

Pensioners' Newsletter – February 2020

News from the South

Hi Everyone:

Well, we have been advised that Griffin House will be closed down for all operations from end of February which means that we will finally need to vacate our VPA office just before that date. We are still trying, together with the Company, to find suitable alternative accommodation and remain confident that there will be a solution. Until you receive further information please continue to book trips etc. using Sylvia's home address.

Congratulations are in order as our Entertainments Secretary, Sylvia Pemberton, will be celebrating a special (not going to say which one) birthday at the end of this month. Happy Birthday from all the VPA Committee. Also my mother-in-law and Vauxhall pensioner, Dolly Shelley, reached the grand age of 100 earlier in the month. A card from the Queen was just pipped by a personal message from her favourite singer, Will Young, who has visited her in the past.

Chris Cleary, one of our Committee members and keen golfers, goes into hospital this month. All the best Chris. Here's wishing you a speedy recovery and return to the golf course from the VPA Committee and all the golf members.

Finally I hope all of you are keeping warm during this spell of cold weather and remember that if you know of any Vauxhall employee or pensioner in need of help the Welfare Team are only a phone call away.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear All:

I will begin by saying I hope you all had a good Christmas and wishing you all a belated New Year. In December we enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch at the Woodcote Hotel courtesy once again of the Club.

The January social evening was well attended and took the form of a Christmas party. The Club laid on a lovely buffet followed by a quiz and silly party games and a good night was had by all.

On January 16 54 of us had an outing to the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool to see the rock and roll pantomime of Sleeping Beauty and what a professional show it was. I am not sure who enjoyed it the most us 'oldies' or the hundreds of children who were there.

Our February social on February 4 will be in the afternoon starting at 2.00 pm. The format will be the same and can I remind those who are going on the holiday in April that final payment must be made that day and also associate membership of £20.00 pp will also be collected.

Let's hope by the time I write again spring will be in full swing and the gardens will be a little more colourful and all you gardeners out there will have some veg's planted.

Till next time

Dave Williams

Microsoft Support for Windows 7 Ceased

As of January 14 2020 Microsoft ceased supporting Windows 7. This means that Windows 7 will become more vulnerable to security risks and viruses because Microsoft is no longer issuing software updates, including security updates. You are encouraged to update your pc's to Windows 10 and this can be done for free by using the following link:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/software-download/windows10>

This is the genuine Microsoft website. Downloads are available from other sources but you may be charged so be alert!

The Value of Your Post Office Banking

In recent times it is a familiar story - bank branches are disappearing from our high streets leaving people struggling to find convenient in person banking. However, research shows that many do not realise that the Post Office can provide essential banking services for almost everyone with a UK bank account. In fact you can do most of your day-to-day banking at your post office for free with research indicating that 93% of the UK population live within one mile of a branch of the Post Office. Stretch this to 3 miles and 99.7% of the population are covered. There are more than 11,500 Post Office branches in the UK. If you are not sure where your nearest is go to:

<https://www.postoffice.co.uk/branchfinder1>

and use the branchfinder tool.

If you go to your local post office you can, relative to banking:-

- 1 withdraw cash from your bank account using your debit card
- 2 pay cash into your usual bank account using a card or paying in slip
- 3 check your bank balance using your debit card
- 4 deposit a cheque.

In order to bank a cheque you will need to obtain an envelope from the post office counter, fill in the front with basic cheque information and place a paying in slip and the cheque into the envelope. When you hand over the envelope into the post office you will be given a receipt and they will process the envelope on to your bank. At the time of writing this cheque facility is not available to Nationwide customers. One slight drawback is that it can add a day to the paying in timeframe.

However, in my own example, it saves me a 3 mile car journey and a parking fee so I am more than happy. I guess if I wanted to bank a substantial cheque it might be different!

These services are available free to customers of 28 banks, including all the high street big names such as Lloyds, HSBC, Barclays and Nat West. The Post Office says it can serve 99% of UK banking customers.

However it might be worth visiting

<https://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-banking-services> to see which banks and services are

included at the post office you intend visiting to avoid a wasted trip.

Quainton Windmill

On August 12, 2020 we have a trip to the historic Quainton Windmill scheduled. You may also recall that in our last Newsletter we featured Stan O'Flynn and his work on the Swanage Pier. Why am I telling you this you might be asking?

Well, yet another ex-Vauxhallite is heavily involved in volunteering activities for the benefit of the community. Briefly, the Quainton Windmill was built in 1832. Standing at 75 feet high to the top of the cap it is the tallest mill in Buckinghamshire. Overlooking the village green it is an integral part of the picturesque village vista. Over the years the mill, mainly through technological advancements making it no longer of economic use, fell into a state of disrepair and basically stood idle. In 1974 a group of villagers formed the Windmill Society, and through a mammoth restoration project, mainly self-funded, successfully restored the mill to the point where flour milling became possible again. In 2011 it was registered as a Grade 2 listed building. A comprehensive survey of the property established it was in a dangerous state and it was decommissioned. At this time another group of volunteers started the process of putting the mill into safe, working order. All the necessary improvements have been made and the mill is once again functional.

This later group of volunteers includes Mike Roberts, who many will know through his stint as Chairman of the VPA and for running the Golf Section. Mike was asked to get involved in 2011 and for the last few years has been heavily involved in co-ordinating volunteer work activities, liaising with Historic England and introducing necessary engineering changes.

As may be seen on the website www.quaintonmill.org it is open most Sunday mornings and given sufficient wind the sails can be seen in operating mode. Alternatively you could join us on August 12 to visit this beautiful spectacle.

Swanage Pier Revisited

In our October 2019 issue we highlighted the efforts of Stan O'Flynn, ex-Engineering, in designing and building (along with others) a kiosk on the pier at Swanage. Well in order to prove the old saying "the more you do, the more you get asked to do" I now understand that Stan has been involved in another activity on said pier.



Stan O'Flynn and the workshop

As the picture shows Stan and two other volunteers recently built the bespoke workshop which will initially be used for the restoration of the 52 Victorian seats sited on the pier required for people using the ferry to Poole and also prove useful for the return into service of the recently restored paddle steamer P.S. Waverley which is anticipated to return to the south coast this summer.

Details of the Waverley sailings etc. will be on the Swanage Pier website. It would also be good if anyone reading this article is visiting the area takes the time to visit the pier, and if he is on volunteer duty, has a few words with Stan.

Finally let me say that the fact that Stan is married to my cousin in no way has an influence on the contents of and inclusion of this article.

February Quiz

No particular theme this issue so let us call it Pot Luck:

- 1 What is the most mentioned animal in the bible?
- 2 What was Field Marshall Rommel's nickname?
- 3 If an egg floats on water is it fresh or stale?
- 4 What number do we associate with James Bond?
- 5 If you do not have a napkin is it ok to use the tablecloth?
- 6 A cricket umpire holds both arms straight up to signify what?
- 7 What does The Monument in London commemorate?
- 8 What country is sometimes known as Blighty?
- 9 Allegro is a musical direction to play how?
- 10 How many men did the Grand Old Duke of York have?
- 11 What is Uri Geller famous for?
- 12 What does 3 squared equal?
- 13 Which Olympic event begins with the phrase "en garde"?
- 14 In 1946 who first broadcast 'A Letter from America'?
- 15 What was the title of Queen Elizabeth when she married the Duke of York in 1923?
- 16 What is the only substance capable of cutting a diamond?
- 17 In 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' where did the little boy live?
- 18 What are you wearing if you are in your birthday suit?
- 19 What turns blue cheese blue?
- 20 What kind of animal is Beatrix Potter's character Mrs Tiggywinkle?

December Quiz Answers

- 1 Saigon
- 2 Constantinople
- 3 Touch
- 4 Datsun
- 5 Opel Fruits
- 6 Bombay
- 7 Oil of Ulay
- 8 BackRub
- 9 New Amsterdam
- 10 Millennium Dome
- 11 Bounty
- 12 Carpet sweeper

- 13 Red Hot Dogs
- 14 Jessop and Son
- 15 Made from petroleum jelly
- 16 Mortimer Mouse
- 17 Six of one
- 18 Sandwich Islands
- 19 Auction Web
- 20 Edo

Upcoming Events in the South - 2020

Wednesday March 12 - Mickies Palace

Elvis is in the Building Show plus roast beef lunch.
Members £26 pp/Non-members £30 pp.

Thursday April 2 - Cadbury World

See how your favourite chocolate is made and buy at bargain prices in the factory shop.
Members £23 pp/Non-members £26 pp.

Thursday April 23 - Tina - The Musical

Matinee performance of this hit musical at the Aldwych Theatre, followed by a 3-course carvery meal at the Imperial Hotel.

Members £70 pp/Non-members £75 pp.

Saturday May 9 - Iconic Movie Music

At the Royal Albert Hall and performed by The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Vocals by West End star Louise Dearman. Price includes pre-show lunch.

Members £45 pp/Non-members £50 pp.

Saturday June 6 – Eastbourne Coach only.

Members £12 pp/Non-members £15 pp.

Wednesday June 17 - Nottingham

Includes 3 hour River Trent Cruise with a roast beef and apple pie lunch.

Time for shopping etc. before river cruise.

Members £30 pp/Non-members £35 pp.

Wednesday July 15 - The 'Strictly' Tea Dance

Venue is a static boat on the Thames and features dance professionals. You can strut your own stuff if so inclined. Afternoon event and includes canapes and afternoon tea.

Members £40 pp/Non-members £45 pp.

Wednesday August 12 - Quainton Windmill

Visit the Quainton Windmill built in 1832 and is one of less than 40 working mills in the UK.

As well as the mill the price includes entry to the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre. This day is a designated Steam Day with trains running along a short length of track, plus other attractions and a restaurant area in the Railway Centre. There is a parish church dating from 1340 and it is all set in a 'Miss Marples' setting.

Members £19 pp/Non-members £22 pp.

Thursday September 17 - Adam Hanson's Farm

The day includes a tour of the Cotswolds including a carvery lunch, plus a visit to the farm of Countryfile presenter Adam Hanson.

Members £42 pp/Non-members £47 pp.

Thursday October 1 - Steam Railway

Visit the Gloucester Warwickshire Steam Railway with a fish and chips lunch while enjoying the views of English rolling countryside.

Members £36 pp/Non-members £40 pp.

Thursday October 15 - Mystery Tour

Includes carvery lunch.

Members £26 pp/Non-members £30 pp.

Thurs November 12 - London Lights and Lunch

Afternoon visit to London for Carvery Club lunch before a Blue Badge guide tour of Christmas lights.
Members £42 pp/Non-members £46 pp.

Monday November 30 – December 4

Festive break at Warners Hotel, Alvaston Hall, Cheshire. Half board with excursions.

Members £290 pp/Non-members £300 pp.

Wed December 9 - Christmas Dinner Party

Members £24 pp/Non-members £28 pp.

Day trip bookings will only be confirmed on receipt of a non-refundable £10.00 deposit pp. For the longer event in December this deposit rises to £30.00 pp.

To book for a trips please ring Sylvia on 01582 759851. As usual VPA members may bring a maximum of one non-VPA member per trip.

Note the higher price for non-members. We do require your pension number and a contact number on application and also a **stamped addressed envelope** for each trip. Please also note that any member/non-member who cancels a booking 4 weeks or less before the date of the trip may also be requested to pay for the cost of any event tickets purchased by the VPA. Finally, travel insurance is not included in the price of any of our trips. We strongly advise that you make your own arrangements to give peace of mind.

2020 Golf Events

May 14 - Texas Scramble, Abbey Hill

June 18 - Singles Competition, Redbourn

Sept 29 - Pairs Competition, Aylesbury Vale

Upcoming Events in the North - 2020

Tuesday March 3 – AGM

Followed by a hot pot supper and entertainment by Danny Walters, a comedian.

Thursday March 11 - Tour of Liverpool

with Blue Badge guide.

Coach leaves Club at 9.00 am. £10 pp.

Monday April 6 – Eliot Hotel, Newquay

Departure time and car parking details to follow.
5 day holiday

Visiting the Eden Project, Bodmin and Padstow
Approximately £200 pp.

Monday May 11 – Bakewell Market and Tour

Coach leave Club at 9.00 am. £10 pp.

Thursday June 18 – Bury Market and Bents Garden Centre

Coach leaves Club at 9.00 am. £10 pp.

Sunday June 21 – 3 Day Break in Cotswolds

Details to follow.

Thursday July 9 – Buxton Well Dressing

Coach leaves Club at 9.00 am. £10 pp.

Friday August 28 – Nantwich Food Festival and Arley Hall

Coach leaves Club at 9.00 am. Cost tba.

Thurs September 24 – Staleybridge Canal Trip

Either afternoon tea or hot pot supper on the boat.

Limited to 40 places.

Coach leaves Club at 9.00 am. Cost tba.

Wednesday October 14 – Blackpool

Coach leaves Club at 10.00 am. Cost £10 pp.

Thursday November 26 – Chatsworth House
Coach leaves Club at 9.00 am. Cost tba.

Tea Dances

February 11, 18, 25 March 10, 17, 24, 31

In Memoriam – Luton

Boyce, Lorraine, Division 037
Died 13.12.2019, Aged 81, Retired 1995
Brandon, Patricia Mary, Division 330
Died 9.12.2019, Aged 77, Retired 2001
Cole, Tony Dennis, Division 303
Died 19.12.2019, Aged 82, Retired 1991
Crawford, Adair Malcolm, Staff
Died 11.10.2019, Aged 85, Retired 1989
Draper, Raymond Victor, Division 033
Died 29.11.2019, Aged 78, Retired 2002
Evans, Kenneth Roy, BCV
Died 3.12.2019 Aged 84, Retired 1994
Grace, Philip James, Division 527
Died 21.12.2019, Aged 88, Retired 1991
Haddow, Peter, Vauxhall
Died 7.12.2019, Aged 95, Retired 1989
Haines, Arthur Donald, Division 323
Died 19.12.2019, Aged 85, Retired 1993
Harrison, Neil Colin, IBC
Died 13.11.2019, Aged 68, Retired 2008
Hills, David John Frederick, Division 529
Died 6.11.2019, Aged 78, Retired 1997
Hing, Raymond Geoffrey, Division 527
Died 26.10.2019, Aged 84, Retired 1993
Jenkins, Michael, Division 002
Died 1.12.2019, Aged 62, Retired 2012
King, Colin John, IBC
Died 6.11.2019, Aged 85, Retired 1988
Lewis, Samuel Davies, Vauxhall
Died 24.10.2019, Aged 95, Retired 1982
Meneely, Wesley Malcolm, Staff
Died 12.11.2019, Aged 87, Retired 1989
Monk, June Amy, Division 198
Died 9.11.2019, Aged 82, Retired 1991
Moody, Arthur Douglas, IBC
Died 13.11.2019, Aged 83, Retired 1994
Morgan, Sandra Anna, BCV
Died 20.11.2019, Aged 70, Retired 2008
Murphy, Thomas, Vauxhall
Died 14.11.2019, Aged 92, Retired 1989
O'Dell, Michael John, Division 527
Died 2.11.2019, Aged 77, Retired 2007
Phillips, Jack Frederick, BCV
Died 27.10.2019, Aged 91, Retired 1986
Price, Marie Teresa, Division 497
Died 1.12.2019, Aged 69, Retired 2010
Read, Edward Burt (Ted), Staff
Died 27.10.2019, Aged 96, Retired 1988
Safarik, Zdenek, Division 527
Died 22.12.2019, Aged 92, Retired 1992
Skerman, Barry Edward, Division 051
Died 28.12.2019, Aged 77, Retired 2001
Tyrrell, John Joseph, Division 527
Died 11.12.2019, Aged 89, Retired 1995
Webb, Peter William, Staff
Died 30.11.2019, Aged 85, Retired 1990
Willis, Robert William, BCV
Died 3.11.2019, Aged 89, Retired 1989

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Allcock, Barry Arthur, Division 642
Died 24.11.2019, Aged 69, Retired 2006
Barr, Ronald Edward, Division 641
Died 16.11.2019, Aged 79, Retired 1993
Call, James Patrick, Division 682
Died 12.11.2019, Aged 88, Retired 1993
Codd, Robert Geoffrey, Division 682
Died 17.12.2019, Aged 85, Retired 1992
Dempsey, Vincent, Division 640
Died 14.12.2019, Aged 85, Retired 1994
Edwards, William, Division 641
Died 18.11.2019, Aged 75, Retired 2004
Fedigan, Patrick James, Division 650
Died 19.12.2019, Aged 85, Retired 1991
Griffiths, Elwyn, Division 642
Died 23.12.2019, Aged 82, Retired 1998
Jones, Derek Elvin, Division 641
Died 4.11.2019, Aged 72, Retired 2005
Kelly, Peter Gerard, Division 627
Died 15.12.2019, Aged 77, Retired 2002
McDonald, Maurice James, Division 691
Died 20.11.2019, Aged 81, Retired 2000
Mould, Noel Kenneth, Division 691
Died 30.11.2019, Aged 81, Retired 1998
Nolan, Ronald John, Division 629
Died 5.11.2019, Aged 83, Retired 1997
Nuttall, William Henry, Division 670
Died 7.12.2019, Aged 76, Retired 2004
Povey, Arnold, Division 642
Died 15.11.2019, Aged 81, Retired 1997
Wingfield, Robert, Division 608
Died 12.12.2019, Aged 93, Retired 1991
Woodhouse, Allen, Division 678
Died 18.11.2019, Aged 88, Retired 1994
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/VauxhallPensionersAsociation

Useful Telephone and Contact Information VPA South

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

Vauxhall Pensions Department 01582 282956

Email marion.mcdonald@gm.com

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.