



**SOUTH AFRICAN EXPAT BRITISH PENSIONERS**

**Newsletter 19 May 2016**

**There was a debate on the State pension freezing which was on Parliament live TV on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, and we must thank Ian Blackford SNP MP his email address [ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk) as well as many others.**

**I watch this debate and found it very interesting, a lot of MP's were very vocal on our side.**

**If you did not see this live please read the Hansard report hereunder.**

**Here is the link to the Hansard report of the full debate. Scroll down to Pensions Uprating (UK Pensioners Living Overseas)**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2016-05-11/debates/Hocdebdt20160511sclgtghs\\_2Debatedmotionod15tipensionsuprating\(Ukpensionerslivingoverseas\)/PensionsUprating\(UKPensionersLivingOverseas\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2016-05-11/debates/Hocdebdt20160511sclgtghs_2Debatedmotionod15tipensionsuprating(Ukpensionerslivingoverseas)/PensionsUprating(UKPensionersLivingOverseas))

**From a member**

Dear Norma,

Wonderful tour going to England Manchester flight return from O.R.Tambo, to see the Gardens in Derbyshire Yorkshire and North Wales. Tour starts 8<sup>th</sup> June and ends 15<sup>th</sup> June Portmeirion, and Chatsworth included. 4\*accommodation, tour guide all entrance fees for a week R29990 per person sharing.

Anniversary of Capability Brown and his landscaped gardens, 100 years. British Gardens` Tour.

If you are interested email [john.ridler@thompsons.co.za](mailto:john.ridler@thompsons.co.za) or phone John on 0836012498 Please tell your members about it.

**It has come to my notice that some members do not get paid their full adjusted pension when visiting the UK.**

**So I phoned the international pension centre and was told the following.**

It all depends on which day your pension is normally paid, i.e., Monday, Tuesday Wednesday etc. If your payment is on a Tuesday and you arrive say on the Thursday after, you will only be paid from the following Tuesday.

**You will have to check to see what day your pension is paid from.**

If you arrive on the Monday then your pension is from the Tuesday following, and vice versa when you return.

One has to contact them roughly 28 days before you are meant to arrive or within 28 days of your arrival.

**It is better to phone them with your details like day of arrival and day of departure, that way they can adjust your payment.**

If you are on a 28day cycle payment, then you can find out which day and make sure you arrive on the day of payment and leave 28 days or 21 days later, whatever suits you.

Just click on the under mentioned link, it will take you into the UK government overseas passport renewal online.

[https://www.gov.uk/overseas-passports/y/south-africa/renewing\\_new/adult](https://www.gov.uk/overseas-passports/y/south-africa/renewing_new/adult)

**SOME ITEMS THAT MAYBE OF INTEREST TO SOME**

<http://www.pensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk/about-pensions/the-state-pension/what-you-might-get>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proposed-benefit-and-pension-rates-2016-to-2017>

Only if you still have to claim your pension

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/money-matters/pensions/what-the-new-state-pension-reforms-mean-for-you/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State\\_Pension\\_\(United\\_Kingdom\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Pension_(United_Kingdom))

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090215180949/direct.gov.uk/en/moneytaxandbenefits/pensionsandretirement/statepension/dg\\_10026714](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090215180949/direct.gov.uk/en/moneytaxandbenefits/pensionsandretirement/statepension/dg_10026714)

**PLEASE! IN NEWSLETTER 11 OF APRIL 2015 I WROTE ABOUT A MEMBER WHO WAS HAVING TO LEAVE BECAUSE SHE COULD NOT GET HER VISA RENEWED. I NOW HAVE BEEN ASKED IF ANY MORE OF OUR MEMBERS HERE ARE LIVING IN SOUTH AFRICA WITH A VISA THAT THEY HAVE TO RENEW EVERY FEW YEARS. ANOTHER OF OUR MEMBERS IS WORRIED THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RENEW THEIR VISA, PLEASE IF YOU CAN, LET US KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING ABOUT THIS, AS THE MONTHLY INCOME HAS NOW GONE UP TO R37,000.00.**

**Dear Norma**

Many thanks for the latest newsletter which is very informative as usual.

In regard to queries about the UK passport:

1. You must use a credit card in order to complete the transaction via the Internet as no other payment method is accepted.
2. There is nowhere you can hand in your forms and make payment anywhere in South Africa anymore.
3. Always use DHL to courier your forms and supporting documents to the UK. You can do this at any Postnet branch and can keep track of it via the Internet. The return courier price is included in the total amount you pay for your new passport via the Internet, and you get it within one or two weeks of applying for it.
4. South African Home Affairs are not yet stamping new UK passports with permanent residence permits, so carry your old passport with you as well as your new one and present both when you return to South Africa as your old one has your residence permit stamped into it. I have done this many time and it is always accepted at ports and airports.
5. South African Home Affairs will eventually get around to stamping new passports with your permanent residence status, but they are firstly concentrating on issuing the new smart card ID documents to SA Citizens before they do so. They will also issue the new smart ID cards to non-SA Citizens with permanent residence status in due course.

Sincere regards,

**Hi there Norma,**

Thanks once again for your latest letter. One of the questions was how to get the permanent residence stamp in your new passport. I took ours to the Home Affairs office together with the original green permit form ( BI 802). Because we live in Modimolle (Nylstroom) the office was too small and didn't do it and they said I could either go to Pretoria or Polokwane. We went with the caravan and went to Polokwane for a few days and got it done very quickly. The office that dealt with it was away from the long queues for the other stuff. As she did it the lady asked why we had come there and when I explained she said Mokopane also did it which we could have done in a day trip. No worry though we had a nice few days away at the same time.

If you don't still have the green form you have a problem as I thought I had mislaid ours as we had moved house, and was told it took at least 6 months to re-issue it and at the time cost R100. One of your writers said they had taken out SA citizenship. I would be interested to know if this was recently and how much it had cost, because I was told it cost R10,000.

Many thanks Once Again,

**MY REPLY,**

**Thank you for that information, hopefully it will help others.**

**I myself took out South African Citizenship in 2010, then it cost me if I remember correctly R300.00 now I believe it will be around R400.00.**

**It took around 3 months.**

**I had no trouble getting this as I had lived in SA for 38 years with a permanent residence certificate.**

**After I received my nationalization certificate I had to apply for a new ID Document as my ID number changed.**

**When doing this I also applied for a South African passport. Total cost if I remember was less than R800.00**

**When I leave South Africa, I have to use my SA Passport and I also have to show my UK passport.**

**When I return, I leave the UK on my UK passport and on Entering SA I use my SA passport**

**PLEASE NOTE>**

**When one leaves the country now, you have to carry your original A4 green residence certificate with you.**

**They will not accept a copy, and if you do not have your original certificate, the only advice I can give you is to take out South African citizenship.**

**Otherwise the new customs control at the SA entry points will not allow you entry into SA.**

**Some say just take your ID book, but I know that does not work as it is not an authorized travel document.**

**<http://www.intergate-immigration.com/blog/new-south-african-permanent-residency-process/>**

**Thanks, Norma.**

Great newsletter as always and, as a retired secretary, I know how much work goes into this so it is doubly appreciated from my side!

Best regards,

**Hi Norma,**

No you DO NOT have to become an SA Citizen if you have mislaid your original permanent residence form. In fact, you can't because to do so you would need to prove you are a Permanent Resident!

The process is lengthy but OK. I went through it and it took 9 months last year. You go on-line to VFS (Visa Facilitating Service) [www.vfsglobal.com](http://www.vfsglobal.com)

and register for an appointment with a reasonably up to date computer or you will get stuck! There are offices in all the major cities. You DO NOT waste time going anywhere near Dept of Home Affairs.

It took nearly 3 months to obtain an appointment and of course you pay up front around R1500 (it may have increased by now). They give you the list of items to have ready at your appointment with all documents certified as genuine copies like copies of previous passports which you take along as well. The appointment lasts up to 3 hours and you are queuing along with others (in Rivonia, Jhb) of approx. 150 people. Your photograph and finger prints are taken by various people before you are issued with a Tracking No.

I was told then to wait 10 months! I got bored after about 3 and phoned every 2 weeks until looking on-line you see that they are ready for you to collect. Do not go in early as I did after reading that the document was on their way from the depot and would only take 24 hours. It still took them 7 days!

Then you don't need an appointment. You just arrive at the same office you were in before. The whole process took me from Dec 2014 to September 2015.

I hope that helps others. Many thanks for your newsletter. When I am in the UK shortly I will give the Pensions a ring about saying I am there and maybe I will receive slightly more pension for those 2 weeks!

best regards

**Please remember to make sure your postal address is up to date with the International Pension Center Also if you do receive a Life Certificate, it would be prudent to phone the International Pension Center at 0044 191 218 7777, they will ask you some security questions to make sure you are who you are. They know of the problem that our postal service is slow.**

**NOTE TO EVERYONE,**

**IF YOU WANT YOUR PENSION SENT TO A BANK IN THE UK,  
OR IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOU'RE BANKING DETAILS THAT YOUR PENSION GOES INTO.  
IF YOU MOVE TO A NEW ADDRESS OR IN FACT WANT ANY CHANGES MADE. (Remember if they have  
the wrong postal address and they send you a life certificate, they will stop your pension if you do not  
contact them).**

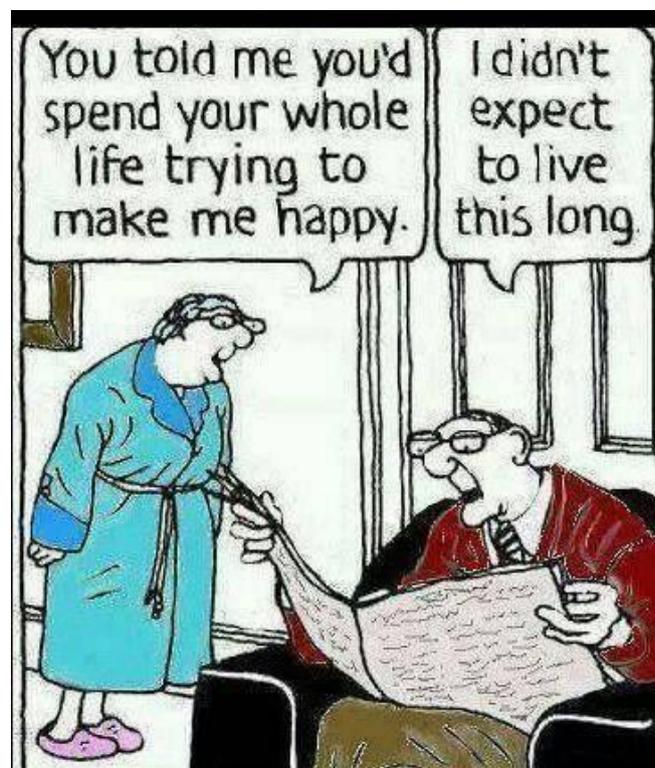
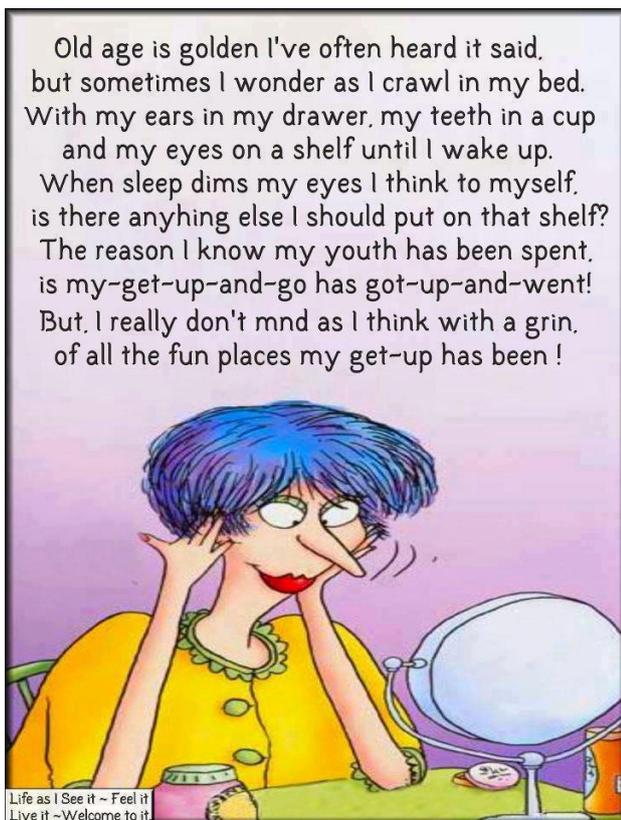
**Do not worry if you have not received one, they do not send out to everyone, it looks as though they  
send it out as one gets older. I turned 70 this year and this is the first time I have received it.**

**PHONE THE INTERNATIONAL PENSION CENTER AT 0044 191 218 7777.**

**THEY DO NOT RESPOND TO EMAILS; FOLLOW UP VIA POST IF NEEDED.**

**GIVE THEM YOUR TELL NO AND THEY WILL PHONE YOU BACK....**

**TIME FOR SOME HUMOUR**



**This is where you will find how to contact the MP's. <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>**

**This is where one can contact the Lords and Ladies. <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/lords/>**

**Or if you want then open a twitter account, as myself and others have found a great way to get our message across to those that are on twitter.**

**Please members, if you are thinking or are returning to the UK, please let me know the reason why, and remember you can still receive our newsletters.**

**Also would you be willing to carry on with the campaign for parity? By keeping your finger on the pulse and writing to newspapers, MP's & Lords on the fight for parity and perhaps going face to face with your local MP in his surgery.**

**Also would you be interested in allowing the ICBP to know your reason for returning?**

Another place to leave your mark.

[https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Prime Minister David Cameron UK Government Pay pension parity to all British pensioners/?tqtqFjb](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Prime_Minister_David_Cameron_UK_Government_Pay_pension_parity_to_all_British_pensioners/?tqtqFjb)

Please everyone we have to support Brian in his endeavours. He is fighting for us all.

If you want to find out what MP is now the local MP for your last constituency one can look them up here.

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

**Please start writing again to as many MP's as possible asking them to sign the latest EDM.**

**Don't forget to check on**

<https://www.facebook.com/pensionjustice?fref=ts> as this is up to date on our fight.

Please if you do not hear from me always check out

<http://www.bestbirds.co.za/news.php>

I will post anything that I hear on the website if I can.

click the links hereunder.

<http://frozenbritishpensions.org/>

<http://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/ec6e2929-ba69-42bf-9070-6a4022131302?in=16%3A00%3A23&out=16%3A06%3A06>

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/1235>

£

**Please take a moment to remember those who have passed on before we  
WILL WIN THIS FIGHT....**

<http://www.bestbirds.co.za/news.php>

**STAY POSITIVE**

**It may not happen in our life time.**

**WE WILL WIN IN THE END**

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**I am also on WhatsApp 0027(0) 82 348 2414**