

Pensioners' Newsletter – October 2018

News from the South

Hi Everyone

It looks like summer is not ready to give into autumn just yet. I was out on the golf course recently and the weather was fantastic. Pity I can't say the same about the golf! However, the leaves have started to fall on the garden so I don't think it will be too long before I'm out there with the rake! Moving quickly into winter and more precisely Christmas we have just sent out what will be the last issue of our £10 Christmas cheques to those qualifying members. The reasons that this will be the last issue and why they have been sent out early this time are that the new Data Protection rules which came into force this year will mean that the VPA will no longer be able to get up-to-date information about members of the Vauxhall Pension Plans from the Pensions Department or from Rothesay Life concerning those members of the Retirees Fund. Also going forward, with the closure of Griffin House, we will no longer have the facilities to print or post the letters out. I would like to thank the Company for their continued support for this activity over the years. With the closure of Griffin House we also need to find an alternative location for the VPA office and we are working on this. In the meantime please continue to use the current contact details to book trips etc. and we will let you know of any changes. Finally on the subject of Christmas please don't forget to book your tickets for the Dinner/Dance this year.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear All

Well it looks as if pay back has begun for the beautiful summer we all enjoyed. Let's hope the wind and rain are not a sign of things to come. We enjoyed the trip to Kettlewell despite the weather not being too kind to us. There were some very clever scarecrows which raised quite a laugh. At our September social evening we were entertained once again by the superbly talented and down to earth Julie A. Scott. We are very lucky to have Simon to book us a good variety of entertainment.

Thanks to the weather gods being so unkind to us on September 19 our trip to Carlisle did not go to plan. The wind brought widespread disruption to trains, although ours appeared to be running. However, a few miles out of town we were brought to an abrupt halt by trees on the line and we were returned to Carlisle. Unfortunately our poor coach driver had set off to pick us up in Settle. More disruption on the M6 meant a huge delay in him returning to pick us up by which time, of course, he was not able to get us all the way home without his drivers break. We eventually arrived home late evening all tired but remarkably upbeat about the disastrous day. Maybe the trip can be repeated in the future as we were hugely disappointed not to

make the train trip.

The next trip is to Blackpool on October 17 leaving the club at 9.00 am.

The next date for your diary is the trip to Dunoon from December 3-7. I hope to have the travel details by the next Club meeting.

Our Christmas dinner this year is a lunch time one at Craxton Wood on December 12, so it's time to blow the dust off the finery. We start at 10.30 am with coffee followed by entertainment and dinner.

A spring holiday has been booked for Exmouth commencing April 6 for five days, staying at the Cavendish Hotel. The cost at the moment is £195 pp. It has already had a huge response, but there are still a couple of rooms left after which it will be a reserve list.

Well folks that's all the news for now so until next time I will say cheerio

Dave Williams

Remembrance Service – 100 Year Anniversary

The Remembrance Day service this year will take place on Sunday, November 11 at 8.30 am at the Kimpton Road Memorial. There will be a short service conducted by David Alexander, the Vauxhall Chaplain, and a wreath will be laid to honour the Vauxhall employees who lost their lives in the two World Wars. All employees, pensioners and members of the public are welcome.

Vauxhall Site - Kimpton Road

To those who have watched the new homes being built on the part of the site opposite the parade of shops and wondered what is happening to the rest of the site that has been cleared, but nothing more, wonder no more. The new owners of the site have submitted an application to the council for permission to erect 685 flats (424 one bedroom and 261 two bedroom units), retail and leisure units, a hotel comprising 209 bedrooms, conferencing and banqueting facilities, a medical wellbeing centre, together with landscaping, car parking and new access and associated works.

We will keep you informed as and when we know more.

Vauxhall Service Discounts

Did you know that as a Vauxhall retiree you can take advantage of discounts when you get a vehicle service at an authorised dealer? The discount is worth 15% on labour costs (rising to 25% after 3 years). On material costs it is necessary to purchase the parts first (from an authorised dealer) and probably wise to let the dealer know beforehand. As an example, based on a first service on a 1.4 petrol Astra you would save some £45 by purchasing directly from the Parts counter. With a saving on labour of some £16 this is a useful thing to be aware of.

Employee Parts Discount

For full product information or to view the full parts and accessories range please visit www.vauxhall.co.uk/accessories. To obtain your discount you will need to present to the retailer (dealer) a pension slip with an ID number. Discount levels will vary according to item.

A Word of Warning

With Christmas approaching, Royal Mail and the Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam.

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and would you contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call. If this should happen to you please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

For more information see the Crime Stoppers website:

<http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/crime-prevention/helping-prevent-crime/scams/postal-delivery-scam>.

Be aware that the premium rate number you are asked to call may change, but nevertheless it is best not to call any number stated on a card from PDS. Can you please make your family, friends and neighbours aware of this scam.

Chimneys

The Bedfordshire Fire Service state that the fire and rescue services accounted for over 4,200 incidents in England between April 2016 and March 2017. Homeowners are advised to get their chimneys swept, by a qualified sweep, before firing them up for winter. Their advice is to:

- 1 Keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained.
- 2 Have them swept every autumn before winter use.
- 3 Always use a fireguard.
- 4 Make sure embers are properly extinguished before going to bed.

The following advises how often you should have your chimney swept by type of fuel:

- smokeless coals - at least once a year
- wood - up to four times a year
- bituminous coal - twice a year
- oil - once a year
- gas - once a year

October Quiz

The theme this issue is tv sitcoms.

- 1 In Dad's Army who called Sgt Wilson Uncle Arthur?
- 2 Which family lived in Nelson Mandela House, Peckham?
- 3 Which space age comedy starred Craig Charles and Chris Barrie?

- 4 Which Scottish star played Adrian Mole's mum?
- 5 Which Felicity was the star of Solo?
- 6 Which 70's character wore a knitted tank top, long mac and a beret?
- 7 Which sitcom featured Mimi Labonq and a painting by Van Clomp?
- 8 What was the occupation of Gladys Emmanuel in Open All Hours?
- 9 In which show did Tracey have a husband Darryl and a son Garth?
- 10 Where were Miss Tibbs, Miss Gatsby and Major Gowen permanent residents?
- 11 Who dreamt of his mother-in-law as a hippopotamus?
- 12 Wendy Richard played Miss Brahms in which programme?
- 13 Which Brummie comic starred as Bob Louis in The Detectives?
- 14 How were the mature Dorothy, Blanche, Rose and Sophia known?
- 15 How was Bombardier Beaumont known in it Ain't Half Hot Mum?
- 16 In which show did Paul Nicholas play Vince Pinner?
- 17 Which sitcom was set in HMP Slade?
- 18 Which show is written by and stars Brendan O'Carroll?
- 19 In which show did Baldrick feature?
- 20 Which show's theme song was Holiday Rock? The usual prize of a £10 M & S voucher awaits the winner and the closing date is Friday, November 17.

August Quiz Answers

- 1 18
- 2 Cricket
- 3 A king
- 4 White
- 5 Matchstick men
- 6 Wren
- 7 Green
- 8 Madonna
- 9 Hutch
- 10 Charles Dickens
- 11 Alfred Hitchcock
- 12 Northumberland
- 13 4
- 14 Queensland
- 15 Garland
- 16 Angostura bitters
- 17 Yorkshire
- 18 Jennifer Saunders
- 19 London and Birmingham
- 20 Food

Dave Taylor, a regular responder, is the winner this issue. Our congratulations and a voucher is on its way to him.

July 31 – Highclere Castle

On a clear, sunny day a full coach of Downton Abbey buffs, accompanied by a few reluctant husbands (I plead guilty), made their way to the

shrine of Sunday night popular entertainment. The castle itself was well worth the trip with a multitude of interesting rooms and very knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides. Surprisingly not too much was made of the Downton connection. There were a number of well-priced eating places with a good selection of food and drink. The gardens were well maintained and the sprawling lawns led down to a beautiful walled garden with an abundance of flowers and shrubs. The weather served us well, to the extent that Mrs M and I sat outside enjoying a most welcome ice cream. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable day. Many thanks to Sylvia and Dave for arranging it.

August 15 - Kent & East Sussex Railway

Yet again another full coach left Luton in good weather. We arrived at the town of Tenterden a little late (comment - a sign that reads 'Road Ahead Closed' is best not ignored!) This late arrival resulted in our meal on the train being retimed to later in the afternoon. This did have an upside though as it gave those who chose to the opportunity of having a wander round the pretty town of Tenterden, full of quaint shops and eating places. Eventually we boarded the train (steam of course) and enjoyed a sumptuous ploughman's lunch. The great thing about this trip, to the chaps of course, is smelling the smoke, hearing the whistle and thinking back to youthful trainspotting days. We left later than planned, but arrived back in Luton more or less on time. No need to put the driver in detention!

September 13 - Mystery Tour

42 team members set off on a fine, sunny day to who knew where! Some tracked their progress on Google maps and after one hour narrowed the destination to 3 places and after another thirty minutes picked up the signs for Stratford-Upon-Avon. Once there a number made their way to Weatherspoons, called the Golden Bee, where the chef's special was an 8 ounce sirloin steak with chips, peas and a tomato for only £4.99. Once fed there were a variety of choices open to our travellers - a 45 minute river trip for £5, an open top bus tour of the town for £12.50, visiting the Royal Shakespeare Company theatre, looking around the many shops, visiting Shakespeare's house or merely finding a seat by the river and chilling out. Whichever option people chose they had, by all account, a very pleasant day in remarkably clement weather. Thanks to Sylvia and James, the driver, for looking after the group so well.

Upcoming Events in the South

October 11 - Springfield's Shopping Outlet, Peterborough

Christmas shopping with great discounts
£11.00 pp VPA members/£14.00 pp non-members

November 14 - Hampstead Tour & Christmas Lights (includes lunch) SOLD OUT

£33.00 pp VPA members/£39.00 pp non-members

December 3-7 - Tinsel & Turkey (THL Resort, Torquay)

4 nights half board plus excursions
£225.00 pp VPA members/£235.00 pp non-members. Riviera view is £24.00 pp extra (members and non-members)

December 12 - Christmas Party

£22.00 pp VPA members/£24.00 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.

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 forfeits their deposit and 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.

Tea Dances

Due to uncertainty future dances are on hold.

Upcoming Events in the North

October 17 – Blackpool

£10 pp. Leaving Club at 9.00 am

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

October 9, 16, 23, 30

November 13, 20, 27

In Memoriam – Luton

Aylott, Leslie Paul, BCV

Died 2.9.18, Aged 92, Retired 1988

Blount, Maurice Francis, BCV

Died 21.7.18, Aged 84, Retired 1988

Broux, Emile Lucien, Vauxhall

Died 28.6.18, Aged 62, Retired 2008

Carlton, Thomas, Vauxhall
Died 19.6.2018, Aged 87, Retired 1993
Carter, Alan George, Division 015
Died 12.7.2018, Aged 89, Retired 1989
Charles, Clifton Merton, Division 033
Died 7.6.2018, Aged 86, Retired 1993
Dillingham, Roy Leslie, BCV
Died 12.7.2018, Aged 86, Retired 1987
Farkas, Karoly Istvan, Division 135
Died 6.7.2018, Aged 79, Retired 2002
Fleckney, Derrick, Vauxhall
Died 28.7.2018, Aged 90, Retired 1993
Franklin, Leonard Belmont, Vauxhall
Died 17.7.2018, Aged 82, Retired 1998
Haynes, Hallem Edward, BCV
Died 2.7.2018, Aged 83, Retired 1990
Hickford, Ronald Clifford, Division 526
Died 7.8.2018, Aged 90, Retired 1992
Johnson, Leroy, BCV
Died 2.7.2018, Aged 86, Retired 1988
Kelly, Leslie Joseph, Division 032
Died 19.6.2018, Aged 86, Retired 1993
Kumar, Surinder, Division 041
Died 27.7.2018, Aged 61, Retired 2014
Loney, Noel, Division 135
Died 29.6.2018, Aged 89, Retired 1994
Maguire, Stephen, BCV
Died 23.7.2018, Aged 73, Retired 2009
McGiff, Veronica, Division 055
Died 2.8.2018, Aged 80, Retired 1999
Miah, Mohammad Chand, BCV
Died 5.7.2018, Aged 78, Retired 1990
Mintern, Richard Joseph, Division 037
Died 19.5.2018, Aged 82, Retired 1995
Mitcham, Dennis Francis, Vauxhall
Died 25.5.2018, Aged 65, Retired 2014
Morgan, Betty, Division 037
Died 4.7.2018, Aged 83, Retired 1992
Painter, Pamela Doreen, Division 537
Died 21.7.2018, Aged 82, Retired 1999
Paul, Richard, Division 527
Died 2.9.2018, Aged 87, Retired 1996
Ralevic, Milorad, Vauxhall
Died 7.7.2018, Aged 98, Retired 1984
Riley, Alec, Division 135
Died 23.7.2018, Aged 85, Retired 1990
Shah, Abid Hussain, Vauxhall
Died 12.8.2018, Aged 95, Retired 1988
Simpson, Gordon George, Division 015
Died 8.8.2018, Aged 86, Retired 1993
Sinclair, Job, Division 015
Died 13.8.2018, Aged 81, Retired 1993
Taylor, Patrick Andrew, BCV
Died 1.8.2018, Aged 89, Retired 1986
Ward, Robert, Division 150
Died 5.8.2018, Aged 74, Retired 2006

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Allinson, Albert Francis, Division 643
Died 13.7.2018, Aged 84, Retired 1993
Anderson, Kenneth, Division 663
Died 2.7.2018, Aged 78, Retired 1998

Beacall, Malcolm, Division 678
Died 18.7.2018, Aged 79, Retired 2000
Brady, Michael Francis, Division 618
Died 19.7.2018, Aged 76, Retired 2004
Davies, Philip Moelwyn, Division 691
Died 30.8.2018, Aged 77, Retired 2002
Earlam, Stephen, Division 618
Died 12.7.2018, Aged 65, Retired 2017
Engle, Albert Herman, Division 618
Died 19.6.2018, Aged 86, Retired 1990
Evans, Edward Albert, Division 691
Died 18.8.2018, Aged 81, Retired 2002
Fitzgerald, Peter Denis, Division 638
Died 18.8.2018, Aged 83, Retired 1990
Holliday, John Leslie Philip, Division 638
Died 19.8.2018, Aged 64, Retired 2006
Hurley, Stanley Vivian, Division 608
Died 30.6.2018, Aged 86, Retired 1991
Whetnall, Arnold Arthur, Division 628
Died 25.8.2018, Aged 87, Retired 1994
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 on line, 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.

E-mail 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

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.