

# ***Pensioners' Newsletter – April 2017***

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## **News from the South**

Hi everyone, I hope you are all well and looking forward to the spring (if it ever comes!).

Remember, the VPA trips are filling up fast, so if you fancy a trip out to see our beautiful spring countryside, give the office a call.

On 20 March, 106 pensioners met in the Riverside Suite to attend the VPA Southern Plants AGM.

They heard presentations from Vauxhall representatives, who shared as much information as they could about the proposed takeover of Opel/Vauxhall by PSA and the future plans regarding pensions. They then had a preview of a letter being posted to all pensioners explaining the latest situation and following this had an opportunity to ask questions. Everyone seemed to go away satisfied with what they had learnt.

Enjoy the lighter nights ahead.

*John Boast*

## **News from the North**

Hi folks, I would like to start with a huge thank you to all those who supported us at the new venue in February and to those unable to attend, you missed a great night. The room we have at the club, as I am sure you will agree, is a lovely venue and much more suited to our needs than the Astra Bar. It is well appointed and the staff are very welcoming. Simon arranged a Neil Diamond tribute act, which was well received. I hope you will continue to support us while we are there and indeed when we eventually return home.

The AGM was held at the March social evening, with all officers and committee being returned for a further year. This was followed by a return visit of one of our favourite artists, namely Julie A. Scott, who is such a friendly and down to earth yet professional entertainer with an astounding voice.

Our March trip, which was the first of the year, saw an almost full coach set off in sunshine for a trip through the pretty North Wales countryside, with a coffee stop in Llangollen followed by a short run to a garden centre. Here we all enjoyed a superb lunch courtesy of the club. Thank you to all who came. I hope this trend will continue with the rest of the trips as I think we have arranged a good, varied list – hopefully something for everyone, so please support us. At the moment, it is proposed we leave cars at the front of Vauxhall Club in the car park, which is where the coach will leave from. If things change, we will inform you.

Judging by the sunshine and colour outside my window, I think spring, after a late start, has well and truly sprung. By the time I next write it will (or should) be summer, so any of you that are venturing on holiday I hope you have a good time and come back safely. Till next time.

Cheerio,

*Dave Williams*

## **Scam alert**

All retired persons should be aware of the following scam. Fraudsters are contacting people by phone to tell them of a 'new' requirement to file a 'retired person's' tax return each year. Details are then taken over the phone to help the retiree complete the form. They are then told they must pay an £80 late filling in fine as the form should have been submitted in January.

If taken in, victims not only lose £80, but also will give away important information. This is a scam. There is no such form or requirement to give information.

## **Proposed panto trip**

It is proposed, subject to interest, to run a trip to a top ranking pantomime this Christmas. The panto is called *Jack and the Beanstalk*, will be on at the New Wimbledon Theatre and is the 2pm matinee performance on Saturday 9 December. The cost is £35 per person and includes a top price ticket. As is usual with these shows, the cast will not be announced until the middle of the year, but this theatre is within the top group in the country. VPA members are welcome to bring children and grandchildren, so please contact the office to book your places.

## **For the love of words**

Time to return to an old favourite - Lexophilia - or the art of the pun. I wondered why the ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

Police were called to a child's nursery, where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

A thief fell and broke his leg in wet cement. He became a hardened criminal.

Scientists believe the theory of earthquakes is based on shaky ground.

The dead batteries were given out free of charge.

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 and I'll show you an A-flat miner.

## **Did you know that**

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase "goodnight, sleep tight".

In the 1400s, a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have a rule of thumb.

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was initially known as "Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden". And thus the word 'golf' entered the English language.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.  
 If a statue of a person is on a horse with both front legs in the air, the rider died in battle. One leg in the air signifies that the rider died because of wounds received in battle. All four legs on the ground signifies the rider died of natural causes.  
 It was accepted practice in Babylon in years gone by that for a month after a wedding the father of the bride would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead, of course, is a honey beer. As the Babylonian calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month. We now know this as the honeymoon.  
 In old English, tavern ale was ordered by the pint or quarter. When drinkers were unruly, the landlord would yell at them "mind your pints and quarters". That is how "mind your Ps and Qs" came about.

### 7 February – Mickie's Palace

33 people left Luton to travel to London to visit Mickie's Palace to see the *Happy and Glorious Show*, which followed a splendid roast beef lunch. The group had a brilliant time singing along with all of the songs from yesteryear and arrived home having had a good day out. Thanks to the office for organising and to Sylvia for playing head girl.

### 16 March – Leicester

A full coach set off to visit the National Space Centre and the Richard the Third visitor centre. On arrival at the Space Centre, coffee was taken before the tour started. This included a film show, an exhibition of space crafts and side rooms displaying various artefacts and photographs. The group then moved on to the Richard the Third centre to view a video of his life and to see where his bones were found, before going to view his tomb.  
 All in all, an interesting day was had by the group. Usual thanks to Sylvia and the office for their efforts.

### April quiz

The answers to the clues below are all connected in some way to a circus, fair, fete or carnival.

- 1 Everest summit (3 3)
- 2 Clean teeth after having sugary sweet (5 5)
- 3 Descend haphazardly (6 7)
- 4 They can use balls, cards or tea leaves (7 6)
- 5 Perhaps seen dancing to Strauss (7)
- 6 Rogers and Hammerstein 1956 musical (8)
- 7 Chelsea perhaps (6 4)
- 8 The tallest man at the fair (5 6)
- 9 Had a top ten hit with *Perfect* in 1988 (10 10)
- 10 Grown up cat handler (4 5)
- 11 Scary ride (5 5)
- 12 The name suggests avoidance, although really they are a hit (7)
- 13 Seen on the Thames on New Year's Eve (8 7)
- 14 Throwing a large trunk of timber (7 3 5)
- 15 Event where a pig has the starring role above a fire (3 5)
- 16 Ford produces a party (6)
- 17 Pamplona in July (7 2 3 5)
- 18 Vehicles can leave you in traction here (5 6 5)

- 19 Shrove Tuesday in Brazil (5 4)
  - 20 Consumer of high temperature combustibles (4 5)
- The closing date is Friday 19 May, with a £10 M&S voucher to the winner.

### Answers to February's quiz

- 1 Budapest
- 2 Candice Brown
- 3 Auntie Wainwright
- 4 Sophie Countess of Wessex
- 5 Rule the World
- 6 Six
- 7 Brexit
- 8 Tim Peake
- 9 Lord Lucan
- 10 June 23 2016
- 11 Harper Lee
- 12 McDonald's
- 13 Kirk Douglas
- 14 Will Young
- 15 Birmingham
- 16 Canada
- 17 New Faces
- 18 Cuba
- 19 Hatton Garden Heist
- 20 Kenny

In a three-way tie of 20 correct entries, the boss picked Steve Waterhouse out of the hat. A voucher will shortly be on its way to him.

### Upcoming events in the South

#### 2017 Events

- 20 April** - Under Bearskins/Imperial War Museum  
 £34pp members/£37pp non-members
- 24 May** - The National Stud, Newmarket  
 The 90-minute tour includes the history of the National Stud and a tour of the stables, where you can see mares with foals. Lunch is available on site.  
 £22pp members/£25pp non-members
- 3 June** - Brighton (coach only)  
 £12 pp members/£15pp non-members
- 12 June** - TLH Resort, Torquay (five-day break)  
 Details through the office  
 £230pp members/£240pp non-members  
 £30pp deposit required on booking
- 22 June** - Windsor (coach only)  
 £11pp members/£13pp non-members
- 20 July** - Twickenham Tour (National Rugby Stadium) **Please Note Change of Date**  
 Go behind the scenes to see some of the most interesting areas of the stadium. Visit the Royal Box, the players tunnel with a pitch-side walk and see the England dressing room.  
 £24pp members/£27pp non-members
- 19 August** - Portsmouth (coach only)  
 £12pp members/£15 pp non-members
- 6 September** - RHS Wisley Flower Show  
 £21pp members/£24pp non-members  
 RHS Members £10pp
- 19 October** - Mystery Tour  
 £10pp members/£13pp non-members

**22 November** - Mighty Wurlitzer Christmas Concert & London Lights Tour. One hour organ concert of old time and seasonal favourites, plus a saxophone, clarinet and a vocalist with an old fashioned sing-a-long, followed by sherry and mince pies before taking a tour of the London Christmas lights and finishing with time for hot drinks at a market or other festive location.  
£35pp members/£38pp non-members

**4 December** - Tinsel & Turkey (five-days)  
Warner's Hotel, Sinah Warren, Hayling Island  
£235pp members/£255pp non-members  
£30pp deposit required on booking

**14 December** - Christmas meal - format to be decided at time of writing.

**Dec/Jan** - Pantomime - to be decided.

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 £10pp 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**

**11 May** - Texas Scramble - Abbey Hill

**22 June** - Singles Championship - Redbourn

**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 newsletter).

#### **Tea dance schedule**

Please phone office for details.

#### **Upcoming Events in the North**

**12 April** - Fleetwood and St Anne's

Cost £10pp. Leaving club at 9am

**21 April** - lunch at Eastham Golf Club

12.30pm for 1pm

**18 May** - Spring Mystery Tour

£10pp. Leaving club at 9am

**25 May** - *Billy Elliot* at the Liverpool Empire

£30 pp. Leaving Club at 1pm

**21 June** - Cheshire Show

Cost tba. Leaving club at 9am

**19 July** - Bakewell and Buxton

Cost £10pp. Leaving club at 9am

**16 August** - The Arboretum

Cost £10pp. Leaving Club at 9am

**14 September** - Mystery Tour "Autumn Tints"

Cost £10pp. Leaving Club at 9am

**11 October** - Blackpool

Cost £10pp. Leaving club at 9am

**29 November** - *War Horse* at the Liverpool Empire  
Cost £36pp. Leaving club at 1pm

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

There will be a summer and an autumn lunch - venues and dates still to be decided.

#### **Tea Dances**

18, 25 April                      9, 16, 23, 30 May

#### **In Memoriam – Luton**

**Allen**, Florence Cicely, VM Staff

Died 10.3.17, Aged 90, Retired 1986

**Barker**, William Frederick, Division 022

Died 8.2.17, Aged 93, Retired 1982

**Barker**, Arthur William, Division 497

Died 11.2.17, Aged 98, Retired 1982

**Bignell**, Arthur Gordon, Division 154

Died 15.2.17, Aged 94, Retired 1982

**Birchmore**, Margaret Ferguson, VM Staff

Died 14.2.17, Aged 93, Retired 1982

**Bray**, John William, Division 149

Died 17.2.17, Aged 77, Retired 2000

**Brodie**, Inez Winifred, Division 037

Died 28.1.17, Aged 93, Retired 1983

**Byrne**, Patrick Joseph, Division 861

Died 21.2.17, Aged 90, Retired 1987

**Chambers**, Edith Kitty Johnson, VM Staff

Died 30.1.17, Aged 98, Retired 1975

**Clarke**, Leo William, Division 015

Died 20.1.17, Aged 77, Retired 2002

**Collins**, Kenneth Desmond, VM Staff

Died 29.1.17, Aged 96, Retired 1980

**Dean**, Ronald Gilbert, Division 009

Died 12.2.17, Aged 89, Retired 1987

**Di Giovanni**, Demonico, Division 851

Died 10.3.17, Aged 89, Retired 1987

**Drumm**, Francis Joseph, Division 824

Died 23.1.17, Aged 86, Retired 1987

**Fitzpatrick**, Cora, Division 436

Died 6.2.17, Aged 86, Retired 1988

**Ginger**, Lily, VM Staff

Died 19.2.17, Aged 91, Retired 1986

**Godfrey**, Leslie, Division 046

Died 26.1.17, Aged 87, Retired 1993

**Grant**, Felikss Victors, Division 392

Died 12.2.17, Aged 96, Retired 1982

**Kelly**, Patrick, Division 844

Died 20.1.17, Aged 90, Retired 1987

**Knight**, William George, Division 150

Died 26.10.16, Aged 88, Retired 1993

**Kotecha**, Nanalal Dwarkadas, IBC

Died 2.3.17, Aged 77, Retired 1994

**Mitchell**, Lionel Joseph, BCV

Died 21.1.17, Aged 85, Retired 1986

**Oliver**, Raymond Herbert, Division 051

Died 19.2.17, Aged 77, Retired 1998

**Pay**, Maurice Eric, VM Staff

Died 24.1.17, Aged 94, Retired 1981

**Plaintano**, Guiseppe, Division 454  
Died 13.1.17, Aged 91, Retired 1982  
**Rolfe**, Victor Reginald, Aftersales  
Died 19.2.17, Aged 86, Retired 1988  
**Smith**, Robert, Division 032  
Died 17.2.17, Aged 90, Retired 1987  
**Sweetman**, David Martin John, VM Staff  
Died 18.1.17, Aged 81, Retired 1990  
**Tetziuff**, John Michael, VM Staff  
Died 4.2.17, Aged 101, Retired 1976  
**Tomkowski**, Kazimierz, Division 845  
Died 15.2.17, Aged 96, Retired 1982  
**Tyler**, Jean Eileen Valerie, Vauxhall  
Died 6.2.17, Aged 85, Retired 1990  
**Wildman**, Margaret, Vauxhall  
Died 2.2.17, Aged 85, Retired 1987  
**Wright**, Cyril Edmund, Division 192  
Died 5.2.17, Aged 92, Retired 1981

### **In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port**

**Alcock**, William Godfrey, Division 678  
Died 4.3.17, Aged 83, Retired 1992  
**Barnes**, Peter John, Division 671  
Died 24.1.17, Aged 86, Retired 1988  
**Batterton**, William Edward, Division 625  
Died 6.2.17, Aged 88, Retired 1988  
**Briggs**, Derek, Division 616  
Died 24.1.17, Aged 84, Retired 1988  
**Caine**, Hugh, Division 635  
Died 7.2.17, Aged 93, Retired 1982  
**Ellis**, Henry, Division 616  
Died 26.2.17, Aged 78, Retired 1999  
**Gowland**, Charles Lester, Division 627  
Died 3.3.17, Aged 74, Retired 2002  
**Hamill**, Thomas Vincent, Division 629  
Died 27.12.16, Aged 79, Retired 1996  
**Hill**, Robert Ian, Division 663  
Died 14.2.17, Aged 83, Retired 1991  
**Jones**, William, Division 776  
Died 3.2.17, Aged 99, Retired 1981  
**Jones**, Hywel, Division 625  
Died 12.1.17, Aged 89, Retired 1983  
**Kneen**, Philip Warren, Division 672  
Died 19.1.17, Aged 63, Retired 2006  
**Langham**, Leslie Arthur, Division 642  
Died 1.2.17, Aged 86, Retired 1993  
**Lawson**, Leslie, VM Staff  
Died 18.1.17, Aged 88, Retired 1990  
**Lilley**, Thomas William, Division 628  
Died 25.2.17, Aged 83, Retired 1998  
**Lloyd**, Charles Reginald, Division 629  
Died 17.3.17, Aged 98, Retired 1982  
**Lomax**, Raymond Godfrey, Division 638  
Died 30.1.17, Aged 67, Retired 2006  
**McAllister**, Joseph William, Division 640  
Died 12.2.17, Aged 78, Retired 1993  
**McGonigle**, Frederick, Division 663  
Died 4.3.17, Aged 82, Retired 1999  
**McNamara**, George Cornelius, Division 670  
Died 23.2.17, Aged 88, Retired 1989  
**Merrick**, Ernest Edward, Division 706  
Died 3.3.17, Aged 94, Retired 1982  
**Newns**, Harold, Division 616  
Died 6.3.17, Aged 87, Retired 1992

**Pacey**, David, Division 526  
Died 6.9.16, Aged 79, Retired 1994  
**Pancholi**, Arvindlal Maganlal, Division 527  
Died 1.3.17, Aged 73, Retired 2003  
**Robertson**, James Paisley, Division 642  
Died 27.2.17, Aged 85, Retired 1987  
**Smith**, Leslie, Division 616  
Died 30.12.16, Aged 74, Retired 2002  
**Smith**, Colin Malcolm, Division 610  
Died 25.2.17, Aged 69, Retired 1998  
**Stenhouse**, David, Division 629  
Died 20.2.17, Aged 87, Retired 1993  
**Stimpson**, William, Barnabas, Division 316  
Died 19.2.17, Aged 86, Retired 1993  
**Thirlwell**, Robert George, Division 527  
Died 8.3.17, Aged 68, Retired 2008  
**Thomas**, Edward Barrie, Division 704  
Died 29.1.17, Aged 94, Retired 1982  
**Tyler**, Paul Frederick, Division 642  
Died 7.3.17, Aged 77, Retired 2002  
**Wainwright**, Richard William, Division 629  
Died 30.12.16, Aged 76, Retired 2001  
**Weightman**, John Bernard, Division 641  
Died 26.1.17, Aged 79, Retired 1994  
**Whitty**, Edmund Paul, Division 641  
Died 15.2.17, Aged 67, Retired 2005  
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/VauxhallPensionersAsociation](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:

[hana.tucker@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto:hana.tucker@vauxhall.co.uk)

### **Useful Telephone and Contact Information**

#### **VPA South**

VPA Office 01582 427921

Office is manned Tuesday and Friday  
between 10am and 2pm.

E-mail [vpa@gm.com](mailto: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](mailto:marion.mcdonald@vauxhall.co.uk)

Cherie Denton, Vauxhall Welfare Officer 01582  
427204

E-mail [cherie.denton@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:normanmcgregor3@gmail.com)

The views expressed in this newsletter are not  
necessarily those of the company.