



## **News from the South**

Hi Everyone

Well it looks like we are seeing the end of what, in my opinion, has been a fantastic summer, but then all good things have to end. From now on I will be out in the garden sweeping up the leaves, and there are plenty of those to fall, so I hope the dry weather continues for a few more weeks. We have almost completed our programme of events for this year and all have proved to be very popular. Thank you to Sylvia and Dave for their hard work in organising them. However, we still have a few places available for our Christmas Dinner at Venue 360, so if you fancy starting Christmas off a little early please contact Sylvia for tickets.

I would like to remind you that although the Torque magazine and this Newsletter will no longer be sent out in hard copy next year, we will still continue to compile the Newsletter and make this available on the Vauxhall Pensioners website. We do appreciate that some of our members do not have access to the internet, but unfortunately we do not have the necessary funds to cover the postage required for a hard copy mail out. A little better news is that the new location of the VPA office is nearing completion and we are confident that this will be finalised before we need to leave Griffin House.

Finally, I would like on behalf of the VPA Committee to wish all of you a happy and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the year ahead.

*John Boast*

## **News from the North**

Hi All

Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat - or so the song goes. It seems to come around more quickly each year. I guess that's an ageing sign! There is not a lot to report this time, except for the Blackpool trip which as always was well supported and enjoyed. At our November social evening we were entertained by a duo who did an old time music hall tribute with good audience participation. That was our last social evening until February due partly to the holiday in December and the January one falling at New Year.

On December 3 will be on our way to Dunoon to hopefully enjoy a pre-Christmas break. When we return it will be time for our Christmas Dinner on December 12. Please be at Craxton Wood in all your finery in time for coffee at 10.30 am followed by entertainment and dinner.

The April holiday to Exmouth is all but sold out. We just have one double/twin room remaining so if anybody is interested please don't leave it too late and for those that have booked please remember the final payment must be in on the February social evening. We are going on Saturday, April 6 and will be staying at the Cavendish Hotel. Hopefully by the next Newsletter I will have a full

diary of trips for 2019 which at the moment are still in the planning stage.

So until next time may I take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Cheerio for now

*Dave Williams*

## **Merry Christmas from the Vauxhall Chaplaincy Team**

As the year quickly draws to its conclusion, it appears to be human nature to look back and review the highs and lows of the months that have flown by. This has been a very good year for your chaplaincy team with Carol Wilson visiting Griffin House on a weekly basis, Rev David Alexander supporting colleagues at the Luton Plant and myself Rev Ian Smith at the Toddington Road site all being active within the Vauxhall community. We have experienced some terrific highlights in hosting a visit from Bishop Richard of Bedford to all three Southern sites, a group of 20 local priests to the van plant for a tour to see where many of their parishioners work or have worked over a number of years; and it was also our privilege to lead the annual Remembrance Service at the Kimpton Road War Memorial as the nation marked 100 years since the end of the great War of 1914-1918.



*Vauxhall War Memorial, Kimpton Road*

It has been a privilege to be with so many of our colleagues in the workplace during this period of uncertainty and change in the last twelve months, walking with and sharing private moments as their futures evolve both inside and away from our Vauxhall community, we are blessed by their companionship, their friendship and their trust in us.

As I write we look forward to meeting with the pensioners at their Christmas celebration in December to share their tales and experiences of life within our company; to extend the offer of our ministry to them should they ever need us and give them our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas. With our blessings

*Rev Ian Smith*

Your Chaplaincy Team

Rev David Alexander

[vicar@stopsleyparish.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stopsleyparish.org.uk)

Carol Wilson

[carol.wilson41@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.wilson41@btinternet.com)

Rev Ian Smith

[ianm.smith@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto:ianm.smith@vauxhall.co.uk)

### **The End of Hard Copies of Torque and Newsletter**

As many of you will be aware December 2018 will be the last time that Torque magazine and the VPA Newsletter will be issued in a hard copy format. From February 2019 you will only be able to access either by going online. The link for online access is:

[www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner\\_pages](http://www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner_pages) (note underscore between pensioner\_pages).

You can add your name to the distribution list to receive alerts when the publications are available to view online. This can be done by sending e-mail addresses to [alicia.fereday@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto:alicia.fereday@vauxhall.co.uk)

The VPA also has its own Facebook page and this link is:

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

If you have any questions please contact the office and they will do all they can to help you.

### **Deceased Pensioners/Rothsay Life**

You may or may not be aware that in July 2018 the Vauxhall Retirees Pension Fund was transferred to Rothsay Life. This involved hundreds of our pensioners that were in the original pension fund and since the transfer their records are no longer accessible by Vauxhall Motors.

This, together with the up-dating of the Data Protection Regulations, has made it difficult to include in our Newsletter any information on deceased pensioners who were transferred over to Rothsay Life. This has resulted in a fewer number of names appearing in our 'In Memoriam' column. However, we are actively pursuing obtaining details of deceased pensioners because we believe they deserve recognition in our Newsletter. It is taking longer than expected to get this information, but let's hope that our attempts meet with success.

### **2019 AGM – Date for your Diaries**

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

### **Improve Your IT Knowledge**

Given that this is the last hard copy of the Newsletter and in order to encourage our VPA members to develop or improve their computer skills, Opel/Vauxhall IT are introducing an initiative early in 2019.

This will be a meet and greet session where they will provide teas and coffees and talk through technology devices, show you what these devices can do and answer any questions you may have. It is possible that they may provide pick up and drop off facilities within the locality, dependent on numbers interested.

It is hoped that these sessions will commence in February/March 2019. More details will be included in our February Newsletter.

### **Can the Bobby Scheme Help You?**

The Bobby Scheme is a local charity that provides a free service to over 65s and the vulnerable by improving their home security to reduce crime and the fear of crime. The Bobby men are trained lock fitters and crime prevention advisers who offer advice, reassurance and fit a range of security devices to make people feel safe in their own home. If you would like a visit from them please call 01234 842619 or visit their website at [www.bedspolicepartnership.org](http://www.bedspolicepartnership.org)

### **October 2 - Fantastic Day of Golf**

The VPA Pairs Championship, playing for the Peter Johnson Trophy, was held on October 2 at the Aylesbury Vale Golf Club. With some parts of the course showing signs of the long, dry summer the scores returned were very creditable indeed. The trophy winners were John Fulcher and a newcomer to the VPA scene, Jack Lalji, with Alan Smith and Mick Shea coming in as runners up. In third place were Peter H. Johnson and George Chalmers. The nearest the pin winners were Jack Lalji (a good day for him) and Roger Deane.

After the match the players adjourned to the bar for lunch, a drink and banter. The usual raffle was held in support of the local hospice.

All golf playing VPA members with a club handicap are most welcome and can register by email at [mikerobertsverulam@msn.com](mailto:mikerobertsverulam@msn.com)

### **October 11 - Springfields Shopping Outlet, Peterborough**

A far from full coach travelled to the Springfields Retail Outlet Centre at Spalding in Lincolnshire, all VPAites looking forward to starting the Christmas shopping! After coffee, retail therapy, lunch and more retail therapy the coach left late afternoon with more shopping and less cash on board than on arrival.

### **November 14 - Hampstead Tour & Christmas Lights**

A full coach of VPA members left Luton at 11.00 am arriving in Hampstead Village at 12 noon where we met our guide and enjoyed a turkey roast lunch at the King William Inn on Hampstead High Street. Following a most enjoyable meal we were then taken on a walking tour of the village to see the homes of the living and the dead, including the graveyard of the former Prime Minister, Hugh Gaitskell. Evidently Hampstead is the highest point in London and some of our walkers were not prepared to argue the point! We then had some spare time in the place itself and, even though it was November, a good number managed to sit outdoors and partake of a drink in the afternoon sunshine. All too soon it was back on the coach for a tour of the Christmas lights of London, which were as spectacular as usual. The day in London finished in Covent Garden for more refreshments before leaving for home. The general consensus

was that everyone had a splendid day and thanks are given to Sylvia and Dave for organising it.

### December Quiz

Unsurprisingly the theme this issue is Christmas related.

- 1 How many reindeer is Santa generally believed to have?
- 2 In which year was the Queen's speech televised for the first time?
- 3 Which Puritan leader made Christmas illegal in 1647?
- 4 In the Twelve Days of Christmas what is given on day 9?
- 5 St Francis of Assisi is said to have created the first nativity performance in Italy in which year?
- 6 Who sent the first ever Christmas card?
- 7 Where does the word Yule come from?
- 8 The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square is given by which country?
- 9 Postmen in Victorian England were popularly called what?
- 10 Why is Boxing Day so called?
- 11 Which reindeer had a bright red nose?
- 12 In the Polar Express movie what is "The First Gift of Christmas"?
- 13 Which author wrote the popular "A Christmas Carol" that helped revive the spirit of Christmas?
- 14 What date is St Stephen's Day?
- 15 In the Twelve Days of Christmas how many maids were milking?
- 16 The Anglo-Saxons referred to the Christmas feast as what?
- 17 In the Ukraine what does it mean if you find a spider in the house on Christmas morning?
- 18 At Christmas it is traditional to kiss under what?
- 19 In the song Santa Claus is Coming to Town how many times does he check his list?
- 20 At the end of the 1988 Die Hard film which famous Christmas song is played as the credits are displayed?

As usual the winner receives a M & S £10 voucher. The closing date for your entries is Friday, January 18 2019. Good luck to all who enter.

### October Quiz Answers

- 1 Private Frank Pike
- 2 The Trotters
- 3 The Red Dwarf
- 4 Lulu
- 5 Kendall
- 6 Frank Spencer
- 7 Allo Allo
- 8 District Nurse
- 9 Birds of a Feather
- 10 Fawlty Towers
- 11 Reginald Perrin
- 12 Are You Being Served
- 13 Jasper Carrott
- 14 The Golden Girls
- 15 Gloria
- 16 Just Good Friends

- 17 Porridge
- 18 Mrs Brown's Boys
- 19 Blackadder
- 20 Hi De Hi

David Walton was our winner, although both Anne Atherall and David Taylor came very close. Well done David and a voucher is in the post.

### Upcoming Events in the South

#### December 12 - Christmas Party

£22.00 pp VPA members/£24.00 pp non-members.

#### 2019 VPA Events

##### 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 17 – London Lunch and Show - tba

##### Aug 22 – Sussex Prairie Gardens and 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 and 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 – tba – Thursford Christmas Show

Matinee

£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**

Cost tba

### **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**

#### **December 3-7 - Selbourne Hotel, Dunoon**

£205.00 pp

#### **December 12 – Craxton Wood Hotel**

Christmas Meal followed by entertainment.

Arrival 10.30 am for coffee.

#### **April 6 2019 – Cavendish Hotel, Exmouth**

5 day spring holiday

£195 pp.

#### **Tea Dances**

December 11

January 8, 22

### **In Memoriam – Luton**

**Baigent**, Brian William Charles, Division 015

Died 27.9.2018, Aged 69, Retired 2002

**Bryden**, Gordon, Division 873

Died 2.5.18, Aged 87, Retired 1992

**Cunningham**, James David, Division 051

Died 25.9.2018, Aged 69, Retired 2011

**Finch**, MBE, Daphne Muriel, Staff

Died 30.10.18, Aged 95, Retired 1982

**Harvey**, Reginald Sidney, BCV

Died 16.4.18, Aged 89, Retired 1988

**Kelly**, John Joseph, Division 032

Died 23.10.18, Aged 79, Retired 2001

**Lewis**, Kenneth, Division 527

Died 23.9.2018, Aged 91, Retired 1992

**Montague**, Peter John, Division 527

Died 17.4.2018, Aged 85, Retired 1997

**Murphy**, Jean Lilian Gladys, Staff

Died 25.4.18, Aged 87, Retired 1984

**Nash**, Joseph, BCV

Died 17.4.18, Aged 95, Retired 1988

**Noel**, Frank Joseph Anthony, Division 304

Died 24.9.2018, Aged 84, Retired 1999

**Roff**, Kenneth Albert, BCV

Died 8.5.18, Aged 88, Retired 1988

### **In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port**

**Brown**, Christopher, Division 641

Died 19.9.2018, Aged 46, Retired 2013

**Earlam**, Stephen, Division 618

Died 12.07.18, Aged 60, Retired 2017

**Hardiman**, William Peter, Division 670

Died 25.9.2018, Aged 84, Retired 1991

**Payne**, Daniel John, Staff

Died 14.8.2018, Aged 95, Retired 1982

**Stewart**, Graham, Division 631

Died 18.10.2018, Aged 80, Retired 1992

**Wilkinson**, Neil, Division 675

Died 28.10.2018, Aged 68, Retired 2005

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

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

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### **Register For Email Prompts**

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

[alicia.fereday@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto: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.

E-mail [pens@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto:pens@vauxhall.co.uk)

VPA Office, UK1-100-020, Griffin House,

Osborne Road, Luton, LU1 3YT.

Vauxhall Pensions Department 01582 721122

E-mail [marion.mcdonald@gm.com](mailto:marion.mcdonald@gm.com)

Cherie Denton, Welfare Officer 01582 427204

Email [cherie.denton@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:normanmcgregor3@gmail.com)

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