

Pensioners' Newsletter – June 2018

News from the South

Hi everyone,

This month sees the introduction of new General Data Protection Rules (GDPR) designed to ensure that all our personal information, held by outside bodies, remains private and secure. The Luton VPA would like to assure you that all your personal details, provided to us as part of your membership of the VPA, are stored on a password protected computer system, located in a locked office, within a security controlled building. This data is maintained by our VPA Secretary with access limited to that individual and the Entertainments Secretary and is used solely for communication with yourselves pertaining to VPA activities. We never disclose or share your information with any other group or organisation and do not use this data for marketing purposes of any kind.

So don't worry about the security of your VPA data just get out and enjoy yourselves doing what you love best.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear All

I think summer may have at last arrived as we have had more than two consecutive sunny and dare I say warm days. All around the trees are blossoming, but you know the old saying about "casting clouds".

The holiday to Eastbourne was I think a great success. The weather as ordered was kind to us with lots of sun and no rain (just a little sea fog). The hotel, staff and food were good as was the entertainment and we enjoyed two lovely days out. Unfortunately the trip to Brighton coincided with the marathon weekend, but hey you can't have everything.

On May 17 an almost full coach enjoyed a lovely day out visiting the British Ironworks Centre. The sculptures were truly amazing, especially the angel made entirely of knives collected from police amnesties, together with the huge gorilla made up of 40,000 spoons. As usual the sun obeyed orders making the visit that bit more special as the sculptures were outside in a lovely park setting. After that we carried on to a garden centre to enjoy a lovely lunch courtesy of the Club. We rounded off the day travelling home via the Horseshoe Pass. The trip to York and the aero museum is on the June 14 and we will be leaving the club at 8.30 am so please take note of the time.

The pre-Christmas holiday to Dunoon is filling up nicely, but there are still a few places available. We will be going on Monday, December 3, staying at the Selbourne hotel.

At the moment day trips will leave the Club at 9 am, but please keep looking at the Newsletter in case times vary.

I am pleased to announce that the new Club is now finished and up and running. We will be holding the June and July social evenings there and then it

is up to all the members to vote whether we stay at the Whitby Club or return home to our own Club. Please make every effort to attend these two evenings as your opinions and votes are important to decide the future.

Till next time enjoy the summer wherever your travels take you. Cheers

Dave Williams

Urgent Message to all Southern VPA Members

We have a shortage of takers for two of our planned trips - the visit to the RAF Hendon Museum on Wednesday, August 29 and the trip to Springfields Retail Park, Spalding on Thursday, October 11. Details are included with all other trips in this Newsletter. Please consider coming along for what is usually an interesting and pleasant day spent in the company of friendly and cheerful VPAites.

Change of Date – Christmas Party

Since the last Newsletter we have been informed by Venue 360 that they cannot offer us a room on the original date we had agreed with them. A revised date has been decided which is Wednesday, December 12. Cabaret will be provided by Deja Vu who perform songs from the 1960's until recently. All other details are in the Southern events section towards the end of this Newsletter.

Vauxhall Male Voice Choir

As part of their 75th Centenary celebrations the Vauxhall Male Choir are holding a concert on Saturday, June 25 in the Methodist Church, The Square, Dunstable, LU6 3SN. They will be joined by two other choirs, the St Edmundsbury MVC and the Wycombe Orpheus MVC.

A further special guest will be Lynn Deacon, a renowned soprano. Advanced tickets are £10 per person if booked before the night by ringing 01525 753110 and doors open at 6.45 pm for a 7.30 pm start.

Changes to Torque and the VPA Newsletter

In order to maximise cost reductions and enhance profitability all cost aspects of the new Company are being reviewed. One result of this review is that from **February 2019** Torque magazine and our Newsletter will no longer be available in print. They will still be available online and an email will be sent out every other month providing details on the latest editions with a link to view the website. If you would wish to read the latest edition of both Torque and the VPA Newsletter please follow this link:

http://www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner_pages. (underscore between pensioner_pages) Not only can you read the latest editions, but you can also access the archives of them.

As a consequence of this action the Company will no longer require a subscription so no further £5 cheques will be banked from March onwards.

Unbanked cheques will be destroyed if your renewal date was February 2018 and 84p will be donated on your behalf to the Vauxhall Welfare Fund.

If you wish to receive the email notification on when the magazines are available to view online please provide an email address to Madeleine Shutt using the following email address:

madeleine.shutt@vauxhall.co.uk

or you can opt in by using the online form at

www.tinyurl.com/vxoptin.

Alternatively send your email address in the post to Madeleine Shutt, Internal Communications, 3rd Floor, Griffin House, Osborne Road, Luton, LU1 3YT.

It's a Punny Old World

Most of us enjoy a little wordplay and English is a fantastic language to play around with. Puns, like Marmite, are either good or bad with no in between. You will find below a selection that will make you smile or seethe.

A bicycle cannot stand alone as it is two tired.

A backward poet writes in verse.

Is a chicken crossing the road poultry in motion?
With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.

When a clock is hungry it goes back for seconds.

You are stuck with a debt if you can't budge it.

A lot of money is tainted: 'taint yours and 'taint mine.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

If you jump of a bridge in Paris you are in Seine.

When you have seen one shopping centre you seen a mall.

The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.

Two silk worms have a race: they ended up in a tie.

A small boy swallowed some coins. I rang the hospital to see how he was and they said "no change yet".

The soldier who survived pepper spray and mustard gas is now a seasoned veteran.

Don't join dangerous clubs: practice safe sects!

April 19 – Day Trip to Norwich

On an extremely hot day a coach full of VPAites visited Norwich. Left to their own devices, some visited the cathedral, some the museum and some just sat and watched the world go by in the company of a nice cold drink.

Whatever their choice everyone had an enjoyable time and thanks to Sylvia for organising.

May 9-13 - Eastbourne

The group left Luton from Venue 360 to travel to the Queens Hotel at Eastbourne, which overlooked the sea and the pier, somewhat of a prime location. Each day had an excursion planned (Hastings, the English Martyrs Church and on the final full day a trip on the Bluebell steam railway) and each evening musical entertainment was provided in the hotel along with, of course, bingo. The meals were to a high standard and the waitress service exceptional. By consensus it was the best short

break holiday for some time and everyone intimated they would return. So that's one trip sorted out for 2019 it seems. A big thank you to Sylvia and Dave for their efforts and a special mention for James the driver.

May 17 - VPA Golf Section Match

On a warm sunny day the section teed off their 2018 season with a Texas Scramble Competition, played over 18 holes at the Abbey Hill Golf course in Milton Keynes. The Steve Brooker Trophy was won by Alan Smith, Mike King and Mike Roberts closely ahead of the runners up team of Peter Johnson, George Chalmers and Ed Andrews. In third place were Roger Deane, Mick Shea and Eric Thompson. The nearest to the pin prizes for the shortest and most difficult holes were won by John Fulcher and Jim Gleasure. As John, a new member to the VPA, has only recently retired from the Finance Department and is instrumental in looking after our pensions, thank God he won something! It was pleasing to welcome new members in John, Davis Alexander, Arnie Brown and Mick Shea to the section.

The players greatly enjoyed the excellent playing conditions of the course and the calorie laden late lunch, along with the essential re-hydration process at the nineteenth hole. The usual raffle was held with donations going to the Keech Hospice.

The next VPA Golf Day will be held at the Redbourn Golf Club on Thursday, June 21 and the third and final event on Tuesday, October 2 at Aylesbury Vale Golf Club. All registered players will be sent entry forms by e-mail and should any other VPA Club golfer wish to participate in these events please contact Mike Roberts on mikerobertsverulam@msn.com

June Quiz

The theme this issue is Screen Greats.

1 Who famously partnered Ginger Rogers?

2 Who played Rick Blaine in Casablanca?

3 Whose hat and cane sold for £55,000 in 1955?

4 Which 6 year old won an Oscar in 1934?

5 Which Katherine starred alongside Spencer Tracy in many films?

6 Who played Lorelei Lee in Gentlemen Prefer Blondes?

7 Who starred with Hope and Crosby in the Road films?

8 Who played Citizen Kane in the film of the same name?

9 Which diminutive star played a cigar smoking midget in his first film at the age of 7?

10 In which European capital was Greta Garbo born?

11 Which Vivien was once married to Laurence Olivier?

12 Which Gary starred in High Noon?

13 Which Robert was known for his sleepy, languid eyes?

14 Who was famous for the phrase "you dirty rat"?

15 Who acted with her fourth husband in All About Eve?

16 Which Berlin born film star's first film was The Blue Angel?

17 What was the christian name of the father and son Fairbanks actors?
18 In which country was Cary Grant born?
19 Who starred in It Happened One Night and Gone with the Wind?
20 Which Steve of The Great Escape did his own racing stunts?
As normal a £10 M& S voucher to the winner. The closing date is July 14th. Good luck to you all.

April Quiz Answers

- 1 Frank Spencer
- 2 Basil Brush
- 3 Mr Humphries
- 4 Max Bygraves
- 5 Tommy Cooper
- 6 Larry Grayson
- 7 Jim Davidson
- 8 Cilla Black
- 9 Arthur Askey
- 10 Basil Fawley
- 11 The Two Ronnies (either of)
- 12 Del Boy Trotter
- 13 Harold Steptoe
- 14 Victor Meldrew
- 15 Bruce Forsyth
- 16 Dick Emery
- 17 Baldrick (Blackadder)
- 18 Captain Mainwaring
- 19 Alf Garnett
- 20 Bob Monkhouse

We had quite a few responses most of which were 100% correct. Using my trusty MK Dons cap the name of Jean Skipp is the winner. She will shortly receive a £10 M&S voucher. Thanks to all that entered and shame on those who didn't.

Upcoming Events in the South

June 2 - Bournemouth (coach only)
£14.00 pp VPA members/£17.00 pp non-members
June 22 - Blenheim Palace Flower Show
Includes park and gardens
£18.00 pp VPA members/£22 pp non-members
July 4 - Kennet & Avon Canal Cruise
Horse drawn barge and cream tea
£26.00 pp VPA members/£31.00 pp non-members
July 19 - Motown the Musical (plus 2 course lunch) **SOLD OUT**
£54.00 pp VPA members/£62.00 pp non-members
July 31 – Highclere Castle Tour
Includes Egyptian exhibition and gardens
£30pp VPA members/£32pp non-members
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 - 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

June 14 - York and Aero Museum
Leaving Club at 8.30 am
July 12 - Blackburn Market/Oswaldtwistle Mill
August 15 - Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival
And on to a venue t.b.a.
September 19 - Settle Carlisle Railway
followed by free time in Carlisle
October 17 – Blackpool
December 3-7 - Selbourne Hotel, Dunoon
December 12 – Craxton Wood Hotel
Christmas Meal followed by entertainment.
Arrival 10.30 am for coffee.

Tea Dances

June 12, 19 and 26.
Please note there will be no tea dances in July or August.

In Memoriam – Luton

Aitken, Magdalena, BCV
Died 16.4.2018, Aged 86, Retired 1989
Almond, Edward Reginald, Staff
Died 15.3.2018, Aged 91, Retired 1983
Batchelor, Peter Readwin, Division 357
Died 10.5.2018, Aged 80, Retired 1994
Brambley, John, IBC
Died 12.1.2018, Aged 72, Retired 2002
Combe, Graham James, Division 525
Died 25.4.2018, Aged 82, Retired 1994

Crain, Pauline Ivory, Staff
Died 18.4.2018, Aged 93, Retired 1984

Cumberland, Josephine, Staff
Died 24.3.2018, Aged 88, Retired 1982

Dempsey, Patrick Michael, IBC
Died 29.4.2018, Aged 77, Retired 1998

Doonan, Johnston, IBC
Died 30.3.2018, Aged 88, Retired 1994

Draper, Bryan John, BCV
Died 20.3.2018, Aged 84, Retired 1989

Farrell, Laurence, Division 526
Died 20.4.2018, Aged 88, Retired 1994

Hammond, Doris Henrietta, Staff
Died 11.4.2018, Aged 96, Retired 1981

Hooper, John, IBC
Died 27.4.2018, Aged 78, Retired 2004

Howlett, Kenneth Arthur, Vauxhall
Died 5.2.2018, Aged 89, Retired 1984

Jeffries, Mollie Eileen, Vauxhall
Died 21.4.2018, Aged 95, Retired 1981

Kelly, Thomas, Vauxhall
Died 27.1.2018, Aged 93, Retired 1982

Lax, Kathleen Mary, Staff
Died 16.4.2018, Aged 88, Retired 1987

Lazenby, Harold Jack, Vauxhall
Died 27.2.2018, Aged 100, Retired 1982

Lodhia, Laxmidas, Division 041
Died 25.3.2018, Aged 84, Retired 1998

Lynch, Daniel Francis, Vauxhall
Died 23.3.2018, Aged 94, Retired 1982

McCann, John, Vauxhall
Died 25.3.2018, Aged 91, Retired 1982

McLoughlin, John Francis, Division 055
Died 21.3.2018, Aged 74, Retired 2002

Mills, Richard John, Vauxhall
Died 26.3.2018, Aged 90, Retired 1986

Nunn, Arthur Herbert, BCV
Died 22.3.2018, Aged 92, Retired 1986

O'Malley, Michael Joseph, Division 135
Died 30.3.2018, Aged 85, Retired 1998

Patten, Derrick Arthur, BCV
Died 26.3.2018, Aged 85, Retired 1988

Ratledge, John Edgar Paul, Division 135
Died 23.3.2018, Aged 83, Retired 1999

Smith, Yok Moi, Division 037
Died 21.3.2018, Aged 82, Retired 1990

Spanyo, Laszlo, Division 033
Died 8.4.2018, Aged 84, Retired 1999

Tait, Maurice O'Brian, BCV
Died 12.3.2018, Aged 85, Retired 1987

Tonkinson, Barry, Division 485
Died 2.5.2018, Aged 65, Retired 2018

Walsh, James William, IBC
Died 14.5.2018, Aged 88, Retired 1994

Warne, Victor Clarence, Staff
Died 29.4.2018, Aged 91, Retired 1977

Wood, Arthur George Thomas, Division 527
Died 11.5.2018, Aged 88, Retired 1993

Wood, Harold, BCV
Died 14.4.2018, Aged 95, Retired 1987

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Banks, David J., Division 618
Died 28.4.2018, Aged 68, Retired 2006

Blaize, Thomas William Patrick, Division 618
Died 27.1.2018, Aged 77, Retired 2005

Buckley, Francis Frederick, Division 647
Died 2.5.2018, Aged 96, Retired 1982

Coles, Charles Thomas, Division 642
Died 29.4.2018, Aged 80, Retired 2002

Davies, Ivor, Division 642
Died 30.4.2018, Aged 70, Retired 2010

Davies, Robert Noel Worthington, Staff
Died 21.4.2018, Aged 87, Retired 1988

Fairclough, Cyril, Division 642
Died 28.4.2018, Aged 67, Retired 2012

Grimes, Brian Trevellyon, Division 629
Died 6.5.2018, Aged 79, Retired 1999

Healey, David, Division 619
Died 30.3.2018, Aged 73, Retired 2005

Heeley, Arthur Leslie, Division 666
Died 20.3.2018, Aged 92, Retired 1982

Knight, Frederick, Division 617
Died 5.4.2018, Aged 89, Retired 1993

Manifold, John Henry, Division 616
Died 10.1.2018, Aged 91, Retired 1989

Parry, John, Division 619
Died 28.3.2018, Aged 72, Retired 2004

Povey, William, Division 628
Died 9.3.2018, Aged 89, Retired 1993

Powell, George Robert Derek, Division 616
Died 24.4.2018, Aged 80, Retired 2001

Skillen, Alec Martin, Division 670
Died 18.3.2018, Aged 80, Retired 1998

Thomas, Albert Frederick, Division 618
Died 28.1.2018, Aged 79, Retired 2003

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 E-Mail Prompts

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

madeleine.shutt@vauxhall.co.uk

Useful Telephone and Contact Information

VPA South

VPA Office 01582 427921

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

E-mail david.2.linney@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

E-mail 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

e-mail normanmcgregor3@gmail.com

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