

Pensioners' Newsletter – February 2019

News from the South

Hi Everyone

Well I hope that all of you had an enjoyable Christmas and avoided the flu bug that was going around. Unfortunately, whilst I managed to get through to the end of Boxing Day, both Jean and I came down with it the following day and that was after having the flu jab. Still, back to normal now. Your entertainments team (Sylvia and Dave) are working hard to finalise the 2019 programme which is almost complete and we hope you will be able to book any of the trips in the very near future. We are also working to ensure that this Newsletter will still be available going forward although not in hard copy as before.

Please make a note that our Annual General Meeting this year will be held on Tuesday, March 12 in the Juniper Suite, Venue 360. We would like to see you there where you will have the chance to ask questions about the Company performance and your pensions of senior Vauxhall/GM representatives.

I'm afraid that I need to close with some sad news. Joe Clements, a long term member of the VPA Committee who will be remembered by those who took part in the dancing sessions, has passed away. Our thoughts are with his family.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to wish you a happy and healthy 2019 and look forward to seeing you on one of our outings.

John Boast

News from the North

Hi All

Although it seems a long time ago I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year and managed to avoid the seasonal bugs. Speaking for myself and family ours was very busy and slightly chaotic as the whole family were together for the first time in a few years as our son lives across the pond in Canada, so with children, dogs and cats it was very enjoyable and slightly crazy so at the end of three weeks we were glad to put our feet up.

The Dunoon holiday was a huge success enjoyed by everybody (at least I hope so). We were royally looked after and entertained by our driver who was a good stand in for John Bishop. I have requested him for our April trip to Exmouth so fingers crossed. The company did a superb job of making sure we enjoyed ourselves. The hotel, staff, food and trips were superb. It was cold, but then it was December. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the Christmas dinner. The setting was seasonal and the entertainment was great, but sadly the meal was very disappointing. Such a shame after the Committee had gone to all the trouble of organising it.

I am afraid the Exmouth holiday is now fully booked. Don't forget we go on Saturday, April 6, returning on Wednesday, April 10 - not the usual Monday to Friday.

I have been asked to let you know that we are changing to Darren's Coaches for our day trips. A Turkey and Tinsel has once more been booked with Alfa travel. This time we are going to Bognor Regis staying at the Royal Norfolk Hotel, leaving on Monday, November 25 for five days. The price will depend on how many people book, but around about £215 pp. The more we get the cheaper the cost. There are two trips - a full day to Portsmouth and a half day to Chichester, with two lunches at the Hotel. If you are interested please bring a £40.00 per person deposit when you book. Well folks that's all the news for now so enjoy the spring as it arrives. Until next time. Cheers

Dave Williams

Pension Office Telephone Number

The recent communication sent out informing Vauxhall pensioners of the Pension Department move to AW House, Stuart Street, Luton quoted an incorrect telephone number. The **correct** number is 01582 282956. Please ring this to contact the Pensions Office.

Deceased Pensioners/Rothesay Life

In our December 2018 Newsletter we reported the problem we faced in getting details of deceased pensioners from Rothesay Life who now have control of the Vauxhall Retirees Pension Fund. It was reported that efforts were being made to obtain agreement with Rothesay Life to have them provide this information. We are sorry to tell you that, despite the best efforts of the VPA, they will not provide us with this information. It is particularly sad that we cannot recognise the passing of our members in this pension scheme, but there is no other avenue left to explore. Please understand that the aim of this article is to explain why we cannot put notices of pensioner passings in the Newsletter. It in no way relates to the security of your future pension payments.

2019 AGM – Date for your Diaries - Reminder

The southern plant's AGM will take place on Tuesday, March 12 at 2.15 pm in the Juniper Suite at Venue 360, Gipsy Lane, Luton. Refreshments will be available prior to the start of the meeting.

Improve Your IT Knowledge

In our December Newsletter we did promise that more details of the planned sessions would appear in this edition. However, further information is currently unavailable. The next publication will be in April, but in the meantime if details become available we will post these on our Facebook page.

Protect Your Home From Thieves

Unfortunately we live in unpleasant times and in order to protect your home from those who wish to enter it unlawfully it might be wise to follow the few simple actions listed here.

Use your lights - if you are away it is sensible to invest in timers.

Make sure doors to homes and vehicles are securely locked at all times. If you have a PVC door, make sure it is double locked.

If possible put in window locks on all windows. Talk with Help the Aged to see how they can help. When out, even in daylight, leave a radio on as noise may deter a potential intruder.

Keep all valuables and keys out of sight from windows, either at home or in the vehicle.

Never leave keys in the hall. Too many vehicles are taken by intruders breaking in just to get the car keys.

Close curtains when you have the lights on indoors.

Do not hide keys under the doormat or in a flowerpot. It's the first place a would-be offender will look.

When you go away ask a friend, neighbour or family member to keep their eye on your home. Remain alert to suspicious activity in the road, street, etc. where you live.

Security mark your property and register it at www.immobolise.com.

Always lock garages and sheds. Not only will thieves steal items, but can also use tools to get into the property.

If you adhere to these tips your home will be much more secure than if you don't.

December 3-7 - Turkey and Tinsel

Disappointingly only 30 members joined the festive trip to the TLH Resort in Torquay, although those that went believed that quantity was sacrificed for quality! The group were, on arrival on Monday, welcomed by sunshine which continued through Tuesday which was a glorious day. Unfortunately Wednesday changed with a vengeance with heavy driving rain being the order of the day. However the weather improved from then on for the rest of the stay. As expected our intrepid travellers were not beaten by the weather and the daily excursions arranged by driver James were well supported. Excursions were to Paignton and Brixham, plus a Christmas show. Some of our more adventurous souls flexed their bus passes and travelled as far as Plymouth and Exeter. The hotel was excellent with comfortable rooms and good food. All too soon it was back to Luton and the real Christmas celebrations. Thanks to Sylvia, Dave and James, the driver, for all their efforts.

December 12 - Christmas Party

81 VPA members and guests, dressed in their best party gear, arrived at the Riverside Suite for the annual Christmas Dinner and Dance. Following a quick drink (or two) at the bar the evening started with a festive meal served by the staff of Venue 360 after a blessing given by the Reverend Ian Smith, the Vauxhall Chaplain. Choices of main were between turkey, salmon or a vegetarian option. Directly after the meal Peter Durham, Vauxhall Warehouse Operations Manager,

provided the group with an update of the future plans for the Vauxhall Operations going forward and the planned expansion of the Aftersales Operations at the Toddington Road site. The musical entertainment was provided by Deja Vu, a local group, who provided music from the 1950s until current day. Thanks must go to Sylvia and Dave for organising the event and to Linda Mumford for obtaining the raffle prizes.

Breaking News on Quiz Prizes

With the announcement that M & S are to close their stores in Luton and Bedford it has been decided that the quiz prize will be changed to a £10 One4all multi store gift card. It does cover M & S along with a large number of other retail outlets and restaurants.

So you now have a choice like never before. In the words of Delia Smith "let's be having you" and get those entries in please.

Quiz Trivia

Since our very first quiz in February 2012 we have run 38 quizzes (3 issues had no quiz). The most frequent winners have been David Walton and Dave Taylor with 6 apiece, Bill Saul with 5, Steve Waterhouse with 4 and Jean Skipp and Jim Penfold with 3 each. The remaining 11 quizzes were each won by one-off entrants.

Of the quiz subjects Pot Luck was by far the most common with media related and Christmas themed next in line.

So there you go - interesting or not?

February Quiz

The subject of this quiz is our old favourite Pot Luck.

- 1 How much does a stitch in time save?
- 2 How many pennies were in an old pre-decimal English pound?
- 3 In which lake is a famous Scottish monster alleged to live?
- 4 How many people usually comprise a jury in England and Wales?
- 5 What nationality was the composer Frederick Chopin?
- 6 What were commuters urged to go to work on in the 1960s?
- 7 What is the RAF's famous acrobatic team called?
- 8 Which English city is familiarly known as 'Brum'?
- 9 What is the plural of dwarf?
- 10 If you had tinnitus what would you be suffering from?
- 11 From which city does Coleman's mustard originate from?
- 12 Scorpions are immune to their own poison. True or false?
- 13 In the 1939 song where was the washing to be hung out?
- 14 What colour is a Harrods carrier bag?

15 Which of Henry VIII's wives was the mother of Elizabeth 1st?
 16 Where in London do the Wombles live?
 17 What sport are Olga Korbut and Nadia Comaneci famous for?
 18 A deficiency of Vitamin C gives rise to which disease?
 19 What is the newspaper of the Salvation Army called?
 20 What was the name of the frog that appeared in The Muppet Show?
 The winner will receive a £10 One4all voucher and the closing date for entries is Friday, March 15.
 Good luck to those who enter.

December Quiz Answers

1 9
 2 1957
 3 Oliver Cromwell
 4 Ladies dancing
 5 1223
 6 Sir Henry Webb
 7 Is an old word for the winter festival dating back to the Vikings
 8 Norway
 9 Robins after their red uniforms
 10 An alms box was placed in the church on Christmas Day and distributed to the poor the next day
 11 Rudolph
 12 A bell from Santa's sleigh
 13 Charles Dickens
 14 December 26
 15 8
 16 Midwinter
 17 Good luck
 18 Mistletoe
 19 Twice
 20 Let It Snow
 In a month of fewer than usual entries the winner is Jean Skipp, so congratulations to Jean and please can we have more entries going forward.

Upcoming Events in the South

Feb 14 – Mickies Palace
 Special Valentine's Day Show
 (with a roast beef lunch)
 £25.00 pp VPA members/£28.00 pp non-members
Mar 20 – Mystery Trip
 £12.00 pp members/£15.00 pp non-members
Apr 17 – The People Post (city and village trip)
 British story sending a letter from Roman times to current GPO (including visit to Postal Museum and ride on mail rail train)
 £37.00 pp members/£40.00 pp non-members
May 2 – Lincoln
 (plus river trip – coach only)
 £17.00 pp members/£20.00 pp non-members
May 19-22 – Hydro Hotel, Llandudno
 4 night half board break
 Daily excursions (not included in price)
 £225.00 pp members/£235.00 pp non-members

May 29 – Steam Train Ride with Meal
 Loughborough to Leicester. Train pulled by main line express locomotive and meal in Griddle Car
 £30.00 pp members/£34.00 pp non-members
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 lunch.
 £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

2019 Golf Events

May 16 – Team Texas Scramble
 Abbey Hill Golf Course
June 20 – Singles Championship
 Redbourn Golf Course
Oct 1 – Pairs Championship
 Aylesbury Vale Golf Course

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.

To book for a trips(s) please ring the office on 01582 427921 or write in to the office address at the end of this Newsletter. 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.

Upcoming Events in the North

February 21 – Lunch

Mill Hotel, Chester
12.00 noon for 12.30 pm

March 5 – AGM

The Club

March 21st – Prize Bingo

The Club
2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

April 6 - 10, Cavendish Hotel, Exmouth

5 day spring holiday
£195 pp. **Fully booked**

April 19 – Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour

Dreamcoat

Chester Story House
5.00 pm performance

Tickets £30.00 pp

May 23 - Lunch

Nefyn Golf Club
Leaving Club at 9.00 am
Cost £10.00 pp

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 £10.00 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

October 9 - Blackpool

Leaving Club at 10.30 am
Cost £10.00 pp

October 17 - Salford Quays and Hat Museum

Leaving Club at 9.00 am
Cost £10.00 pp

November 25 - Tinsel and Turkey, Bognor Regis

Royal Norfolk Hotel
5 day holiday
Full day trip to Portsmouth and half day trip to Chichester
Two lunches at Hotel
Cost £215 (to be confirmed)
Deposit of £40.00 required when booking

Tea Dances

February 12, 19, 26
March 12, 19, 26

In Memoriam – Luton

Dilley, Leslie Alfred, Division 152
Died 26.11.18, Aged 81, Retired 2001

Johnson, Hubert R., Staff

Died 21.12.18, Aged 90, Retired 1987

Parmar, Pravinchandra Gandahhai, Division 089

Died 19.11.18, Aged 75, Retired 2001

Smith, Peter Thomas, Division 333

Died 30.12.18, Aged 82, Retired 1992

White, Richard, Division 526

Died 16.12.18, Aged 81, Retired 1992

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Armstrong, Ronald, Division 629

Died 19.11.2018, Aged 89, Retired 1993

Bibby, John, Division 617

Died 30.12.2018, Aged 79, Retired 2002

Casey, Francis, Division 630

Died 20.11.18, Aged 91, Retired 1990

Foley, Brian, Division 627

Died 17.12.18, Aged 79, Retired 2001

Hills, Gordon Edward, Division 617

Died 29.11.2018, Aged 71, Retired 2002

Jones, Eric Norman, Division 660

Died 22.11.2018, Aged 92, Retired 1990

Roscoe, Howell Glyn, Division 691

Died 16.12.18, Aged 77, Retired 1996

Ryan, Eric Stephen Peter, Division 629

Died 22.11.18, Aged 64, Retired 2006

All information on deceased pensioners is provided by the Pensions Department.

How to Access the Newsletter and 2018 AGM Minutes on the Internet

www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner_pages

Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAssociation

Register For Email Prompts

If you wish to receive an e-mail prompt when the Torque Magazine and Newsletter are available online, please send your email address to:

alicia.fereday@vauxhall.co.uk

Useful Telephone and Contact Information

VPA South

VPA Office 01582 427921

Office is manned Tuesday and Friday between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm.

Email pens@vauxhall.co.uk

VPA Office, UK1-100-020, Griffin House, Osborne Road, Luton, LU1 3YT.

Vauxhall Pensions Department 01582 282956

Email marion.mcdonald@gm.com

Cherie Denton, Welfare Officer 01582 427204

Email cherie.denton@vauxhall.co.uk

VPA North

Anne Atherall 01244 325891

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

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