

Pensioners' Newsletter – February 2018

News from the South

Hi everyone,

Well, Christmas is over now and I hope you all had a nice time and avoided the dreaded flu outbreak. I'm sorry to say that my wife Jean and myself managed to get struck down just after New Year and are still not rid of it. Still, that's one of the benefits of being retired. We could just stay indoors surrounded by boxes of tissues and bottles of cough mixture, yes cough mixture! Much better than going to work! Looking ahead to 2018, the VPA is facing some challenges owing to new data protection rules being introduced which may affect the way we operate. However, be assured that your committee are already getting expert advice in order to understand the changes and how we can minimise their effect on the VPA. By the way, don't forget our Annual General Meeting will take place this year at 2.15pm in The Riverside Suite on Monday, March 19. We hope to have the latest information regarding our pensions, so put the date in your diary and come along.

Best wishes for the New Year from your committee and we look forward to seeing you at some of the great outings in the 2018 programme.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear all,

As this is the first newsletter in 2018, I will start by wishing you all a happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas and New Year, and did not succumb to too many of the seasonal bugs. We were laid low with them, but hopefully are now mostly recovered.

War Horse seems a long time ago, but was a superb production and well worth seeing. Tenby seems like a distant memory also, but I think I can speak for everyone when I say we had a wonderful time. Our host Mr Thomas made us very welcome as ever. Even the weather was reasonably kind to us, with the worst coming either over night or on our way home. All in all it was a lovely break and very festive. Our Christmas dinner evening was as usual well attended and enjoyed. Let's hope we can see as many at our social nights, as your committee work very hard on your behalf.

The new club is well on its way and should be completed by the summer. I will give you more details as I receive them.

There are still places available on the Eastbourne holiday, so if anybody is interested please do not leave it too long before deciding. The cost has now reduced to £199pp and the details remain the same – the Queens Hotel, April 11 to 15.

For all you gardeners out there, don't forget it will soon be time to get busy with the planting and then spring should be well on its way and we can hopefully look forward to some warmer weather. Till next time, I hope to see you at the Whitby Club on the February 6. Till then,

Dave Williams

2018 AGM

The southern plant's AGM will take place on Monday, March 19 at 2.15pm in the Riverside Suite at Venue 360, Gipsy Lane, Luton.

Refreshments will be available prior to the start of the meeting.

Office e-mail address

The December newsletter highlighted the problems we are having with the office computer. At the time of writing, they are still there. However, if you wish to communicate by e-mail, please use the following address – david.l.linney@vauxhall.co.uk

Vauxhall book

Late last year a book entitled *Vauxhall - Britain's Oldest Car Maker* was published. It was written by Ian Coomber. Ian joined Vauxhall in 1963 and after gaining a first-class degree in mechanical engineering, was seconded to General Motors in Detroit.

His first Vauxhall assignment was handling customer complaints, followed by with Retailers as "the man from the factory". He returned to Luton head office in 1987 as Fleet Sales Director and retired in 2001 as Executive Director Sales, Marketing and Customer Care.

A confirmed "petrol head" and owner of classic Vauxhalls, he is well known on the Vauxhall car club community.

His book traces the story of Vauxhall from 1903 until the sale to Groupe PSA in late 2017. For ex-Vauxhall workers, this should be a very interesting and poignant read. Separate chapters feature the stories of Bedford and the motorsport team. It is published in hardback and is 304 pages in length, with 112 black and white images and 64 in colour. It costs £35 at all good bookshops, but if you order on line at fonthillmedia.com it will be yours for only £28, including postage.

Can you help?

Jean Skipp is trying to locate a shove ha'penny board and bar skittles game for use in a local care home. If you would like to donate or sell either of these, please contact her via the office.

An Ode to the English Plural

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes, but the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes. One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese, yet the plural of moose should never be meese. You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice, yet the plural of house is houses, not hices. If the plural of man is always called men, why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

If I speak of my foot and show you my feet, and I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet? If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth, why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth? Then one may be that, and there would be those, yet hat in the plural would never be hose, and the plural of cat is

cats, not cose. We speak of a brother and also of brethren, but though we say mother, we never say methren. Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him, but imagine the feminine she, shis and shim! Let's face it – English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

English muffins weren't invented in England.

We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend?

If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

Sometimes, I think all the folks who grew up speaking English should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane.

In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital?

We ship by truck but send cargo by ship.

We have noses that run and feet that smell.

We park in a driveway and drive in a parkway.

And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

And in closing, if Father is Pop, how come Mother is not Mop?

It is now understandable: English people are coo-coo!!

Tinsel and Turkey – Dec 4-8 - Hayling Island

A group of VPA'ites travelled to the Warners Hotel at Sinah Warren at Hayling Island for an early celebration of Christmas and the New Year.

Daytime activities included dancing lessons, rifle shooting, archery, curling, Nordic walking, bell ringing, bingo and quizzes. Evening entertainment was provided by the resident singers and dancers and was to a very high standard. Performances included the musical *Les Miserables*, *River Dance*, a Christmas Show and the pantomime *Cinderella*, plus a guest comedian. The coach stayed for the duration and offered trips to Portsmouth, Winchester and Chichester. The hotel staff, the rooms and quality of food were to a high standard and the group thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Sylvia and Dave for their efforts.

February quiz

The subject this time is animals:

- 1 What is the term for a group of beavers?
- 2 Alphabetically, which animal always comes first?
- 3 Dromedary and Bactrian are types of what?
- 4 What is a male fox called?
- 5 How many teats does a cow usually have?

6 What is Britain's only venomous snake?

7 What type of leaves does a koala eat?

8 What type of animal is a natterjack?

9 What 'ology' is the study of animals?

10 A jenny is a female what?

11 What is the term for a group of elephants?

12 Which monkey has a blue and red face?

13 What type of animal is an ibex?

14 Which animal lives in a sett?

15 What is a meat eating animal called?

16 What is a baby kangaroo called?

17 A leveret is a young what?

18 Which animal lives in a drey?

19 What is the fastest land mammal?

20 What is the term for a group of foxhounds?

As usual, the winner will receive a £10 M&S voucher – just enough to be tempting, but not likely to be life changing! Entries should be in by no later than Tuesday, March 20. Good luck to all that enter

December quiz answers

1 *The Sun*

2 Anglia TV

3 Channel 5

4 Central

5 Radio 4

6 *The Mail on Sunday*

7 British Broadcasting Corporation

8 1930's

9 BBC2

10 Channel 4

11 Sunday

12 News

13 Adverts

14 *News of the World*

15 1960's

16 BBC2

17 London Weekend Television

18 GMTV

19 Granada

20 BBC1 and BBC2

We had a good response this time – long may it continue. The winner was Dave Walton who will shortly receive a voucher.

Upcoming events in the South

VPA Events for 2018

February 22 - Milestones Museum, Basingstoke

A living museum of 20th century life
£18.00pp VPA members/£22.00pp non-member

March 14 - Coventry Motor Museum

Devoted to British car industry
£11.00pp VPA members/£14.00pp non-members

April 19 - Norwich (coach only)

£13.00pp VPA members/£16.00pp non-members

May 9 - 13 - Queen's Hotel, Eastbourne

Four nights half board plus excursions
£195.00pp VPA members/£205.00 pp non-members

Sea view is £24.00pp extra (members and non-members)

May 17 - Downton Country tour with Carvery lunch. Note: this does not include Highclere Castle

£40.00pp VPA members/£47.00pp non-members

June 2 - Bournemouth (coach only)
£14.00pp VPA members/£17.00pp non-members

June 22 - Blenheim Palace Flower Show

Includes park and gardens

£18.00pp VPA members/£22pp non-members

July 4 - Kennet & Avon canal cruise

Horse drawn barge and cream tea

£26.00pp VPA members/£31.00pp non-members

July 19 - Motown the Musical (plus 2 course lunch)

£54.00pp VPA members/£62.00pp non-members

August 15 - Kent & East Sussex Railway

Steam train with ploughman's lunch

£31.00pp VPA members/£37.00pp non-members

August 29 - Hendon RAF Museum

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

September 13 - Mystery Tour

Note: Some walking will be involved

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

October 11 - Springfields Shopping Outlet, Peterborough

Christmas shopping with great discounts

£11.00pp VPA members/£14.00pp non-members

November 14 - Hampstead tour & Christmas lights (includes lunch)

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

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

Four nights half board plus excursions

£225.00pp VPA members/£235.00pp non-members

Riviera view is £24.00pp extra (members and non-members)

December 13 - Christmas party

£22.00pp VPA members/£24.00pp 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 £30.00pp.

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 s.a.e for each trip. Please also note that any member/non-member who cancels a booking four 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.

VPA Golf Matches - 2018

May 17 - Abbey Hill - Team Texas Scramble

June 21 - Redbourn - Singles Championship

October 2 - Aylesbury Vale - Pairs Championship

All golf playing VPA members with a club

handicap are most welcome, and can register for the events by sending a brief note to either Mike

Roberts or Jim Heaney at the VPA Office (address at end of this newsletter).

Tea dances

Due to uncertainty future dances are on hold.

Upcoming events in the North

March 22 - Mill Hotel, Chester

Lunch

May 17 - Iron Works Museum, Welshpool

followed by the garden centre at Chirk

April 11 – 15 - Eastbourne

June 14 - York and Aero Museum

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

Details of prices and times are tba.

Tea dances

February 13, 20, 27

March 13, 20, 27

In Memoriam – Luton

Atkins, William Dennis, BCV

Died 14.12.17, Aged 86, Retired 1988

Atkinson, Derek Richard, Division 033

Died 17.12.17, Aged 66, Retired 2002

Bates, Ronald, Vauxhall

Died 11.1.18, Aged 95, Retired 1982

Baxter, Stanley William, Staff

Died 7.1.18, Aged 96, Retired 1982

Bee, Michael William, Division 380

Died 3.12.17, Aged 83, Retired 1999

Benson, Geoffrey, Division 527

Died 21.11.17, Aged 82, Retired 1994

Boylett, Kenneth Douglas, BCV

Died 28.10.17, Aged 96, Retired 1986

Brady, Peter, Division 046

Died 9.12.17, Aged 86, Retired 1993

Cannon, Peter Robin, BCV

Died 23.11.17, Aged 83, Retired 1989

Carter, James Richard, Vauxhall

Died 30.11.17, Aged 94, Retired 1982

Clark, Peter, Division 033

Died 23.10.17, Aged 85, Retired 1997

Crosbie, Colin George Frederick, Division 499

Died 20.12.17, Aged 75, Retired 2003

Desouza, Victor Anthony W., Division 345

Died 9.12.17, Aged 68, Retired 2000

Donnelly, Gerard, Division 089

Died 21.11.17, Aged 77, Retired 2002

Eyre, Keith, Division 135

Died 5.12.17, Aged 70, Retired 2002

Fensome, Pauline, BCV

Died 15.11.17, Aged 86, Retired 1987

Garg, Yogra, BCV

Died 24.9.17, Aged 84, Retired 1988

Grant, Carleron Olivier, Division 032

Died 28.10.17, Aged 78, Retired 1995

Hackett, Jean Elizabeth, Vauxhall

Died 30.12.17, Aged 83, Retired 1989

Hewitt, Kathleen Julia, Division 527
Died 18.1.18, Aged 72, Retired 2002
Hooker, Stephen, Staff
Died 19.12.17, Aged 89, Retired 1989
Jack, Richard, IBC
Died 19.12.17, Aged 74, Retired 2002
Jackson, Malcolm Donald, Division 015
Died 2.1.18, Aged 64, Retired 1993
Jowitt, John David, Division 311
Died 19.1.18, Aged 72, Retired 2003
Khan, Mohammed Azhar, Vauxhall
Died 26.12.17, Aged 85, Retired 1990
Kilby, Margaret Evelyn, BCV
Died 9.1.18, Aged 90, Retired 1987
Killick, Peter John, Division 527
Died 23.12.17, Aged 81, Retired 1993
Lewis, Carl Mctaris, Division 150
Died 14.1.18, Aged 82, Retired 1998
Morgan, Glyndwr, Staff
Died 4.1.18, Aged 98, Retired 1985
Moss, John Walter, IBC
Died 26.11.17, Aged 77, Retired 1998
Murray, Michael Joseph, IBC
Died 15.1.18, Aged 88, Retired 1994
O'Connor, Kevin Joseph, IBC
Died 29.10.17, Aged 81, Retired 1994
Pike, William James Kenneth, BCV
Died 14.12.17, Aged 94, Retired 1987
Platon, Norman Alexander, Staff
Died 15.12.17, Aged 96, Retired 1982
Randall, Dennis E., IBC
Died 8.1.18, Aged 79, Retired 1999
Rankin, Levi Wellington, BCV
Died 13.11.17, Aged 87, Retired 1987
Reid, Ruby Elaine, Division 198
Died 26.11.17, Aged 80, Retired 2001
Rogers, Roy Herbert Allen, Staff
Died 15.12.17, Aged 92, Retired 1989
Seddon, Eileen Elizabeth, Vauxhall
Died 18.11.17, Aged 85, Retired 1987
Smith, Michael John Sinfield, Division 082
Died 1.1.18, Aged 80, Retired 2000
Soar, Trevor Edwin, IBC
Died 5.1.18, Aged 73, Retired 2002
Solano, Michele, Division 135
Died 20.12.17, Aged 85, Retired 1997
Steele, Doreen, Vauxhall
Died 7.1.18, Aged 96, Retired 1976
Stephenson, Violet, Division 032
Died 29.11.17, Aged 83, Retired 1993
Thompson, Barry Victor, IBC
Died 17.1.18, Aged 68, Retired 2003
Webster, Gordon Desmond MacDonald, IBC
Died 1.1.18, Aged 87, Retired 1994
Wheatley, George Frederick Thomas, BCV
Died 17.1.18, Aged 84, Retired 1989
Wieland, Alfred Henry, Vauxhall
Died 15.12.17, Aged 92, Retired 1982
Williams, John Hywel, Division 154
Died 1.12.17, Aged 80, Retired 1991
Willis, Leonard, Division 527
Died 5.1.18, Aged 82, Retired 2000

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Bladen, Francis William, Vauxhall
Died 17.1.18, Aged 87, Retired 1989

Auld, Albert James, Division 642
Died 26.11.17, Aged 83, Retired 1994
Bailey, Roy, Division 678
Died 22.12.17, Aged 82, Retired 1997
Barker, Kenneth, Division 617
Died 15.12.17, Aged 75, Retired 2002
Busby, Anne, Division 608
Died 22.12.17, Aged 78, Retired 1999
Cranny, John Patrick, Vauxhall
Died 3.1.18, Aged 96, Retired 1982
Curry, Joan, Division 678
Died 30.11.17, Aged 87, Retired 1987
Garratt, Brian, Division 670
Died 13.12.17, Aged 86, Retired 1996
Halliwell, Elwyn, Vauxhall
Died 29.12.17, Aged 91, Retired 1988
Hastie, Michael, Division 640
Died 16.11.17, Aged 83, Retired 1998
Hooson, William, Division 641
Died 1.1.18, Aged 75, Retired 1999
Naylor, Leonard, Vauxhall
Died 3.1.18, Aged 91, Retired 1987
Parkinson, George, Division 627
Died 12.1.18, Aged 85, Retired 1993
Parsonage, Vincent Anthony, Division 678
Died 15.1.18, Aged 82, Retired 1991
West, Robert Arthur, Vauxhall
Died 11.1.18, Aged 97, Retired 1982
Whittaker, James, Division 622
Died 19.12.17, Aged 71, Retired 2006
All information on deceased pensioners is provided
by the Pensions Department.

How to Access the Newsletter and 2016 AGM Minutes on the Internet

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

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAs
sociation](http://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.l.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.