

# Pensioners' Newsletter – June 2019

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## News from the South

Hi Everyone: Well, yet another part of the old Vauxhall we all knew has gone with the closure of Griffin House. Unfortunately, this means that in the short term the VPA has no office to work from as our new facility will not be ready until earliest July. However, Sylvia has gone above the call of duty and is working from home to ensure that trips and outings run as smoothly as possible. If you wish to book a trip or pay by cheque for one already booked her details are:

Ms Sylvia Pemberton (Holes)

27 Rycroft Way

Luton

Beds

LU2 7TU

Tel: 01582 759851

All the other VPA activities will continue as before, including communications through this Newsletter (available online on the Pensioners website) and our Facebook page. We will, of course, keep you informed as things progress. If you worked in Griffin House why don't you post your memories (I'm sure there must be many funny stories to share) on our Facebook page. I hope you are looking forward to the summer months, but I do wish the grass would stop growing as gardening is not my favourite hobby!

*John Boast*

## News from the North

Hi folks: Hard to credit that we are almost half way through the year. Where does the time go? Our spring holiday was, I think, a success and I hope people enjoyed it. We had some lovely trips and some extra thrown in by arrangement with our driver who was very helpful and pleasant. One day we added Torquay and on another day we went to the donkey sanctuary and on the free day he organised a boat trip in the morning up the River Ex. All in all I think it was a good if busy five days. The showing of Joseph was superb and I am sure those that went enjoyed it. I know I did. Our trip on May 23 was well supported. We had a lovely day meandering along the by-ways of north Wales ending up at Barmouth and it helped that the weather was glorious. Warm, sunny and beautiful clear blue skies.

As you know our Treasurer is standing down at the end of the year after many years of sterling work, so we are looking for somebody to take on the job. I feel sure that anybody who feels they can take it on will be given any help and support needed. I must apologise for giving out some wrong information in the last Newsletter concerning the trip to Morecambe on July 18. The cost will be £15 pp and not £10 pp as stated previously. Hoping that this weather is the start of a lovely summer (fingers crossed).

Till next time cheerio

*Dave Williams*

## Important Information – VPA Office

Although included elsewhere it is considered wise to repeat this message for your information.

With effect from May 11 the VPA Office will no longer be located in Griffin House. Please **do not** ring or send mail to this address.

As our new location will not be ready until July it is hoped that we can find temporary accommodation in the meantime. However, we have made the following arrangements to cover this situation. Sylvia has agreed that she can be contacted by mail or telephone until such time as we have some certainty as to what is happening. Please write to her as follows - Mrs Sylvia Pemberton, 27 Rycroft Way, Luton, LU2 7TU or ring her on 01582 759851.

Hopefully this is only a short term measure which we have no control over. Our thanks go to Sylvia for stepping in to help.

## Cherie Denton Contact Details

The closure of Griffin House has led to the relocation of Cherie Denton, Vauxhall Welfare Officer. Her new phone number is 01582 900283 and her new address is Vauxhall Motors, Chalton House, Luton Road, Chalton, LU4 9TT.

## Pensioners' IT Session

We were very sorry to learn that the IT Session planned for April 24 was cancelled. 12 people showed interest in attending the session, but unfortunately this number was not considered high enough by the IT Department. Watch this space!

## Email Alerts for Newsletters Online

You may have noticed that alerts have not been sent out since the end of last year. We are doing our utmost to get these re-introduced, so once again watch this space!

## RHS Gardens, Wisley

At the time of writing we are in need of a few more people to join us on the Wisley Trip on September 4. This trip is very keenly priced (entrance is included) and the event itself allows for as much or as little walking as you want, with ample seating, plus plenty of refreshment areas and a good number of growers selling their products.

## 50th Anniversary of Run

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the run from John O'Groats to Lands End carried out by a group of Vauxhall apprentices. They covered the 870 miles in approximately four and a half days. Back in those days, road and traffic conditions were much different to today. Less busy and no need for ladders to get out of potholes. The twelve runners were split into two groups and were on shift for 6 hours with each runner covering 3 mile stints in turn. They were supported by two CA vans and a coach which provided rest and sleeping quarters. These vehicles were mainly driven by a

group of supporting apprentices and four members of the Apprentice Training School. The main thrust of the event was charitable, to raise money for BEN. You are probably asking why I am telling you this tale.

Well one of the athletes, namely Paul Orme, recently was in contact with the VPA to suggest a reunion of the athletes later this year.

The athletes concerned were Chris Thomas, Joe Roberts, Ian Evans, Paul Orme, Neil Brennan, Brian Barbour, John Hurst, Clive Buckley, Tony Williams, Wally Urie, Bob Stanford and Stephen Crisp.

If you are indeed on this list or were one of the support team please contact Paul Orme in one of the following ways to help him arrange the reunion

Email [rjpaulorme@hotmail.com](mailto:rjpaulorme@hotmail.com)

Landline 01233 666935

Mobile 07899 804354

### **VPA Facebook Explained**

Bill Saul has already put onto our Facebook page a video explaining the following, but asked that we also include the content in the Newsletter.

Some group members might be unaware of the meaning of the different categories/folders on the VPA group timeline. On most phones and tablets they run along the top of the timeline and on a laptop or desktop computer they usually are shown on the left of the screen.

The categories are as follows:

**Chats** - for one to one dialogues with other members

**Announcements** - important notices, links to the Newsletter, links to Pensions website, welfare items and trip information

**Photos** - contains group pictures

**Events** - information about upcoming events e.g. Christmas party, trips to wherever, etc.

**Files** - contains items such as VPA application form

**Albums** - contains group photos

**Videos** - contains group videos

To get the Facebook page go to

[www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAssociation)

### **Apr 17 – The People Post**

On a sunny morning the coach left Luton and headed for London. After picking up our tour guide we headed for a coffee and comfort stop and then walked around the area in the vicinity of Mount Pleasant, the Post Office HQ. We then had lunch in one of the many eating establishments in the nearby market area, although thankfully we never found Ian Beale's caff. Following lunch we walked the short distance to the Mount Pleasant building and rode on the original mail rail train. As the pods were designed to transport mail you can imagine the fun that was had in getting all of the VPA party on board. We then could further explore the museum or have refreshments prior to the return journey home. An interesting and informative day

was had by all. Thanks to the office for their efforts in organising it.

### **May 2 – Day Trip to Lincoln**

On a dull day a smaller than usual group left Luton at 9 am, arriving in Lincoln about 2 hours later. We were dropped off in the town centre which enabled the ladies to shop and the gents to groan. However, while in the shops and/or taking lunch it absolutely tipped it down so we escaped a drenching. We then re-joined the coach and travelled to the waterfront to board our pleasure boat for a most enjoyable river come canal trip. By this time the sun had appeared and very pleasant it was gliding over the water with the sun's rays beating down.

The experience was enhanced with a very informative commentary and being served with extremely pleasing coffee. As usual thanks to Sylvia and Dave.

### **May 16 – VPA Golf Team Texas Scramble**

As with vintage wine the VPA golfers seem to improve with age as was demonstrated at this event which was held at the Abbey Hill Golf Course in Milton Keynes. The standard of golf was extremely high with all teams completing the course in under the 71 stroke par for the difficult 5726 yard course. The winners of the Steve Brooker Cup were Paul Davies, Phil Browning, Dave Earye and Dick Shortland, with a nett score of 57.2 points. Second 2.1 shots worse were Alan Everitt, Jim Heaney, Roger Deane and Eddie Lynch. In third place were Peter Durham, Jack Lalji, George Chalmers and Dave Alexander.

The nearest to the pin prizes for the short 8th and difficult 17th were won by Dick Shortland and Paul Davies respectively. The players greatly enjoyed the warm and sunny weather, the excellent condition of the golf course, the calorie laden late lunch and the 'banter' at the 19th hole. The usual raffle was held with the proceeds being donated to charity.

Thanks to Mike Roberts and Jim Heaney who organised the day. Good job well done!

The remaining golf events are shown elsewhere in this Newsletter, but should anyone wish to take part the contact is Mike Roberts on [mikerobertsverulam@msn.com](mailto:mikerobertsverulam@msn.com)

### **June Quiz**

- 1 How many strings has a ukulele?
- 2 In what month do we celebrate Hogmanay?
- 3 Which planet is called both the morning and evening star?
- 4 In rugby what did Warrington add to their name in the 1990s?
- 5 On which river is the Niagara Falls?
- 6 What is the minimum age to buy fireworks in England?
- 7 What is the tallest existing mammal?
- 8 In Thunderbirds what type of car does Lady Penelope own?
- 9 What is the main ingredient of risotto?

- 10 Who did Bill Clinton beat to become president of the USA in 1992?
- 11 Which snooker player was known as The Hurricane?
- 12 Which of the seven dwarfs has the longest name?
- 13 Boss Hogg featured in which TV series?
- 14 What was Beethoven's first name?
- 15 What was Al Capone arrested for?
- 16 What is the currency of Pakistan?
- 17 Which country is the largest producer of cheese?
- 18 What was Walt Disney's second animated film?
- 19 In Morse code, which letter is represented by a single dot?
- 20 Which city is known as 'The Big Apple'?

#### April Quiz Answers

- 1 Bovril
  - 2 Bank of England
  - 3 Kentucky Fried Chicken
  - 4 Florence Nightingale
  - 5 Moses
  - 6 Federal Bureau of Investigation
  - 7 Maundy Alms
  - 8 Yellow
  - 9 Your dirty linen
  - 10 Runcible
  - 11 500
  - 12 In a straight line
  - 13 Kent
  - 14 Egg white
  - 15 1997
  - 16 none it is a fish
  - 17 1988
  - 18 A peck of pickled pepper
  - 19 Anchovy
  - 20 A shark
- The winner was Dave Taylor who will receive a £10 shopping voucher along with our congratulations.

#### The End of an Era

Well not quite. Due to the ever reducing number of entries to the quiz it has been decided to discontinue the £10 gift voucher to the winner. In future the quiz will be for fun only. I am informed that many readers enjoy the quiz without feeling the need to enter, so this decision has been taken with some reluctance. All that remains is to thank all of you who did enter over the years (first quiz was in the February 2012 Newsletter) and hope all enjoy future quizzes.

#### Upcoming Events in the South

- June 1 – Brighton** (coach only)  
£13.00 pp members/£15.00 pp non-members
- June 19 – River Medway Cruise** - meal included  
£31.00 pp members/£35.00 pp non-members
- July 18 – Matinee Performance of Mamma Mia**  
Novello Theatre, with fish and chips.  
£55.00 pp members/£60 pp non-members

**Aug 22 - Sussex Prairie Gardens/Carvery Lunch**  
City and village trip. Scenic tour of pretty West Sussex villages before stopping for a carvery lunch. Afternoon is spent at the Prairie Gardens (new landscaped attraction). Tea and cake.  
£42.00 pp members/£45.00 pp non-members

#### Sept 4 – RHS Wisley Flower Show

Visit the RHS immaculate gardens, plus browse the many stands selling plants/gardening accessories.  
£20.00 pp members/£22.00 pp non-members

#### Sept 18 – Oxford – (coach only)

£12.00 pp members/£14.00 pp non-members

#### Oct 16 – Mystery Tour

£12.00 pp members/£15 pp non-members

#### Nov 20 – Thursford Christmas Show (Matinee)

Top Class festive musical extravaganza  
£50.00 pp members/£55.00 pp non-members

#### Dec 2-6 – Turkey and Tinsel

Warners Hotel, Sinah Warren

Enjoy an early celebration of Christmas and New Year on a return visit to this excellent hotel complex.

£260.00 pp members/£270.00 pp non-members

#### Dec 11 – Christmas Party

£24.00 pp members/£27.00 pp non-members

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

Until such time as the VPA office has relocated to the new premises bookings for trips or any queries in connection with trips will be dealt with by Sylvia Pemberton 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.

#### 2019 Golf Events

##### June 20 – Singles Championship

Redbourn Golf Course

##### Oct 1 – Pairs Championship

Aylesbury Vale Golf Course

#### Upcoming Events in the North

##### June 20 - Bowness and Windermere

Leaving Club at 9.00 am

Cost £10.00 pp

##### July 18 - Morecambe Freeport

followed by afternoon tea at Midland Hotel

Leaving Club at 9.00 am

Cost £15.00 pp

##### August 15 - Tweedmill and Llandudno

Leaving Club at 9.00 am

Cost £10.00 pp

### **September 19 - Lancaster**

Leaving Club at 9.00 am

Cost £10.00 pp

### **September 27 – Lunch, Vicars Cross Golf Club**

More details to follow in the next Newsletter

### **October 9 - Blackpool**

Leaving Club at 10.30 am

Cost £10.00 pp

### **October 17 - Salford Quays and Hat Museum**

Leaving time to be announced

Cost £10.00 pp

### **November 25 - Tinsel and Turkey, Bognor Regis**

Royal Norfolk Hotel **SOLD OUT**

### **Tea Dances**

June 11, 18, 25

July – no dances

### **In Memoriam – Luton**

**Auburn**, Richard Frederick, Division 320

Died 11.4.2019, Aged 74, Retired 2000

**Byrne**, John Paul, Staff

Died 12.4.2019, Aged 86, Retired 1990

**Dino**, Vincenzo, Division 015

Died 21.4.2019, Aged 81, Retired 2002

**French**, Grace Rose, Division 426

Died 30.3.2019, Aged 87, Retired 1994

**Gilfillan**, John Robert, IBC

Died, 29.4.2019, Aged 74, Retired 2003

**Harte**, Annie Carmel, Division 198

Died 9.3.2019, Aged 80, Retired 2000

**Knight**, John, Division 082

Died 24.4.2019, Aged 79, Retired 1993

**McClung**, Anne Mary, IBC

Died 16.2.2019, Aged 79, Retired 1998

**Morton**, Henry Stanley, IBC

Died 20.4.2019, Aged 88, Retired 1993

**O'Dell**, Brian Victor, Division 135

Died 8.4.2019, Aged 83, Retired 2000

**Peacock**, Robert John Leonard, Staff

Died 19.3.2019, Aged 86, Retired 1988

**Pebody**, Philip John, IBC

Died 25.2.2019, Aged 71, Retired 2003

**Phillips**, Brian Leslie James, IBC

Died 27.3.2019, Aged 82, Retired 1994

**Radaskowicz**, Aleksander, Division 102

Died 17.3.2019, Aged 81, Retired 2002

**Sanchez**, Giordano, IBC

Died 31.3.2019, Aged 91, Retired 1993

**Simpkins**, Eric William, Vauxhall

Died 1.2.2019, Aged 86, Retired 1989

**Steeple**s, Dennis Alfred, IBC

Died 31.3.2019, Aged 85, Retired 1999

**Sterecki**, Zyghunt, Division 032

Died 19.3.2019, Aged 32, Retired 2002

**Wakefield**, James Thomas, Division 074

Died 22.3.2019, Aged 87, Retired 1996

**Ward**, John, Division 046

Died 1.4.2019, Aged 76, Retired 1998

**Williams**, Joseph Gordon, Division 523

Died 17.4.2019, Aged 83, Retired 1992

### **In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port**

**Aitken**, Paul Douglas, Division 618

Died 25.3.2019, Aged 60, Retired 2018

**Curry**, Charles Thomas, Division 670

Died 2.3.2019, Aged 82, Retired 1998

**Evans**, John, Division 627

Died 23.3.2019, Aged 80, Retired 1999

**Garnett**, John Charles, Division 638

Died 22.4.2019 Aged 82, Retired 1992

**Green**, Leonard Malcolm, Division 672

Died 11.3.2019, Aged 72, Retired 2004

**Johnson**, Peter Eric, Division 638

Died 26.3.2019, Aged 69, Retired 2006

**Jones**, Leslie Roy, Division 663

Died 4.4.2019, Aged 85, Retired 1999

**Jones**, Thomas James, Vauxhall

Died 3.4.2019, Aged 84, Retired 1989

**King**, Michael William John, Division 616

Died 15.4.2019, Aged 86, Retired 1994

**Laiolo**, Giovanni Julio, Vauxhall

Died 21.3.2019, Aged 82, Retired 1988

**Mycock**, Colin, Division 641

Died 11.2.2019, Aged 77, Retired 1996

**Olney**, Keith James, Division 640

Died 12.3.2019, Aged 81, Retired 2002

**Owen**, John Jeffrey, Division 627

Died 2.3.2019, Aged 87, Retired 1996

**Smith**, William Stanley, Division 663

Died 3.3.2019, Aged 79, Retired 2002

**Steele**, Roger John, Division 663

Died 15.4.2019, Aged 86, Retired 1997

**Tolan**, Peter Michael, Vauxhall

Died 7.3.2019, Aged 88, Retired 1989

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](http://www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner_pages)

#### **Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAsociation](http://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](mailto:marion.mcdonald@gm.com)

Cherie Denton, Welfare Officer 01582 900283

Email [cherie.denton@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto:cherie.denton@vauxhall.co.uk)

#### **VPA North**

Dave Williams 0151 6088701

If you have a story you would like to tell, then please get in touch with Norman McGregor via the VPA office or

email [normanmcgregor3@gmail.com](mailto:normanmcgregor3@gmail.com)

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