- 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.

XPA President

Our President, **Mrs Barbara Keech**, is available on telephone **01923 820034** – *9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday*.

Barbara's address is 1 The Manor House, Eastbury Avenue, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 3LJ.

Email: barbara.keech@btinternet.com

XPA Administrator

You may telephone **Margaret Brooks**, the XPA Administrator, on **01494 615159**, *Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays only*. Margaret's address is Xerox Pensions Ltd, 20-24 Temple End, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 5DR. Email: margaret.brooks@xerox.com

Regional Co-ordinators

West Region John Court

Stockwell Farm, Aylburton, Lydney, Glos GL15 6DN Tel: 01594 843651 Email: john@courtjb.freeserve.co.uk The West Region is based on Mitcheldean and covers: Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Somerset and Wales.

East Region John Handscombe

Town Farm House, 51 High Street, Henlow, Beds SG16 6AA Tel: 01462 814009 Email: johnhandscombe@onetel.com The East Region is based on Welwyn and covers: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

South Region Anne Cain

24 Maygoods Lane, Cowley, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3TE Tel: 01895 231420

The South Region is based on Bridge House, Uxbridge and covers: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Kent, London, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Sussex and Wiltshire.

North Region Sheila Webb

18 Kennerleigh Crescent, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS15 8RS Tel: 0113 2646979

The North Region covers: Cheshire, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Durham, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.

Our tax office in Bradford has changed address

HM Inspector of Taxes, West Yorkshire & Craven Area TSO, Centenary Court, 1 St Blaise Way, Bradford BD1 4YL. Telephone: 0845 3021432 Our Ref: 073/R51

New Members

If you would like to see a list of new members since our last issue, just contact our Administrator, Margaret Brooks (contact details above).

ABSENT FRIENDS

Here is list of our members who have died in the last few months, showing their ages. Our sincere sympathy goes to their families.

BIRMINGHAM		Roland Matthews	83	Fred Bennett	76	WELWYN	
Vincent Tyers	60	Richard Minton	54	John Cairnduff	76	Ernest Dunk	72
		Gertrude Morant	82	Alex Clark	81	Peter Harvey	62
MARLOW		John Morgan	72	Thomas Devilly	80	Robert Innes	78
Jean E Arlott	73	Michael Morris	84	William Gilliker	90	Geoffrey Parsley	78
Jean V Dodsley	78	Victor Parry	91	John Hames	78	William Robson	83
Jean R Lawrence	73	Glenville Powell	65	Sidney Harris	85	John Allan White	69
Fred Mersham	90	David Roberts	71	Keith Janes	80	Bernard Zaremba	83
,		Ronald Ruck	70	Albert Joucla	77		
MITCHELDEAN		Graham Short	73	John Lessels	69	WOKEFIELD	
Michael Bradley	62	Harriot Simmonds	96	Maxwell Maider	67	Timothy Harrison	56
Francis Coleman	86	Stanley Smith	80	Norman McConnell	70	,	
William Counsell	80	Albert Weyman	88	Sidney Phillips	83		
Arthur Davies	72	Glyn Williams	42	John Simm	86		
Donald Emberson	86			Thomas Small	84		
Dennis Jenkins	72	UK CO		Edna Symes	82		
Leslie Jones	83	Patricia Adams	69	Maldwyn Thomas	74		
Ray Jones	73	George Allen	88				
Colin Loade	73 74	William Barr	78				
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Company News

XEROX GLOBAL SERVICES — A SUCCESS STORY

After some difficult years for the Company, it's good to report a great success story that is set to continue in the coming years. That's the story of Xerox Global Services – a new division resulting from the integration of Xerox Business Services (XBS) with Xerox Business Innovation Services (BIS) and Xerox Analyst Services (XAS). John Hopwood heads up this new combined area of the Xerox business.

The man at the top

John has been with Xerox for 25 years. He left a career in teaching to join the Company in 1980 as a sales trainee in Newcastle. Since then, most of John's career has been in sales, both in the UK and Europe. On a personal note, John's great interest is martial arts and the discipline and focus demanded by this sport is evident in his approach to his business life.

After three years as Director of the Public Sector, John took over XBS at the beginning of 2004. The decision was taken to integrate Xerox's service business to strengthen the go-to-market offering and in June 2004 BIS was added, followed by XAS in January 2005. Appropriately, the theme for the new division is The Power of the Team, reflecting the strength of the combined offering to clients and the value put on the people who deliver the service.

Outstanding growth

The integration has reversed the decline experienced in each of the business sectors. A combined revenue of \$220m in January 2004 has been turned into \$260m in January 2005, and XGS is set to reach its target of doubling its business over three years. The average value of a project has grown

from \$1m in 2004 to \$20-30m this year. At the end of 2003, this business sector represented 20% of the Company's revenue. By the end of 2005 it will be 30% and the aim is to reach over 40% by the end of 2007.

How to achieve it

Speaking to John Hopwood, it was clear that discipline and focus are at the route of the business approach that has proved so successful – that and ensuring that you have the right people in the right jobs.

First, an in-depth analysis of the



Some of the well-known names on the XGS client list



market determined the products to offer and the business potential. Four key areas were identified – retaining and growing existing relationships and working with a unique group of partners (known as Red Tree), selling each other's services; imaging and archiving (XAS); Xerox office services (XOS); and Document Advisory Office (DAO). The initials of the final area – DAO – happily for John, reflect the Chinese term for 'the pathway'.

The next step was to decide how to meet the challenge – which 20% of current clients to concentrate on, which 20% of the market place to target, which people to put in specific jobs, and what specialist training they should receive. The result is a business focus and expertise that is paying dividends.

Current situation

XGS can take over all output devices for their clients. It has a go-to-market sales force of 55 and a strong partnership alliance with big IT and Business Process organisations – such as IBM and EDS. To quote John Hopwood, 'This is an exciting time. We have made a significant effort and the potential for growth is greater than ever before. In all my time with Xerox, this is the best job I've ever had!'

Health Watch – keeping on the move



Many of our members depend on cars to get about on a day-to-day basis, for shopping, to see friends and to stay independent. As time goes by, coping with the car can become a problem – whether you drive yourself or whether you are a passenger. Perhaps looking back to reverse is harder, or lifting your arms to the steering wheel, or just getting in and out! You may be in a wheelchair and feel that this prevents you from driving altogether. Throughout the country, there are 17 Mobility Centres who are there to help you, whatever your level of need.

The Centres come under the umbrella of the Forum for Mobility Centres. They vary in the way that they are funded – some have grants from the NHS or the Department for Transport (DfT), some rely on charitable donations. **The Mobility Advice and Vehicle Information Service (MAVIS)**, situated in Crowthorne, Berkshire, was set up by the DfT and both they and the Forum can put you in touch with your nearest Mobility Centre and give you advice on what help is available.

The philosophy

The philosophy of the centres is summed up by a spokesperson from the DfT:

'Driving or just getting in and out of a car can get more difficult with age or disability. Some people give up driving sooner than they would like or struggle to continue in discomfort. The DfT set up MAVIS and supports the Forum of Mobility Centres so that people can get specialist advice, information and practical help with travelling by car. For example, anyone with arthritis who finds it difficult to turn his or her head might find a simple panoramic mirror makes driving less painful.

'There is help available for passengers too. Swivel seats, extra grab handles and other modifications can make a world of difference.'

All levels of help

Just to give you a taste of the help others have received, let's look at the example of the cabby who had a stroke and the 80 year-old who wanted to hit the racetrack. With the help of intensive training from the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Mobility Centre, Ian Starkey, London cabbie, was able to return to driving his cab once it had been specially adapted to cope with the weakness resulting from his stroke. Paddy Day was given a voucher to drive a Lotus racing car as an 80th birthday present. She was thrilled but decided that she'd better get tested before she took advantage of it! Paddy went to MAVIS and, after a two-hour assessment, was given a clean bill of driving health. In one case, applying to a Mobility Centre provided retraining and vehicle adaptation; in the other, a simple test restored the driver's confidence and reassured her that she was still safe on the road.

Freephone and website

If you are having problems, you can contact the Forum of Mobility Centres free on **0800 559 3636** or visit the website at **www.mobility-centres.org.uk** for information about your nearest Centre and advice about assessment, training or vehicle adaptation.

In memory of ...

Hazel Maynard

Many employees have fond memories of their colleague, Hazel Maynard, a Senior Manager at Welwyn Garden City and a Pension Scheme Trustee from 1998 until she died last year. Hazel was a strong and intelligent businesswoman who was a great friend and mentor to many across the business.



Sadly, Hazel lost her battle with breast cancer last September. In memory of Hazel, many employees and former employees gave generously to charity and raised £1,773 for Breast Cancer Care and Cancer Research UK.

Also, the Xerox Charitable Trust generously gave £3,000 to the Isabel Hospice in Welwyn Garden City. Our picture shows Hazel's husband, Ken (right), presenting the money to the Isabel Hospice Trustee, Brian Hester.

George Allen

Many of you will remember George Allen from his Work Control and Paper Sales days at Goswell Road.

George had been a Visitor to pensioners in the Essex and Boreham Wood area for the Association for many years. He had just celebrated his 88th birthday in March when he died. We send condolences to his wife Ellen and daughter Marilyn.

Life after Xerox

Recollections of a 'Sassenach'

Pat Gawler (formerly Smith) of Musselburgh, Midlothian writes:

Reading the XPA News brings back so many memories of colleagues at Rank Xerox, Mitcheldean. It made me reflect on my own changed circumstances and how I came to be living north of the Border, a long way from the Forest of Dean.

When I joined Rank Xerox in 1971 as secretary to Tony Bryson, there were about 4,500 people employed at the Mitcheldean plant. Working in Tony's departments of Productivity Services and Work Study gave me an insight into most of the manufacturing and administrative activities. A copier being developed during that time was Ardri – little did I think that one day, far into the future, I would be learning Gaelic and come to understand that it meant àrd rìgh or 'high king'! Apart from a short break, I remained at Mitcheldean until 1984, working for Bob Monteith (Procurement) and David Mills (Group), among others.

How I came to make the move north is a long story. At the age of fifty, I realised that my life was 'grinding to a halt'. My sons had finished university and moved to London, my job on an educational pilot project had run its five-year course, and my final OU credit was nearing completion. But after studying for A levels and



an Open University degree, I had become addicted to learning! I decided to take a full-time four-year degree course at the University of Edinburgh.

Full of excitement and not a few misgivings, I set off for my new life in the Autumn of 1989. I didn't know what to worry about most – renting out my house to strangers, living in a student house with sixty assorted housemates of all ages and nationalities, driving to Scotland (Leicester had been my longest journey) or the course itself.

Four experience-packed years later, I was thrilled to be awarded a First Class Honours Degree in Scottish Historical Studies – not bad for a Sassenach! At first I found it difficult to get back into the workplace – my new qualification and experience, offset by a lack of computer expertise, did not sit well with prospective employers. Fortunately, a part-time copy typist post with Scottish Roots has grown over the past ten years into an unusual and very interesting way of life, running this genealogical research company on a day-to-day basis for my slightly eccentric, amusing employer.

Are there any other former Rank Xerox employees in this neck of the woods? It would be good to meet up if so. I can be reached at home on **0131 665 7970** or by email at **patfg@tiscali.co.uk**

Then and now

Michael J Smedley of West Bridgford, Nottingham writes:

Whenever I receive my copy of the XPA News, I never cease to be amazed by the versatility and energy of former employees of the Company. Is there anything they will not try or do? Are there any heights to which they cannot rise?

I joined the Company in June 1966 as a Service Controller working first in Nottingham, then Leicester, until December 1983. In 1976, along with a number of colleagues from the Leicester branch, I went on holiday to the Greek island of Rhodes as one of the winners of the Xerox Honours Club. We were all introduced to Hamish Orr-Ewing at a celebration dinner, so it was a pleasure to read details from his letter in the March issue.

Many of the salesmen working under the late Henry Spokes were rugby players. One of them was a keen young man by the name of Clive Woodward. Who amongst us could have imagined that one day he would lead England to be the World Champions and eventually be knighted!

Perhaps more than anything else, I appreciate the training courses run by the Company. The many skills I learnt stood me in good stead in my later employment as a Customer Services Manager, looking after the interests of 100,000 members.



Retirement for me does not mean inactivity. I'm an active chairman of my village cricket club; I do charity work for the RNIB; I swim daily; and I attended the local college on a computer course. In addition, I've joined another group of former Xerox employees – I've become an author! My fourth novel is due to be published later this year and I would like to offer it as a competition prize next year.

Life after Xerox? There most certainly is!

Sailing away

David Chambers writes:

It was 9am when we met for a cholesterol-free breakfast at a café in Lymington (eggs, bacon, black pudding, baked beans, sausages, tomatoes, tea and toast). We then went to the Marina and boarded Xepha. She is a speedy 34ft MG sailing yacht capable of 9 knots.

After a thorough briefing from our skippers (Cliff Lichfield and Richard Royall) we set sail for the Isle of Wight. The wind was a good force 5/6 and we had a wonderful sail across, with everyone taking a turn at the tiller and helping to set the sails. If you have never sailed before, it is a great sensation when you are underway with the mainsail and genoa (foresail) hoisted. If you have sailed before, this is no park pond dinghy after all, it does race during Cowes Week.

Then into Yarmouth harbour where we moored and took the water taxi to the shore – a great lunch at the Royal Solent Yacht Club and then



David Chambers (standing) and two crew members

back to Xepha for the return journey. The wind had by now picked up to force 6, gusting to 7. We were able to sail on the genoa only and even sailed up the river to the Marina without having to hoist the iron sail (turn on the engine). We then tidied up and drove home feeling healthily tired and exhilarated.

It was a great day, enjoyed by everyone. If you want to feel the salt spray on your face and enjoy the excitement of wind and sail, then this is for you. (Dates for next Summer will appear in the Spring newsletter.)

Los Gigantes, Tenerife

Luxury one-bedroom apartment, with swimming pool, sun terrace, spectacular views of Los Gigantes, the sea, cliffs and La Gomera, in a private residential, well-designed development – very quiet but only minutes from all amenities. Full information pack from Brian Poulson on **01914 883508**.

INFORMATION PACKS on holiday discounts and accommodation are available from Margaret Brooks (contact details on page 4).

All these phrases represent names of well-known commercial establishments (shops, banks, restaurants etc) found throughout Britain - can you work them out?

- These were made for walking 1.
- **Small forests** 2.
- Indian take-aways 3.
- 4. Keep to the path
- 5. Post Harvest People
- 6. Late of Dock Green
- Pre Euro German currency & Diana's family 7.
- 8. Birmingham and District riverside
- First class cannabis resin
- 10. Carnivorous café

- 11. Natural home for wildlife
- 12. Halls of Justice
- 13. Peculiar refuse containers
- 14. Cunning advantage freely taken
- 15. Hobbies long gone
- 16. Hold it! Rosie
- 17. Cadaver Emporium
- 18. Maternal attention
- 19. Chilly country
- 20. Elderly retired Scottish farmers

Answers on a postcard or sealed envelope to Margaret Brooks (contact details on page 4), no later than 31st January 2006. First correct answer out of the hat wins £25.

Congratulations to the lucky winner

Our last competition brought plenty of responses – the answers are shown below.

First correct answer out of the hat was from Mrs R Marshall of Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire and she receives a cheque for £25 and a copy of the book written by Dr Richard Collins - Under a Blood Red Sky.

- 1. Australia 2. England
- 3. Denmark
- 4. Argentina
- 5. Chile
- 6. Israel
- 7. Sweden
- 8. China
- 9. Peru
- 10. Morocco
- 11. Norway
- 12. France
- 13. Egypt
- 14. Italy
- 15. Greece
- 16. Holland
- 17. Portugal
- 18. Venezuela
- 19. Senegal
- 20. Romania

How are you doing?

Please send your contributions to Barbara Keech or Margaret Brooks (contact details on page 4).