

Pensioners' Newsletter – October 2017

News from the South

Hi everyone,

I know that as we get older, our memories are not as good as they were, but can anyone remember having a summer this year? It seems to me that we have gone directly from spring into autumn, with my garden covered in leaves, broken twigs and acorns; all being enjoyed by a family of squirrels! They are getting ready for winter, and it won't be long before we will be thinking about Christmas and, for your information, this year the Committee has decided to stay with the VPA Christmas lunch to be held at the Riverside Suite (details in this newsletter). I hope you will be able to come along and celebrate this special time of year with friends both old and new. Thinking ahead to 2018, your VPA Committee is working hard organising the various events and outings we plan to put on for the coming year, so keep an eye out for these in the newsletter and book early, as I am sure they will sell out quickly. In the meantime, I wish you all good health.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear all,

Oh dear! As I find myself writing 'October', I wonder where the year has gone (again). We continue to enjoy our social evenings at the Whitby Club, and thanks to Simon we also enjoy some very good entertainment. The new Vauxhall Club appears to have been started, so I may have some news as the work progresses.

Our September trip was a mystery tour, and we took an almost full coach. The day dawned wet but by the time we reached our destination, the obligatory sun was peeping through. We had a good stop at a garden centre on route for coffee, where many of us cornered the market on cheap plants. I think by the time we had finished, the luggage space looked like a flower shop. We then journeyed on to Leominster for the afternoon. All in all, a good day out.

We look forward to our turkey and tinsel trip to Tenby. Mr Thomas (the hotel owner) has been able to accommodate some of the reserve list, so my apologies to those he was unable to take. As yet I don't have either the pick-up point or time, but rest assured I will let you know in good time.

The Christmas dinner has once again been booked at the Brook Meadow Hotel on Friday 15 December, timing still TBA. If you have not put your name or meal order in, be sure to do it at the October social evening.

A spring holiday has been arranged from Wednesday to Sunday, 11-15 April, to Eastbourne. We are going with Alpha Travel and staying at the Queen's Hotel which is right on the promenade. Depending on numbers, the price will be between £189 and £205, with a full day at Rye and Hastings and a full day at Brighton with lunch on the resort day.

By the time I next write we will be on a countdown to Christmas and time to dust off the posh frocks (sorry men). Till next time, cheerio

Dave Williams

Remembrance Service

The Remembrance Day service this year will take place on Sunday 12 November at 8.30am at the Kimpton Road Memorial. There will be a short service conducted by 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.

25 Years' Service Dinner

The 25 Year Club dinner will be held on Friday 20 October in the Riverside Suite at Venue 360. Tickets are £26pp and guests, who will be provided with a three-course meal and entertainment, should arrive at 6.15pm for 6.45pm. Dress code for gentlemen is lounge suits. For more information or to buy a ticket, please contact Jackie Welch at Griffin House.

Mobile phone security

The police are urging people to be vigilant whilst carrying or using mobile phones after a rise in the number of phone snatchings being reported. Apart from the more obvious suggestions such as keep your phone from view when walking, don't text while walking and make your phone calls quick, they offer the following less well-known advice and information: If your phone is stolen, call your service provider and quote your IMEI to disable the phone – you can find your IMEI number by dialling *#06# from your phone. You can also consider downloading one of the various tracker apps. Register your phone at www.immobolise.com

Gas alert

I wrote a year ago about the need to look carefully at annual renewal letters from companies you have insurance, utilities etc with. I used my annual British Gas maintenance contract as an example. Well, guess what. I recently had a renewal letter which showed a year-on-year increase of just about £120. After a phone call, it was put back to the previous level. All I can advise is challenge at every opportunity to reduce your bills. Hoping that those of you who do meet with success.

A tale of coincidences

Maurice Otway and Ivan Offer worked in the engineering department for many years and, although not aware of it when planned, both took early retirement at the same time – 31 December 1981. They both moved down south – Maurice to Ringwood and Ivan to Brockenhurst. They soon touched base with one another and have maintained a friendship supporting each other through bad

times and good ever since. Their birthdays are within a week of each other and they are both 90 years young and have been retired for almost 36 years. Their wives also had close birthday dates with each being older than their husband. They are both with the same bank, although not the same branch, but with the way banks are closing branches, that may not be the case much longer! Without any prior discussion, they both purchased a new HP laptop computer on the same day. Recently, Ivor arranged a visit to the Bovingdon Tank Museum to see some of the things he was involved in as a very junior draughtsman and rang Maurice to invite him along. Oddly Maurice had just received a call from the Engineering Old Boys telling him that the family of the late Jack Waller had passed paperwork relating to the Churchill tank to the Bovingdon Museum for the archives. Quite a few coincidences!

They are wondering if they may be the longest serving retirees. If anyone knows of any member who has been retired for more than 36 years, please write in and let us know.

A–Z of household tips – Part 2, M–Z

Mayonnaise - get rid of water rings on wooden tables by covering them with mayonnaise (not the low-fat kind) and let it sit for several hours.

Nail varnish - clear nail varnish to get rid of verrucas. Paint over the affected area and it will dry out and drop off.

Olive oil will get rid of paint stains on skin by applying and rubbing.

Penny dropped into water in a flower vase will help longevity, as will a pinch of sugar.

Q-Tip. Use a cotton bud dipped in olive oil to loosen stuck zips.

Rubber gloves, if moistened slightly, are just the thing for donning and rubbing lightly over surfaces to quickly collect dog hairs.

Sponge - use to apply sun cream on children, quicker, easier and less messy.

Toothpaste - after chopping garlic or onions, use to wash hands to remove all odours.

Umbrella - an old umbrella makes a handy drying rack. Strip off the fabric and hang upside down from shower curtain bar and attach wet clothes with pegs.

Veet if squeezed down the plughole will help get rid of hair blocking the drain.

Washing machine - clean big portions of salad leaves by putting in a pillowcase, closing up with string and washing on rinse and spin.

Xmas lights can be stored to the best advantage by taping one end to a coat hanger, winding tightly along and then taping the other end to the coat hanger.

Yoga mat when finished with can be cut up to stop furniture and pet bowls sliding around hard floors.

Zip lock bags - stretch tight fitting shoes by filling two bags with water, placing in shoes and freezing the shoes overnight. As the water expands so will the shoes.

I have to warn that I have not tried any of these tips so cannot vouch for how good they are. If any of

you do try them please let me know how you got on.

Trip to Portsmouth – 19 August

A full coach left Luton at 9.00am, arriving at Portsmouth at 11.00am before making drop offs at The Royal Navy Docks and the Gunwharf Quays, with a second stop in the town centre. As well as HMS Victory, the Mary Rose etc, there was also a chance to see the brand spanking new HMS Queen Elizabeth Air Craft Carrier (known as Big Lizzy). A mere stone's throw away was the impressive Spinnaker Viewing Tower, with stunning panoramic views from the summit, plus the obligatory cafe. There was the opportunity to take the 'walk of faith' over a glass panel and look down on the ants (sorry, people) below. Sadly for the chaps, Gunwharf Quays also boasts two large arcades of outlet shops full of bargains. There was also an array of bars, cafes and restaurants to sit and relax taking in the views of the harbour. Generally, the weather held fair to allow this. All too soon 4.30pm arrived and we left for Luton, arriving home at 7.00pm.

Trip to Wisley – 6 September

A coach crammed with ardent horticulturists left Luton at 9.00am arriving at Wisley at just before 11.30am. Thankfully, the day was sunny and calm which allowed visitors to the event to take advantage of the beautiful grounds and the many examples of wonderful flowers and plants on show. With many stalls dealing in garden type accessories, there was brisk trade in all areas. A special highlight was the marquee housing the British Dahlia Association exhibits, which came in all shapes, sizes and colours. A full day was spent in a very pleasant manner before boarding the coach for home at 4.00pm. Well done to Sylvia and Dave for organising such a super day.

October quiz

We seem to have found a winning formula with the subject of pot luck, so why change it if it's not broken.

- 1 If you die intestate what have you not made?
- 2 In the TV series *The Professionals* who played Bodie?
- 3 What is the German word for the number twenty?
- 4 What is a prickly pear?
- 5 Neymar starred in the 2014 World Cup for which country?
- 6 Media person Janet Bull changed her surname to what in her search for "yoof"?
- 7 Bob Hawke was prime minister of which country?
- 8 For what was Capability Brown famous?
- 9 What is foolscap?
- 10 On TV who played the *Equaliser*?
- 11 What type of plant is marjoram?
- 12 On which river are the Niagara Falls?
- 13 For what sport is Willie Carson famous?
- 14 Sirloin, rump and topside are all what?
- 15 How many leaves are on a shamrock?
- 16 Which American state is the largest in area?

17 Which singer was associated with a rocking chair?
 18 In the nursery rhyme who met a pie man going to the fair?
 19 How many lines are in a sonnet?
 20 Imitation is the sincerest form of what?
 The winner will receive, surprise surprise, a £10 M&S voucher. Your entries should be received by Friday 17 November. Good luck to all who enter.

August Answers

1 Fishermen	2 Nothing
3 Siam	4 H
5 Scorpio	6 Bones
7 Paul Young	8 Spoil the child
9 Violin	10 Spine
11 Bean	12 Sheba
13 John Prescott	14 November 30
15 Double Bass	16 The Mall
17 In your mouth (tooth)	18 Dick Emery
19 Thief	20 Knot

All entries received were 100 per cent correct and as per tradition, the boss' hat came into use to draw out the winner. So, congratulations to Dave Taylor. A voucher is on its way to you.

Upcoming events in the South

October 19 - Mystery Tour

£10.00pp members/£13.00pp non- members

November 22 - Mighty Wurlitzer Christmas Concert & London Lights Tour

£35.00pp members/£38.00pp non- members

December 4 - Tinsel and Turkey (five days)
 Warner's Hotel, Sinah Warren, Hayling Island
 £235.00pp members/£255.00pp non-members
 £30pp deposit required on booking.

December 14 - Christmas Lunch

Riverside Suite, Venue 360, Gypsy Lane
 12.30pm to 5.30pm

Three-course meal with Hadrian Academy Choir and music from Gerry and the Attricks
 £21.00pp. Details from the office.

Let the office know if you are interested so we can determine the sense in going ahead.

If interested in any of the above, please send a stamped addressed envelope to the office (per trip required), and include your pension number, a contact phone number, a deposit of £10.00pp and full details of name and trip required. VPA members may bring a maximum of one (1) person each per trip.

Please note that any member who cancels a booking four weeks or less before the date of the trip forfeits their deposits and may be requested to pay for any event ticket purchased by the VPA on their behalf.

Travel insurance is not included in the price of any of our trips. Please make your own arrangements.

VPA golf matches - 2017

3 October - Pairs Championship - Aylesbury
 All golf playing VPA members with a club handicap are most welcome and can register for events by writing to either Mike Roberts or Jim Heaney at the VPA office (address at the end of this ewslatter).

Tea dance schedule

Please phone office for details.

Upcoming events in the North

October 11 – Blackpool

Cost £10.00pp. Leaving club at 9.00am (**fully booked**)

November 29 - *War Horse* at the Liverpool Empire
 Cost £36.00 pp. Leaving club at 1.00pm

December 4 to 8 – Four-night Turkey and Tinsel holiday at Belgrave Hotel, Tenby (**fully booked**)

December 15 – Christmas dinner
 Brook Meadow Hotel. Timing tba.

April 11 – 15 – Eastbourne
 Queen's Hotel

Tea Dances

October 11, 18, 25

November 8, 15, 22, 29

In Memoriam – Luton

Bandy, Aubrey Randolph, Division 032

Died 28.8.17, Aged 91, Retired 1989

Barford, Peter Sydney, Division 093

Died 6.7.17, Aged 82, Retired 1994

Bateman, Stanley, Vauxhall

Died 11.7.17, Aged 93, Retired 1982

Blucher, Wilfred Benjamin, Division 002

Died 9.7.17, Aged 88, Retired 1987

Brady, Patrick, Division 093

Died 17.9.17, Aged 83, Retired 1994

Caswell, Peter, Division 861

Died 19.7.17, Aged 87, Retired 1987

Cook, Christopher Paul, Division 485

Died 7.9.17, Aged 64, Retired 2010

Eldred, Jack, Division 123

Died 14.6.17, Aged 72, Retired 2000

Essex, John Joseph Teddy, Division 051

Died 27.8.17, Aged 95, Retired 1984

Fox, Thomas George, Division 052

Died 23.7.17, Aged 82, Retired 1997

Hammond, John William, Division 380

Died 26.8.17, Aged 81, Retired 1990

Hassan, Mustafa, Division 089

Died 11.8.17, Aged 82, Retired 1990

Henry, Norman, Division 049

Died 16.8.17, Aged 86, Retired 1987

Hole, Wyndham Dennis, Staff

Died 1.9.17, Aged 89, Retired 1986

Hough, Arthur George, Division 845

Died 14.7.17, Aged 90, Retired 1987

Hyde, Eileen Pearl, Division 526

Died 6.8.17, Aged 82, Retired 1992

Jackson, Darwin Samuel, Division 093

Died 25.7.17, Aged 88, Retired 1994

Kelly, John Gardner, Division 840

Died 30.7.17, Aged 92, Retired 1987

Kotecha, Kuandanial Purshottam, BCV

Died 11.7.17, Aged 85, Retired 1987

Little, James, Division 032

Died 8.9.17, Aged 99, Retired 1982

Macauley, Keith Clucas, Division 053

Died 25.7.17, Aged 81, Retired 1994

Mander, Edmond, Division 032
Died 28.7.17, Aged 86, Retired 1989
McDonnell, Brian Sidney, Division 847
Died 18.8.17, Aged 89, Retired 1986
Miles, James Miles, Division 818
Died 30.3.17, Aged 85, Retired 1987
Morgan, George Albert, Division 093
Died 14.7.17, Aged 80, Retired 1998
Morris, Francis John, Division 846
Died 26.8.17, Aged 91, Retired 1982
Morrison, Dudley John, Division 002
Died 12.9.17, Aged 90, Retired 1987
Nelson, Charles, Division 002
Died 10.7.17, Aged 92, Retired 1987
Newcombe, Kenneth, Division 390
Died 19.8.17, Aged 79, Retired 1999
Orr, Robert Sidney, Division 043
Died 12.9.17, Aged 94, Retired 1987
Owen, Clifford, Division 051
Died 29.4.17, Aged 98, Retired 1982
Phillip, Joseph Gabriel, Division 433
Died 14.8.17, Aged 84, Retired 1989
Poole, Brian Jack, Division 401
Died 2.8.17, Aged 71, Retired 2005
Robbins, Ian John, Division 043
Died 30.7.17, Aged 65, Retired 2002
Rogers, George William, Division 380
Died 11.9.17, Aged 97, Retired 1975
Ruhl, Kenneth George, Division 525
Died 5.7.17, Aged 81, Retired 1991
Schuller, Michael, Division 032
Died 15.9.17, Aged 94, Retired 1988
Scrase, Sally Margaret, Division 032
Died 4.9.17, Aged 76, Retired 2000
Sheaf, John, Division 380
Died 5.9.17, Aged 86, Retired 1988
Smith, Colin Charles, Division 485
Died 14.7.17, Aged 78, Retired 2003
Smith, Renford Constantine, Division 093
Died 18.8.17, Aged 76, Retired 2003
Somogyi, Laszio, Division 093
Died 23.7.17, Aged 82, Retired 1994
Stapleton, Alfred Viron, IBC
Died 6.5.17, Aged 80, Retired 1994
Steel, Reginald George Wade, Division 043
Died 11.7.17, Aged 82, Retired 1995
Stewart, James Burns, Division 198
Died 15.8.17, Aged 74, Retired 2001
Strachan, James Lyall, BCV
Died 9.8.17, Aged 85, Retired 1987
Tansley, Peter Andrew, Division 527
Died 6.9.17, Aged 53, Retired 2005
Thom, Betty Theodora, Division 519
Died 12.8.17, Aged 92, Retired 1982
Trew, Leslie Vincent, Division 043
Died 3.8.17, Aged 91, Retired 1987
Ward, Lawrence Gilbert, Division 519
Died 17.7.17, Aged 88, Retired 1988
Williams, Prince Albert, Division 051
Died 20.7.17, Aged 88, Retired 1993

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Baugh, Joseph Edward, Division 617
Died 21.7.17, Aged 85, Retired 1990
Bradshaw, Bernard Benjamin, Division 629
Died 18.7.17, Aged 89, Retired 1993

Burns, Gerald, Division 641
Died 14.9.17, Aged 85, Retired 1993
Cobine, Thomas Meredith, Division 629
Died 11.8.17, Aged 74, Retired 2002
Cowie, Stuart Alexander, Division 642
Died 26.7.17, Aged 67, Retired 2006
Fallon, Peter Anthony, Division 640
Died 28.7.17, Aged 89, Retired 1989
Freeman, Albert Donald, Division 617
Died 12.7.17, Aged 92, Retired 1987
Garner, David Cecil, Division 639
Died 2.9.17, Aged 81, Retired 1995
Gibson, Patrick Joseph, Division 663
Died 13.9.17, Aged 78, Retired 2002
Jones, Frank, Division 663
Died 28.8.17, Aged 80, Retired 1999
King, Eric, Division 642
Died 1.8.17, Aged 70, Retired 2002
Norbury, Vincent Thomas John, Division 670
Died 18.7.17, Aged 83, Retired 1998
Rutter, Frederick Hugh, Division 641
Died 3.9.17, Aged 93, Retired 1977
Sadler, William George, Division 640
Died 10.8.17, Aged 81, Retired 1993
Shone, Alan, Division 640
Died 19.7.17, Aged 83, Retired 1996
Thompson, Leslie Walter, Vauxhall
Died 10.9.17, Aged 96, Retired 1986
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

Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAssociation

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

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

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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.