



Pensioners' Newsletter – December 2017

News from the South

Hi everyone,
Well, the winter weather is really starting to bite and is telling us that Christmas is fast approaching. I dare say I will soon get dragged down to the shops to get the tree and the presents. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the VPA Christmas lunch planned for this year, owing to lack of support. We only had 37 bookings at the last committee meeting and this is far below the number required to run this event. If you have already paid and have not been contacted or have received a refund yet, don't worry. Since the move to PSA from GM, we have been having problems getting access to our VPA records, but we are working on this and hope very soon to be back to normal. This also applies to some other trips, so please bear with us while we look for a solution. In the meantime, whatever you are doing for Christmas, the VPA wishes you a happy and healthy one and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.
John Boast

News from the North

Dear all,
Well, it's nearly Christmas once again and by the time this goes to print we will have enjoyed (hopefully) watching the production of *War Horse* at the Liverpool Empire. Also, by the time you read this, a party of us will have had a good old knees up in Tenby. This is a hotel we have been to on previous occasions, so I feel sure everybody will enjoy the week. If you are not going to Tenby, or even if you are, I trust the party gear will be in evidence for our Christmas dinner on December 15 at the Brook Meadow Hotel. The committee have been working hard with their thinking caps on to put together a programme of trips for 2018. I think they have done well and have come up with a varied list. Hopefully, there will be something to suit all tastes, so I trust you will try hard to support them. There are still places on the holiday to Eastbourne in April, so if you want to book, please let me know before February. The details are April 11 to 15, travelling with Alpha and staying at the Queens Hotel, at a cost of £205pp with two day trips and lunch in the hotel on the free day. It just remains for me to say I hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you all at our first social evening of the New Year on February 6 at the Whitby Social Club. Till then, cheerio
Dave Williams

Blame it on the computer - literally!

As is stated in the news from the South, the VPA office is having trouble with the office computer i.e. it is not working. For the time being, if you need to contact the office please write or telephone. Thank you.

Safe houses - keep protected!

Beds Police have passed on the following tips to help keep you or your property secure over the following months. Criminals do take advantage of the shorter daylight hours to operate, but you can best protect your home at night or when unoccupied during daylight hours.

- Use your lights at home - keep them on a timer when you are out, so it appears someone is in the property.
 - When you are out, leave a radio playing so it appears the house is occupied.
 - Make sure all house, vehicle, garage and shed doors are securely locked at all times. Double lock UPVC doors.
 - Keep all valuables and keys safely out of sight from windows, both in the home and in your vehicle.
 - Close curtains with a light on indoors.
 - It is equally important to pay attention to sheds and garages as valuable tools cannot only be sold on easily, but can be used to break into the house and vehicle.
 - Never hide a key under the doormat or a flowerpot - it is the first place a thief will look.
 - If you spot someone acting suspiciously contact the police immediately on 101.
 - Security mark your property and register it on www.immobolise.com
- Please take the time to follow these simple rules and increase your peace of mind.

Texting codes for seniors

The kids have their own texting codes so here are some for those of us with hair on our chests!

ATD At The Doctors
BFF Best Friend Fell
BYW Bring Your Wheelchair
BYOT Bring Your Own Teeth
FWIW Forgot Where I Was
GGPBL Gotta Go - Pacemaker Battery Low
GHA Got Heartburn Again
IMHAO Is My Hearing Aid On?
LMDO Laughing My Dentures Out
OMMR On My Massage Recliner
OMSG Oh My - Sorry - Gas
ROFLACGU Rolling On Floor Laughing And Cannot Get Up
TTYL Talk To You Louder

You know you are living in 2017 when

- 1 You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.

- 2 You have a list of nine phone numbers to reach your family of three.
- 3 You e-mail the person who sits at the next desk.
- 4 You lose touch with friends and family who do not have e-mail addresses.
- 5 Every commercial has a web site address at the bottom.
- 6 Leaving the house without your mobile phone is a cause for panic, even though you didn't have one for the first (you insert the figure) years of your life.
- 7 You get up in the morning and go online before having a cup of tea.

October 3 – Golf match

The final event for 2017 was the Pairs Championship, held at the Aylesbury Vale Golf Club. Four VPA members competed for the Peter Johnson Trophy.

The winning pair was comprised of John Barber and Paul Davies, second were Alan Smith and Jim Heaney, with Brian Godfrey and Mike Roberts coming third.

The nearest the pin competitions on two separate holes were won by Brian Godfrey and Jim Heaney. In line with tradition, there was an extended lunch at the nineteenth hole, where beer and banter was followed by a healthy oval steak pie and chips, which took minds back to the good old days in the Vauxhall main canteen in the 60s.

The usual raffle was held in aid of the Keech Hospice and a good day was had by all.

October 19 - Mystery tour

Full of eager anticipation, a coach load of members set off for who knew where. In the event, after a journey stretched out by an accident and various delays for roadworks, we arrived somewhat behind schedule at the Bicester Shopping Village. As you can imagine, the ladies on the coach were pleased, but the chaps were considerably less enthusiastic. After the shopping, we went to a garden centre for a long for lunch, before making the journey home, where thankfully better conditions prevailed. Evidently, the location was chosen by the coach company and not the VPA representatives! Enough said.

November 22 - Mighty Wurlitzer Christmas Concert and London lights

After first taking lunch, the group made their way to The Musical Museum in Brentford High Street. Once having viewed the museum itself and, of course, the obligatory shop, we made our way up to the concert room. There we enjoyed a 60-minute recital of festive tunes with the bonus of a soprano accompaniment for some of the time. It was rounded off in seasonal manner with sherry and mince pies.

We rejoined the coach for a tour of London's West End, to take the beauty of the lights. The occasion was enhanced by the commentary of our guide, Sarah, with both her knowledge of the areas and her humour. Our final stop was at Somerset House for a quick coffee and a look at the skaters on the ice rink. A superb day was had by all. Many

thanks to Sylvia and Dave for organising it and special thanks to our driver James who was, as usual, brilliant.

December quiz

A change of subject this issue. All questions relate to the media.

- 1 Which British national daily paper was founded in the 1960s?
 - 2 Which independent TV company serves East Anglia?
 - 3 Which channel began broadcasting in March 1977?
 - 4 Which company took over ATV's Midlands broadcasting?
 - 5 On which radio station is *The Archers* broadcast?
 - 6 What is the name of the Daily Mail's sister Sunday paper?
 - 7 What does BBC stand for?
 - 8 In what decade did the BBC begin a TV broadcasting service?
 - 9 Which channel was the third UK terrestrial channel?
 - 10 On which channel is *Hollyoaks* broadcast?
 - 11 On which day of the week is the Observer published?
 - 12 What type of information does CNN broadcast?
 - 13 On early ITV what was shown in natural breaks?
 - 14 Which UK Sunday newspaper was closed in 2011?
 - 15 In which decade did colour broadcasting begin in the UK?
 - 16 On which channel were colour broadcasts first shown?
 - 17 What did LWT stand for?
 - 18 Which 90s breakfast TV station was originally called Sunrise TV?
 - 19 Which TV station was named after a Spanish city?
 - 20 Which TV channels are funded by the TV licence?
- The usual gift of a £10 M&S voucher awaits the winner. Entries should be in by no later than Friday January 22. Good luck to all who enter.

October quiz answers

- 1 A will
- 2 Lewis Collins
- 3 Zwanzig
- 4 A cactus
- 5 Brazil
- 6 Street-Porter
- 7 Australia
- 8 Landscape gardening
- 9 A size of paper
- 10 Edward Woodward
- 11A herb
- 12 River Niagara
- 13 Horse racing
- 14 Cuts of beef
- 15 3
- 16 Alaska
- 17 Val Doonican
- 18 Simple Simon
- 19 14

20 Flattery

There was a lower than usual response, but nevertheless we have a winner. Congratulations to Bill Smith, ex division 033, who will shortly receive his 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 to 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 two-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 - Springfield 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)

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

December 3 to 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 trips, please ring the office on 01582 427921 or write 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).

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 - 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

plus free time in Carlisle

October 17 - Blackpool

Details of prices and times are t.b.a.

Tea Dances

November 14, 21, 28

December 12, 19

In Memoriam – Luton

Allen, Edward Rowland, Vauxhall

Died 31.10.17, Aged 97, Retired 1982

Bartlett, Frederick Charles, Division 052

Died 13.10.17, Aged 73, Retired 2003

Bastable, Roy, Division 304

Died 18.10.17, Aged 83, Retired 1996

Batcheler, Bernard, Vauxhall

Died 14.10.17, Aged 89, Retired 1988

Bishopp, Leslie Roger, Staff

Died 25.9.17, Aged 85, Retired 1989

Bradley, Donald Harry, IBC

Died 5.10.17, Aged 89, Retired 1984

Bradshaw, Eric John, Division 032

Died 14.10.17, Aged 74, Retired 2002

Burnill, Ronald Frederick, IBC

Died 12.10.17, Aged 90, Retired 1988

Cheshire, Eric Roy, Vauxhall

Died 7.10.17, Aged 94, Retired 1982

Clarke, Jean Eileen, IBC
Died 23.10.17, Aged 85, Retired 1987
Cutler, John, IBC
Died 27.9.17, Aged 72, Retired 2006
Davey, Margaret Robertson, Vauxhall
Died 16.9.17, Aged 82, Retired 1990
Deieso, Rosario, IBC
Died 23.10.17, Aged 93, Retired 1987
Eastland, Albert Edward, IBC
Died 27.9.17, Aged 93, Retired 1987
Elliott, William, IBC
Died 15.11.17, Aged 83, Retired 1992
Fahey, Joe, ISP
Died 1.2.16, Aged 79, Retired 1994
Farrar, David Eric James, Division 345
Died 1.8.17, Aged 67, Retired 2003
Garner, Ronald Lewis James, IBC
Died 5.11.17, Aged 93, Retired 1987
Gudgeon, Peter Leslie Bull, Staff
Died 18.9.17, Aged 91, Retired 1982
Hawthorne, Sybil Parpia, Division 198
Died 16.9.17, Aged 77, Retired 2000
Hegarty, Denis Christopher, IBC
Died 19.9.17, Aged 85, Retired 1989
Hucklesby, Eunice Mary, Division 091
Died 25.9.17, Aged 80, Retired 2001
Jones, Michael Roger, Division 033
Died 18.9.17, Aged 81, Retired 2000
Khan, Mohammed Saddpeque, Division 055
Died 1.10.17, Aged 85, Retired 1990
Mulholland, Robert A., IBC
Died 2.10.17, Aged 74, Retired 2006
Muttock, Francis, Division 032
Died 27.9.17, Aged 88, Retired 1993
Patel, Nathubhai Bhikhabhai, IBC
Died 25.10.17, Aged 88, Retired 1988
Powney, Ronald Arthur, IBC
Died 6.10.17, Aged 89, Retired 1987
Spruce, Barbara Laura, Staff
Died 17.11.17, Aged 97, Retired 1979
Stanford, Mary Josephine, Division 075
Died 16.10.17, Aged 68, Retired 2001
Warren, Beryl Eillen, Staff,
Died 11.11.17, Aged 86, Retired 1987
Watson, Jacqueline Mary, Vauxhall
Died 29.9.17, Aged 88, Retired 1981
Wells, Leopold Ashness, Vauxhall
Died 27.9.17, Aged 101, Retired 1979
Worby, Joseph Thomas, Vauxhall
Died 22.10.17, Aged 91, Retired 1984

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Bartley, George, Division 691
Died 12.11.17, Aged 79, Retired 2002
Beard, Jack, Division 628
Died 3.11.17, Aged 83, Retired 1997
Burgoyne, Frank Edward, Division 642
Died 30.9.17, Aged 85, Retired 1995
Croschaw, Leonard Joseph, Division 636
Died 19.11.17, Aged 89, Retired 1989
Dodd, Peter Brian, Division 670
Died 16.10.17, Aged 84, Retired 1989
Evans, David Peter, Division 674
Died 3.11.17, Aged 82, Retired 1998
Hall-Jones, Derek, Division 650
Died 16.11.17, Aged 88, Retired 1990

Hetherington, George, Division 627
Died 8.10.17, Aged 81, Retired 2000
Hughes, Robert Charles, Division 600
Died 10.11.17, Aged 80, Retired 2002
Leach, Dennis, Division 640
Died 4.10.17, Aged 77, Retired 2002
Martin, Malcolm, Division 618
Died 1.10.17, Aged 73, Retired 2008
Mills, Derek John, Division 670
Died 23.10.17, Aged 85, Retired 1993
Morley, Arthur, Division 638
Died 4.10.17, Aged 86, Retired 1994
Rudd, Robert Henry, Division 641
Died 19.10.17, Aged 73, Retired 2004
Sale, Vincent, Division 678
Died 16.11.17, Aged 86, Retired 1990
Shears, Ronald
Died 15.11.17, Aged 96, Retired 1981
Simon, Thomas, Division 627
Died 17.10.17, Aged 77, Retired 2005
Smith-Hughes, Horace, Division 641
Died 19.9.17, Aged 88, Retired 1993
Tuffy, Martin, Division 642
Died 30.9.17, Aged 82, Retired 1992
Whittaker, David Lawrence Charles, Div 642
Died 9.10.17, Aged 72, Retired 2004
Williams, James Henry, Division 641
Died 12.11.17, Aged 78, Retired 1999
Williams, Reginald David, Division 641
Died 9.10.17, Aged 85, Retired 1992

How to Access the Newsletter and 2016 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 vpa@gm.com

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, Vauxhall 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.