

Pensioners' Newsletter – August 2017

News from the South

Hi Everyone

I am afraid that I start this month on a sad note. Tom Fox, a long serving VPA Committee member and previous Vice-Chairman, passed away on July 23. He gave terrific service as a member of the Visiting Committee and of the VPA and will be much missed. Our thoughts are with his wife Pat and his family.

Well summer was a little late coming this year, but it certainly made up for it when it did arrive. In fact it's been a little too muggy even for me and I like the heat. I also like a good thunder storm and the mid-July weather did not disappoint. I hope you all escaped without any damage. As you all know the planned take-over of Opel/Vauxhall by PSA group is due to be completed at the end of this month and the VPA has held a number of meetings with Company representatives concerning the future of the VPA activities here in the South. I am pleased to say that these have been positive and we have been assured that we will continue to have an office facility and continued communication links to the Pensions Department going forward, so you should see no change in the way we run our trips and other activities. The take up of this year's trips has been excellent with the vast majority sold out, but we would like to see some new faces at our golf events. These are open to all VPA members with a handicap and are great fun, so why not contact Mike Roberts through the office and come along. Whatever you like doing please get out and enjoy the rest of the summer.

John Boast

News from the North

Hi Folks

So far I think we have enjoyed some lovely hot sunny weather, although as I sit writing this the rain is coming down like stair rods, but at least we have been spared the same misfortune as other parts of the country. I suppose it is par for the course as soon as the school holidays begin. Unfortunately the June trip to the Cheshire Show had to be cancelled due to lack of support. Likewise the August trip to the Arboretum has had to be cancelled for the same reason. It is a pity as the Committee try very hard to vary the outings, so if you have any suggestions the Committee would be glad to hear from you. This month we have had two very enjoyable trips. On July 19 an almost full coach enjoyed a lovely day in Buxton and Bakewell. Our driver made the trip enjoyable by taking the scenic route. Also in July we had another full day at Nefyn for lunch. Again we travelled through beautiful countryside down to the Nefyn Golf Club where we enjoyed a lovely leisurely lunch which gave everyone chance for a catch up and a chat. The weather was less than kind, but at least we were not out in it.

We continue to enjoy our social evenings at the Whitby Club, with some excellent entertainment and it is heartening to see some new faces to swell our numbers.

There are still a few tickets left for the outing to the Liverpool Empire to see War Horse on November 29 if you are interested.

As yet I have no further news of room availability for the Tenby trip in December, but am confident that we will be able to take at least some of the reserve list.

The autumn lunch will be at The Mill Hotel in Chester at a date to be announced.

Until next time enjoy the rest of the summer and if you are venturing away enjoy and return safely.

Cheers

Dave Williams

The A-Z of Household Tips (Part 1 A-L)

Aspirin - crush 2 tablets and mix in 100 ml of warm water. Use this mixture to get rid of sweat stains in clothes by soaking the garment for 2/3 hrs.

Bread - remove dirty or greasy finger prints from painted (not papered) walls by rubbing them with a slice of white bread.

Coffee - pour a cold cup of coffee over your head while in the shower to help keep your hair shiny.

Dishwater tablets - dipped in hot water these are great for cleaning baked-on grease/dirt in your oven.

Emery board - revive suede shoes by rubbing any stains lightly with an emery board then hold the shoe over the steam from a boiling kettle. (You are now a Freemason!)

Fabric conditioner - clean your radiators with a slash of this stuff and when the heating comes on enjoy the fragrant odour that emanates from the radiators.

Grater - if your butter is cold and hard to spread grate it first and you will find it much easier.

Hairspray - your grandchild has drawn you a picture and you want to keep it for a long time.

Easy spray it to preserve it

Ice cube trays - half a bottle of wine left over?

Freeze the rest into cubes to use in sauces, stews or casseroles.

Jumper - if a jumper has shrunk in the wash, soak in cold water with 2 tablespoons of baby shampoo, roll in a towel to remove excess water and stretch to original shape.

Ketchup - great way to keep silver jewellery shiny. Use an old toothbrush to work into grooves and rinse and dry.

Lemon - freeze slices for future use in G & T's etc. To the best of my knowledge these are all bone fide tips, but I should add here that no responsibility can be accepted by the writer or publisher of this Newsletter in the event of a malfunction.

Having written that I bet you cannot wait for part two in the next issue can you?

May 24 - The National Stud, Newmarket

After arriving at 11.15am and then checking in there was a bit of a wait until the tour started. This being a VPA outing it was decided (you've guessed it!) to have lunch at the Wavetree's Restaurant and Gift Shop. As it was a hot, fine day many of the group sat on the Restaurant veranda and sipped a cold drink with their lunch. After a leisurely lunch and a wander round the grounds it was back on the air conditioned coach where the guide joined and started the tour. This lasted about 90 minutes with the group getting off the coach at intervals for a guided walk to observe mares with foals, some magnificent stallions (still that's enough about me) and a tour of the stables. After a final stop for a cream tea (this is the VPA) to return to Luton.

June 3 - Brighton

Two coaches left for the annual outing to Brighton at 11.30am to beautiful weather if a little windy. The resort was absolutely heaving with visitors, some drawn by the latest star attraction - the British Airways i360 tower with a wrap-around pod at 162 metres for overseas visitors and 450 feet for UK residents! This provided magnificent views and, for seniors, cost only £13.50 for a 30 minute flight. There was a plethora of bars, rides, cafes, and shops selling everything from curios to cheap tourist junk. Lunch was taken in a variety of places with the Harvester being particularly popular (the Brighton equivalent of English breakfasts in Spain!) The mods and rockers were parading along the front showing of their customised machines, although there was no fighting thankfully. A great day was had by all who went.

June 12 - TLH Resort, Torquay

Setting off at 9.30am for a five day break on the English Riviera the coach arrived at the Carlton Hotel, Torquay at around 3.00pm. Extensive activities were laid on throughout the days and evenings with never a dull moment. Two coach excursions were available - the Wednesday one being a visit to Totnes and Buckfast Abbey and the Thursday trip was to Paignton and Dawlish. Some took the ferry to Brixham while others used their bus passes to go to other places of interest. With good food, clean rooms and fine weather the trip was a huge success.

June 22 - Windsor

After a short coach trip Windsor was arrived at by 10.15am. This being a coach only outing, the group dispersed on their separate ways. Some went on the Duck Tour, a yellow amphibious vehicle giving much enjoyment to all who took the ride. There was some apprehension that being a Duck tour the Duke of Edinburgh might take a pot shot, but fortunately this did not happen! There were other attractions such as a tour of the castle, an open top bus tour which allowed you to hop on and off and visit for example Eton College. Many chose to have lunch in the King & Castle Pub in Windsor. There were loads of ladies in their finery walking to Ascot for Ladies Day. The weather was nice and cool making walking a pleasant experience, given

the hot and extremely humid climate in the days preceding this trip. Another good day out and once again thanks to the office for organising it.

June 22 - Singles Championship - Redbourn

The change of venue to the Redbourn Golf Club for the 2017 VPA Singles Championship obviously suited the Committee members who played as they all won prizes in a very closely fought contest. The almost perfect conditions helped create some excellent golf with the eventual winner being John Huxley just pipping the VPA Chairman, John Boast, into second place. Another Committee member, Chris Cleary, came third and last year's winner, Alan Everitt, finished fourth. Mike Roberts, an ex VPA Chairman, won the prize for the nearest to the pin on the 4th hole and Paul Davies won the other nearest to the pin prize on the 7th hole. The players enjoyed the golf course, the late lunch and the camaraderie of the nineteenth hole.

July 20 – Beautiful – The Carol King Story

Over 50 people left Luton at just after 10.00am to travel to London Town. The destination was The Aldwych Theatre to be entertained by the musical Beautiful. First the group went to the Strand Palace Hotel where they had a two course carvery lunch which was both very much welcomed and enjoyed and then travelled to the theatre to be entertained. And entertained they were with a feast of brilliant singing and acting, with all songs being immediately recognisable and just asking to be sung along with. The afternoon flew by and in no time at all the coach was on the homeward journey to Bedfordshire. The experience was superb. Many thanks to Sylvia and Dave for their efforts in making the day so good.

June Quiz Answers

- 1 Sherlock Holmes
- 2 Cooking
- 3 Paperback
- 4 Girls
- 5 Sister
- 6 Miss Marple
- 7 Edwina Currie
- 8 Chocolate
- 9 Nelson Mandela
- 10 Hedgehog
- 11 Rosie
- 12 David Copperfield
- 13 Room at the top
- 14 Diary
- 15 Germaine Greer
- 16 Dick Francis
- 17 Stephen King
- 18 Karl Marx
- 19 Rumpole (of the Bailey)
- 20 General de Gaulle

A higher than average of all correct answers was received, but there can only be one winner pulled out of the hat. I am delighted to tell you that, on the occasion of our 29th quiz, the winner is a person from our Ellesmere Port contingent.

Please take a bow Mrs Anne Atherall and many congratulations at breaking the northern duck and making it south 28, north 1. A voucher is on the way to Anne. So come on you VPA northern members and close that gap.

August Quiz

We return to Pot Luck for this month's topic.

- 1 What were Peter and Andrew prior to becoming disciples?
- 2 If you are in your birthday suit what are you wearing?
- 3 What is the former name of Thailand?
- 4 Which letter describes a hard lead pencil?
- 5 Which Zodiac sign is usually shown as a scorpion?
- 6 Osteoporosis affects which part of the body?
- 7 Whose first UK No 1 hit was titled "Wherever I Lay My Hat"?
- 8 According to the proverb, what happens if you spare the rod?
- 9 Stephane Grappelli is associated with what instrument?
- 10 What do vertebrates have that invertebrates do not?
- 11 Which word links dwarf, runner and broad?
- 12 Which Queen visited Solomon in the Bible?
- 13 Who was Tony Blair's first Deputy PM?
- 14 On which date is St Andrew's Day?
- 15 Which is the larger - cello, viola or double bass?
- 16 Buckingham Palace is at the end of which famous London road?
- 17 Where would you find an incisor?
- 18 Who used the catch phrase "Ooh, you are awful, but I like you"?
- 19 In cockney rhyming slang, what is a tea leaf?
- 20 What can be a granny, sheepshank and bowline? As usual a £10 M & S token goes to the winner. The closing date for entries is Friday, September 22. Good luck to you all.

Upcoming Events in the South

August 19 - Portsmouth (coach only)
£12.00 pp members/£15.00 pp non members

September 6 - RHS Wisley Flower Show
£21.00 pp members/£24.00 pp non members
RHS Members £10.00 pp

October 19 - Mystery Tour
£10.00 pp members/£13.00 pp non members

November 22 - Mighty Wurlitzer Christmas Concert & London Lights Tour
£35.00 pp members/£38.00 pp non members

December 4 - Tinsel & Turkey (5 days) Warner's Hotel, Sinah Warren, Hayling Island
£235.00 pp members/£255.00 pp non members
£30 pp deposit required on booking

December 14 - Christmas Lunch
Riverside Suite, Venue 360, Gypsy Lane
12.30pm to 5.30pm
3 course meal with Hadrian Academy Choir and music from Gerry and the Attricks
£21.00 pp. Details from the office.
Let the office know if you are interested in any of the above trips 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 £10.00 pp 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 4 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

October 3 - 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 Newsletter).

Tea Dance Schedule

Please phone office for details.

Upcoming Events in the North

September 14 - Mystery Tour "Autumn Tints"
Cost £10.00 pp. Leaving Club at 9am (fully booked)

October 11 - Blackpool

Cost £10.00 pp. Leaving Club at 9am (fully booked)

November 29 - War Horse at the Liverpool Empire
Cost £36.00 pp. Leaving Club at 1pm

December 4 to 8 - 4 night Turkey and Tinsel holiday at Belgrave Hotel, Tenby (**reserve list**)

Date t.b.a. - Mill Hotel, Chester
Autumn Lunch

Tea Dances

No tea dances during August
September 12, 19, 26

In Memoriam - Luton

Bell, Hilda Jean, IBC

Died 20.4.17, Aged 86, Retired 1988

Carter, Howard John, Division 292

Died 17.5.17, Aged 86, Retired 1986

Conquest, Sidney Walter, Division 527

Died 26.4.17, Aged 87, Retired 1993

Daniel, Harold William, Staff

Died 24.3.17, Aged 84, Retired 1987

Dove, William Albert, Staff

Died 5.5.17, Aged 89, Retired 1988

Durrant, Kathleen, Division 192

Died 29.3.17, Aged 97, Retired 1977

Ellis, Herman Joseph, Division 032

Died 8.5.17, Aged 77, Retired 1995

Flynn, Noel Francis, Division 089

Died 24.3.17, Aged 80, Retired 2000

Grover, Peter Ronald, Staff

Died 1.5.17, Aged 88, Retired 1989

Harrison, Sidney, Division 114

Died 26.4.17, Aged 83, Retired 1999

Hollands, William Robert, Division 439
Died 26.4.17, Aged 89, Retired 1987
Impey, Roy Reginald, Division 117
Died 10.5.17, Aged 78, Retired 1995
Jabber, Mohammed Abdul, Division 150
Died 30.4.17, Aged 76, Retired 2002
Jarvis, Clifford, Division 074
Died 10.5.17, Aged 81, Retired 2001
Khan, Abdur Rahim, Division 490
Died 14.3.17, Aged 85, Retired 1987
Leo, Lionel Hubert Richard, Division 493
Died 23.8.16, Aged 91, Retired 1982
McCambridge, William John, Division 046
Died 30.1.17, Aged 94, Retired 1987
Mead, Brian Frederick, Division 525
Died 13.4.17, Aged 88, Retired 1993
Petti, Giovanna, IBC
Died 16.3.17, Aged 90, Retired 1988
Prospere, Francois, IBC
Died 5.4.17, Aged 70, Retired 2003
Romain, Lewis, IBC
Died 22.1.17, Aged 81, Retired 1994
Rosenthal, Ronald George, Staff
Died 6.4.17, Aged 88, Retired 1987
Ross, William, IBC
Died 25.4.17, Aged 77, Retired 2003
Sanson, Leonard S., Staff
Died 10.4.17, Aged 88, Retired 1987
South, Leonard Michael, Division 193
Died 24.4.17, Aged 90, Retired 1982
Stapleton, Anthony Leslie, IBC
Died 24.3.17, Aged 83, Retired 1988
Stretton, Dudley Arthur, Staff
Died 23.4.17, Aged 86, Retired 1986
Sutton, David George, IBC
Died 28.4.17, Aged 71, Retired 2006
Terrell, Anthony John, Division 355
Died 30.3.17, Aged 81, Retired 1993
Tullett, David Henry, Division 229
Died 30.4.17, Aged 94, Retired 1982
Weston, Veronica Sheila Georgina, Staff
Died 13.4.17, Aged 90, Retired 1981
Willett, Thomas Eric, Staff
Died 4.5.17, Aged 97, Retired 1975
Wilson, Edwin Wilfred, Staff
Died 4.4.17, Aged 87, Retired 1987

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Anoruo, Godwin, Division 639
Died 31.3.17, Aged 87, Retired 1994
Arrowsmith, Lawrence, Division 638,
Died 4.4.17, Aged 63, Retired 2013
Baxter, Walter Elliott Alexander, Division 638
Died 16.4.17, Aged 95, Retired 1985
Davies, Cyril Kingsley, Division 691
Died 24.8.16, Aged 83, Retired 1993
Dobson, Herbert William, Division 610
Died 13.4.17, Aged 87, Retired 1989
Fleetwood, Edward Martin, Division 642
Died 16.4.17, Aged 79, Retired 2001
Hennessey, Francis Patrick, Division 628
Died 15.5.17, Aged 83, Retired 1998
Hoey, Matthew Peter, Division 627
Died 7.5.17, Aged 81, Retired 1999
Lacey, George, Division 641
Died 2.4.17, Aged 81, Retired 1998

Lewis, Robert, Division 642
Died 2.4.17, Aged 81, Retired 1990
McCrae, John Henderson, Division 642
Died 14.4.17, Aged 91, Retired 1987
Morning, Edward, Division 610
Died 6.4.17, Aged 78, Retired 2003
Munro, Alexander, Division 610
Died 20.4.17, Aged 93, Retired 1982
Popplewell, Joe, Division 628
Died 13.4.17, Aged 83, Retired 1998
Prior, Edward, Division 628
Died 26.3.17, Aged 87, Retired 1988
Reilly, Desmond John, Division 640
Died 12.5.17, Aged 73, Retired 1998
Ruscoe, Roy George Thomas, Division 642
Died 5.4.17, Aged 84, Retired 1997
Smith, Kenneth Arthur, Division 608
Died 30.3.17, Aged 85, Retired 1992
Sparks, Brian Phillip, Division 638
Died 9.4.17, Aged 75, Retired 1995
Stamper, William Thomas, Division 610
Died 6.4.17, Aged 74, Retired 2002
Thompson, Douglas Ludwig Lennerman, Div 616
Died 23.3.17, Aged 88, Retired 1993
Williams, Francis William, Division 617
Died 25.3.17, Aged 86, Retired 1997
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/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@vauxhall.co.uk

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.