

Pensioners' Newsletter – August 2018

News from the South

Hi Everyone

Well, this summer keeps reminding me of the ones I enjoyed as a boy. We were always out and about on our bikes riding over to Wheathampstead with a few sandwiches or playing football on Popes Meadow (no computer games in those days, high tech was a slide rule). I left home around 8.00 am and got back at 4.30 pm for tea and to say goodbye to Dad as he left for the nightshift in the Vauxhall H block press shop and then went out again until bed time. It just never seemed to rain, or at least that's how I remember it. Now I'm a little older I still love this weather, but my garden looks like the middle of Spain and now I would like just a little rain.

As you may have heard, the Company has announced that it is to start a formal 45 day consultation period with the Trade Union regarding a proposal to vacate the Griffin House site in Luton and relocate the head office activities of Vauxhall to several PSA Group UK sites in late 2018. These include Chalton House in Toddington, the Luton Plant and Pinley House in Coventry. This will have a direct effect on the VPA (Southern Plants) as our operating office is located in Griffin House. Please be assured that we will be doing everything to ensure we are able to continue running the VPA activities going forward and that we will keep you informed of the situation and any changes that become necessary.

However, I don't really want to think about the end of the year yet so keep on enjoying this summer and come along to the great trips organised by Sylvia and Dave.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear All

What a beautiful summer we are having and hopefully enjoying. I know the ground needs water and the gardeners among us are moaning, but let's hope now the children are breaking up from school that the weather doesn't.

In June we enjoyed a lovely trip to York. Some people spent the day in the city and some visited the aero museum.

The next function was a delightful meal on a beautiful day at the Mill Hotel in Chester. 62 attended and I think I can safely speak for everybody when I say how much we enjoyed it. This was courtesy of the Club so on behalf of everybody a huge 'thank you'.

The July social was once again held in the new Club and we will remain there for the foreseeable future before a decision is made. The official opening of the Club took place Friday, July 13 and we were invited to a social on the day. We were treated to a superb buffet and entertainment by the Jersey Boys, a little loud for our pensioner ears, but an enjoyable evening none the less.

The trip to Oswaltwistle was well supported and

enjoyed by those that went.

The next trip is to the Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival on August 15 leaving the Club at 9.00 am. September 19 is the Carlisle to Settle railway trip. I know I put free time in Carlisle, but we were unable to book the train that way, so now we will drive to Carlisle to pick up the train and have free time in Settle. The cost is £19.50 pp and the coach will leave the club at 8.30 am.

October 17 is the trip to Blackpool. The cost is £10 pp and we will leave the Club at 9.00 am.

There are still some places available on the Turkey and Tinsel holiday at the Selbourne Hotel, Dunoon, Alston from December 3 to 7. The cost is £205 pp. That's all for now so enjoy the rest of the summer. Till next time

Dave Williams

VPA Office Email Address

Finally (touch wood) the VPA Office has a permanent e-mail address. So, for communications please use pens@vauxhall.co.uk

Online Banking

The best way to protect yourself from fraud is to be aware, so here are some top tips:

1 **Never** disclose your full online banking PIN or password to anyone over the phone, by text or via e-mail, even a caller claiming to be from your bank or to the police.

2 **Never** disclose your card reader codes, apps passcode or activation code to anyone.

3 **Never** allow remote access to your computer when someone calls you unexpectedly.

4 **Never** transfer from your account either online or in branch despite being instructed to do so.

5 **Do** keep your contact information up-to-date so you can be reached if suspicious activity is noticed on your account.

Unfortunately in the age we live we all have to be aware of the crooked people out there and make their life as difficult as possible.

Fake Email Scam

Increasingly there are reports of fake emails purporting to be from Amazon. The subject lines and content varies, but they contain links leading to fake websites designed to obtain your Amazon log in details.

Always question unsolicited requests for personal or financial details in case it's a scam. **Never** automatically click on a link in an unexpected email or text.

Courier Fraud

The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau has identified an increasing number of reports from the public concerning courier fraud. What happens is that fraudsters contact victims claiming to be a police officer or bank official. To back up their call they will confirm some easily identifiable details about the victim, such as their name and address.

They may also give a telephone number for the victim to ring to give strength to their credibility. This number will, of course, redirect the victim back to the fraudster or a colleague of theirs. After some trust is established the victim will be asked to cooperate by visiting their bank and withdrawing funds to hand over to their courier for use in catching the fraudsters. To reassure the victim the courier may even use a prearranged safe word.

At the time of handover victims are promised full reimbursement of the cash handed over. This, of course, never happens and another victim bites the dust.

The Last of the Puns (promise)

If you don't pay your exorcist you get repossessed. A grenade fell on a kitchen floor in France and resulted in Linoleum Blownapart.

A dog gave birth to puppies by the side of the road and was fined for littering.

Do cannibals who eat missionaries get a taste for religion?

I wondered why the cricket ball got bigger. Then it hit me.

August Quiz

The theme this issue is that old favourite Pot Luck.

- 1 How many sides are there in a pair of nonagons?
- 2 E.W. Swanton wrote about which sport?
- 3 Who is killed if regicide is committed?
- 4 Is Riesling a red or white wine?
- 5 What type of men gave Status Quo their first hit?
- 6 What is the smallest British bird?
- 7 What colour is verdigris which appears on copper or brass?
- 8 Into the Groove gave which singer their first UK No. 1?
- 9 On TV did David Soul play Starsky or Hutch?
- 10 Miss Havisham was created by which author?
- 11 Who links the films Rebecca, Psycho and Vertigo?
- 12 The most north easterly English county is?
- 13 How many Teletubbies are there?
- 14 Brisbane is the capital of which Australian state?
- 15 Which Judy starred in Meet Me In St Louis?
- 16 Pink gin is flavoured with what?
- 17 Ridings used to divide which English county?
- 18 Who is older - Ruby Wax or Jennifer Saunders?
- 19 Which two cities were linked by the M1 when it first opened?
- 20 Is Robert Carrier linked with sport, food or the arts?

As usual the quiz winner will receive a £10 M & S voucher and the closing date for entries is September 14. Good luck to all who enter.

June Quiz Answers

- 1 Fred Astaire
- 2 Humphrey Bogart
- 3 Charlie Chaplin
- 4 Shirley Temple

- 5 Katherine Hepburn
- 6 Marilyn Monroe
- 7 Dorothy Lamour
- 8 Orson Welles
- 9 Mickey Rooney
- 10 Stockholm
- 11 Vivien Leigh
- 12 Gary Cooper
- 13 Robert Mitchum
- 14 James Cagney
- 15 Bette Davis
- 16 Marlene Dietrich
- 17 Douglas
- 18 England
- 19 Clark Gable
- 20 Steve McQueen

Despite a lower than usual response due to the lateness of publishing the Newsletter online we do have a winner. A voucher is on its way to Bill Saul with our congratulations.

Random Ken Dodd Jokes

I used to think I was great in bed until I found out all my girlfriends suffered from asthma.

The man who invented cat's eyes got the idea when he saw the eyes of a cat in his car headlights. If the cat had been going the other way he would have invented the pencil sharpener.

What do you call a lady with one leg longer than the other? Eileen.

I was a very small child. My mother used to carry me round in her handbag. I thought her biro was my brother.

How many men does it take to change a toilet roll? Nobody knows - it's never been done.

Eve said to Adam "Do you love me?" And he replied "Well who else is there?"

How does a hen know the size of an egg cup when it lays an egg?

Five out of three people have trouble understanding fractions.

I did a gig in a club last night that was so bad they kept a pig in the bar as an air freshener.

Have you ever been in a jacuzzi? With all that swirling water you don't know whether to enjoy it or apologise.

June 2 – Outing to Bournemouth

A full coach left Luton and arrived in Bournemouth at 11.15 am. The weather was beautiful with sun, blue skies and a gentle breeze to cool you down. With a vast assortment of attractions no VPAite was spoilt for choice, although, surprisingly, no-one took up the offer to go on the newest attraction the Zip Line Tower which propels you through the air down onto the beach and all for £20! Lunch was taken at Harry Ramsdens, Weatherspoons or at one of many other cafes/restaurants along the front. The day flew by and the coach departed at 4.30 pm full of tired but happy campers. Thanks to Sylvia and Dave for organising the day.

June 21 - VPA Golf Section Match

The 2018 VPA Singles Championship was, as is customary, held at Redbourn Golf Club in the format of an 18-hole Stableford points competition. The day was warm and sunny for the 19 entrants, although the strong winds, hard ground and fast greens created difficulties for the golfers.

These conditions and the course clearly are to the liking of Chris Cleary who improved from third in 2017 to coming first this year, albeit by a close margin which added to the overall excitement of the day.

Second was newly retired John Fulcher, third was Roger Deane and fourth Alan Smith. Nearest to the pin winners were a VPA stalwart - Phil Brownin and VPA newcomer Bill Baldry.

An enjoyable day was had by all and of course the traditional raffle allowed the Golf Section to donate a generous sum to Keech Hospice.

Congratulations to Mike Roberts and the team for arranging the day.

The next VPA golf day is a Pairs Competition to be held at Aylesbury Vale Golf Club on Tuesday October 2. All registered players will be sent entry forms by email and any other VPA members are welcome to play. Please contact Mike Roberts on mikerobertsverulam@msn.com

June 22 - Blenheim Palace Flower Show

49 people joined the trip on a day that was full of sunshine from start to finish. Visitors browsed all the stalls, be it inspecting the multitude of flowers and plants or the wide variety of garden ornaments and associated gadgets on display.

Sufficient to say that for the journey home the coach boot was filled with all sorts of plants etc. and even a tree! Perhaps there will be trips to the VPA Garden Show next year!!

July 4 - Kennet & Avon Canal Cruise

44 potential Captain Pugwashers set out from Luton heading for the Kennet and Avon canal to enjoy a horse drawn barge cruise. Before sailing the high seas lunch was taken at Newbury which went down very well. It was a very hot day, but a combination of gliding along on water through calm and peaceful countryside meant no one got too stressed out and were able to enjoy the refreshments offered on board.

July 19 - Motown the Musical

A full coach made its way to London theatreland to see Motown the Musical which tells the story of the birth and rise of motown music. Before the show a 2 course lunch was taken at the Strand Palace Hotel and then the group went to the Shaftsbury Theatre to see the show. Most had keenly anticipated this event and pleasingly were not disappointed. Incidentally it was fantastic to see Brian Champkins and his wife on the trip.

Upcoming Events in the South

August 15 - Kent & East Sussex Railway

Steam train with ploughman's lunch
£31.00 pp VPA members/£37.00 pp non-members

August 29 - Hendon RAF Museum

£10.00 pp VPA members/£13.00 pp non-members

September 13 - Mystery Tour

Note: Some walking will be involved

£14.00 pp VPA members/£17.00 pp non-members

October 11 - Springfields 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

August 15 - Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival

And on to a venue t.b.a. Leaving Club at 9.00 am

September 19 - Settle Carlisle Railway

£19.50 pp. Leaving Club at 8.30 am

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.

Tea Dances

Please note there will be no tea dances in August, September 11 and 25.

In Memoriam – Luton

Brown, Brian Phillip Thomas, BCV
Died 22.4.18, Aged 95, Retired 1988

Coombe, Graham James, Division 525
Died 25.4.18, Aged 83, Retired 1994

Cooper, Dennis Alfred, BCV
Died 29.3.18, Aged 90, Retired 1987

Crain, Pauline Ivory, VM Staff
Died 18.4.18, Aged 94, Retired 1984

Cumberland, Josephine, Division 728
Died 24.3.18, Aged 88, Retired 1982

Draper, Bryan John, BCV
Died 20.3.18, Aged 85, Retired 1989

Farrell, Laurence, Division 526
Died 20.4.18, Aged 89, Retired 1994

Gower, Stephen, Division 032
Died 28.6.18, Aged 69, Retired 2002

Gray, Ronald Victor, Division 015
Died 16.5.18, Aged 95, Retired 1978

Houser, Edward Augustus, Division 380
Died 28.6.18, Aged 86, Retired 1997

Howkins, Ronald Peter, VM Staff
Died 14.3.18, Aged 84, Retired 1990

Isle, Valerie Margaret, Division 041
Died 15.3.18, Aged 83, Retired 1991

Jeffries, Mollie Eileen, Division 999
Died 21.4.18, Aged 96, Retired 1981

Knight, Stanley, Division 022
Died 22.5.18, Aged 92, Retired 1987

Lloyd, Christopher Rosce Seymour, Div 342
Died 23.5.18, Aged 80, Retired 2003

Lynch, Daniel Francis, Division 999
Died 23.3.18, Aged 95, Retired 1982

McLoughlin, John Francis, Division 055
Died 21.3.18, Aged 74, Retired 2002

Noble, Geoffrey, VM Staff
Died 15.3.18, Aged 90, Retired 1985

Nunn, Arthur Herbert, Division 455
Died 22.3.18, Aged 92, Retired 1986

Phillips, Leslie Thomas, Division 838
Died 25.5.18, Aged 95, Retired 1985

Ratledge, John Edgar Paul, Division 135
Died 23.3.18, Aged 84, Retired 1999

Slater, Euan Robert Jefferies, VM Staff
Died 20.4.18, Aged 90, Retired 1983

Smith, Yok Moi, Division 037
Died 21.3.18, Aged 82, Retired 1990

Wallis, David, Division 335
Died 14.3.18, Aged 80, Retired 1997

Whittaker, Raymond Vivian, VM Staff
Died 27.3.18, Aged 89, Retired 1988

Wilson, Josephine, Division 037
Died 30.5.18, Aged 86, Retired 1992

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Bell, George William, Division 701
Died 17.5.18, Aged 84, Retired 1989

Campbell, Robert Lloyd, Division 617
Died 23.5.18, Aged 65, Retired 2005

Clarke, John Edward, Division 627
Died 24.6.18, Aged 76, Retired 2002

Coles, Charles Thomas, Division 642
Died 29.4.18, Aged 81, Retired 2002

Cull, John, Division 628
Died 23.5.18, Aged 80, Retired 2001

Davies, Robert Noel Worthington, VM Staff
Died 21.4.18, Aged 87, Retired 1988

Halhead, William, Division 643
Died 14.3.18, Aged 88, Retired 1994

Heeley, Arthur Leslie, Division 666
Died 20.3.18, Aged 92, Retired 1982

Hitchcock, Albert John, Division 628
Died 28.5.18, Aged 74, Retired 1998

Kaberry, Robin Eric, Division 718
Died 28.4.18, Aged 74, Retired 2006

Price, David Robert, Division 663
Died 29.6.18, Aged 72, Retired 2010

Prince, John Gordon, Division 663
Died 27.5.18, Aged 89, Retired 1991

Skillen, Alec Martin, Division 670
Died 18.3.18, Aged 81, Retired 1998

Stocks, James Alban, Division 663
Died 30.5.18, Aged 82, Retired 1998

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/VauxhallPensionersAsociation

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

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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.