

Pensioners' Newsletter – February 2017

News from the South

Hi everyone,

Well, here comes 2017! All the turkey has finally been eaten, roast, cold, curried and in a variety of sandwiches, the sprouts have ended up in the bubble and squeak (love it!) and the cake is on its last legs. I hope you all had a happy Christmas and avoided the nasty cough that seems to be doing the rounds. Unfortunately I didn't, but, fingers crossed, it seems to be on its way out at last. As in past years, the VPA has received a generous donation from the company and is, therefore, able to go ahead with all the activities we planned for the year. I hope that as you look at the list of outings, you will find something that interests you and fits your budget. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Committee members for the time and effort they put into making 2016 another successful year for the VPA and I look forward to seeing you in 2017.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear all,

I will begin this month's newsletter by wishing you all a Happy New Year. I hope you all had a good Christmas and did not succumb to too many of the horrible bugs that were lurking.

The trip to Scarborough was a huge success and I am sure everybody had a good time. The hotel was lovely and the staff were friendly and welcoming. The food and entertainment were excellent and several of us came home richer than we went due to winning the bingo! To top it all, we had five days of clear blue skies and not a drop of rain in sight. We will have to see if we can re-order the same for the next holiday which, as yet, is still at the planning stage. Be assured, however, that as soon as I have definite details I will let you know.

The Christmas dinner was good and the evening made enjoyable courtesy of Simon who, as usual, did a great job of entertaining us, admirably assisted by Kirsty.

The news on the club has changed again. We are now at the Whitby Sports and Social Club (the Shell Club) from the February social night, due to the building work having already started. On behalf of the Committee, I do hope you will all support us while we are at the new venue and also when we return home.

We are now taking names for the trip in November to the Liverpool Empire to see *War Horse*. The cost of the tickets is £36pp. A £10 deposit is required when booking.

So, until next time when I hope spring will be in full swing - cheerio!

Dave Williams

2017 AGM

The southern plant's AGM will take place on Monday, March 20 at 2.15pm in the Riverside Suite at Venue 360, Gypsy Lane, Luton. Refreshments will be available prior to the start of the meeting.

New car plan

We are pleased to be able to share with you details of the new expanded eligibility for Vauxhall's car plan. If you are currently in receipt of payments from a GM, or related company pension plan, then you are now entitled to take a vehicle on the Vauxhall car plan.

With Vauxhall car plans, you can now drive a brand new car for a new low monthly cost. Everything is included but your fuel and we will change it for a brand new one every 7-9 months or 12,000 miles. You can even let a family member, friend or colleague drive the car if you don't need it yourself. Great prices are available on a wide selection of models. For further details please call Vauxhall Fleet Management on 0870 850 3250 or e-mail fleetmanagement@vauxhall.co.uk

Storm alert

Storms hitting our shores this have been, or will be, called Angus, Barbara, Conor, Doris, Ewan, Fleur, Gabriel, Holly, Ivor, Jacqui, Kamil, Louise, Malcolm, Natalie, Oisin, Penelope, Robert, Susan, Thomas, Valerie and Wilbert. Hopefully, no more will be required. Evidently storm names cannot begin with Q, U, X, Y or Z (I do not know either).

December 5 - Turkey and Tinsel

47 members set off from Luton to the Isle of Wight for an early Christmas/New Year celebration at the Warner's Bembridge Coast Hotel.

Rooms were clean with comfortable beds and TVs etc. The complex had a small gym, a medium sized indoor swimming pool and a large indoor bowling green plus two golf courses, one for putting only and the other for pitch and putt.

Organised walks were also available. The large ballroom had entertainment every evening courtesy of the hotel entertainment team and visiting acts which were enjoyed by all who participated.

Some of the group saw the departure the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious on its final journey from Portsmouth to Turkey. Some made the trip to Osborne House and enjoyed the guided tour while others took hotel arranged activities such as wine tasting and boat trips for example.

All in all, a good time was had and thanks to Sylvia for her efforts during the break.

December 15 - Christmas lunch

In a break from tradition, the usual evening dinner and dance was replaced by a lunch with entertainment. This was done to try to get the

attendee numbers back up, as they have steadily fallen in recent times.

It is difficult to gauge the success of this move as the numbers were in line with the previous year. Perhaps anyone with thoughts on this matter can contact the office and let us know.

Feedback indicated that the food was very good and delivered hot to the table, a reversal of comments in previous years. The singer was well liked, although once she had finished people tended to drift off, not realising that a school choir were coming to sing carols so fewer than 50 per cent stayed to see them, which was a pity as by all accounts they were excellent.

In summary, thanks to Sylvia and the team for their sterling efforts in arranging the day.

Your body

Did you know that:

During your lifetime you will produce enough saliva to fill two swimming pools (footballers evidently a lot more!).

The strongest muscle in the human body is the tongue, as most husbands will testify.

We each have a unique smell, except identical twins who smell the same.

Sneezes regularly exceed 100mph while coughs are slower at 60mph.

Your body gives off enough heat in 30 minutes to boil half a gallon of water.

Your body has enough iron in it to make a three inch nail.

A human head remains conscious for about 15 to 20 seconds after it has been decapitated.

The hardest bone in the body is the jawbone.

Let Us Tell The Grandchildren How Brave We Were Growing Up

In these elf and safety conscious days we should sometimes sit and think of what it was like when we were young.

Our cots were decorated with brightly coloured lead-based paints.

We had no child proof lids on medicine bottles and when we rode our bikes we had no helmet.

Even though most shops closed at 5.30pm and many were shut all weekend somehow we didn't starve to death.

We had no Playstations, Nintendos, Xboxes, God knows how many channelled cable TV, no computers, mobile phones etc. We had friends and went outside in the fresh air, used our imagination and played together.

Only girls had pierced ears and you could only buy Easter eggs and hot cross buns at Easter.

Our parents got married before they had kids and didn't give them stupid names.

In the summer holidays we would leave the house after breakfast, play all day long and return home for tea and we drank from a bottle of drink of pop with friends and no one got ill.

We ate white bread with real butter, took in loads of sugar and ate lots of sweet food without getting overweight because we were always playing outside.

Our parents gave us boundaries, manners and love, but did not spoil and indulge us mistaking it for love.

So while not everything in our youth was perfect I cannot help but think we had it better than the kids do today.

February quiz

By way of a change, and to test your memories (or ability to google), the subject this issue is 2016.

1 Zsa Zsa Gabor was born in 1917 in which European city?

2 Who won the *Great British Bake Off* final?

3 What character did Jean Alexander play in *Last of the Summer Wine*?

4 Which Royal completed a 445 mile bike ride for charity?

5 Which horse won the 2016 Grand National?

6 Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt separated. How many children (including those they adopted) do they have between them?

7 A British withdrawal from the European Union is commonly known by which term?

8 Which British astronaut made a spacewalk in January?

9 Who was declared dead in the High Court in February?

10 What was the date was the referendum on EU membership?

11 Which 1961 Pulitzer Prize winning novelist died in February?

12 Which international brand announced it was moving its non-US tax base from Luxembourg to the UK?

13 Which film star celebrated their 100th birthday on December 9?

14 Which celebrity (?) caused a stir by leaving BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing*?

15 In which city did Theresa May hold her first Conservative Party Conference?

16 Which country did William and Kate visit five years after they had visited as newlyweds?

17 Victoria Wood started her career by winning which TV talent show?

18 Philip Hammond became the first UK Foreign Secretary to visit which country since 1959?

19 What was labelled by many as the biggest burglary in English legal history?

20 Laura Trott married a fellow Olympian. What is her new surname?

The closing date is Monday, March 20, 2017 with the winner receiving a £10 M&S voucher.

December Answers

1 California

2 Thinking man's crumpet

3 London Eye

4 Medway Towns

5 Bakerloo

6 Old Kent Road

7 Lloyds

8 Wide

9 News of the World/Daily Mirror

10 Rourke Drift

11 Spruce

- 12 Stenographer
- 13 Aylesbury
- 14 Lucky
- 15 Achtung
- 16 SAAB
- 17 *Diamonds are Forever*
- 18 Catherine Cookson
- 19 Jeffrey Archer
- 20 Leonard Spencer (either will do)

In a month of many totally correct answers, the winner was selected using the famous hat. Congratulations to Dave Walton, who will shortly receive his voucher. As usual, thanks to all who took part and boo to all who did not.

Upcoming Events in the South

2017 Events

February 7 - Mickies Palace, Wood Green
'Happy and Glorious Show' includes Roast beef lunch

£27.50 pp members/£30.00 pp non members

March 16 - Leicester (Space Centre and Richard Third Discovery Centre)

£28.00 pp members/£31 pp non members

April 20 - Under Bearskins & Imperial War Museum (learn all about the Guards and their history in the morning, pub lunch, coach tour of the Zeppelin Trail and finish at the Imperial War Museum)

£34.00 pp members/£37.00 pp non members

May 24 - The National Stud, Newmarket
£22.00 pp members/£25.00 pp non members

June 3 - Brighton (coach only)

£12.00 pp members/£15.00 pp non members

June 12 - TLH Resort, Torquay (5 day break)

Details through the office

£230.00 pp members/£240.00 pp non members

£30 pp deposit required on booking

June 22 - Windsor (coach only)

£11.00 pp members/£13.00 pp non members

July 6 - Twickenham Tour (National Rugby Stadium)

£24.00 pp members/£27.00 pp non members

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 Meal - format to be decided at time of writing.

Dec/Jan - Pantomime - to be decided. 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 £10.00 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

May 11 - Texas Scramble - Abbey Hill

June 22 - Singles Championship - Redbourn

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

February 7 - first social at the Shell Club

March 7 - AGM and hot pot supper

March 23 - Trip to Bridgemere

£10pp. Departure time TBA

April 12 - Fleetwood and St Anne's.

£10pp. Leaving Club at 9am

April 21 - Lunch at Eastham Golf Club

12.30pm for 1pm lunch

May 18 - Mystery Tour

£10pp. Leaving Club at 9am

June 21 - Cheshire Show

Cost and departure time TBA

November 29 - War Horse at Liverpool Empire

£10pp. £10 deposit required.

Tea Dances

February 14, 21, 28

March 14, 21, 28

In Memoriam – Luton

Barden, Donald Hugh, Division 340

Died 25.12.16, Aged 81, Retired 1990

Best, Geoffrey, IBC

Died 19.12.16, Aged 78, Retired 1994

Bolton, Basil Leslie, BCV

Died 12.11.16, Aged 93, Retired 1986

Bowler, Arthur Ronald, Division 468

Died 10.12.16, Aged 90, Retired 1982

Brien, Frances Elizabeth, Staff

Died 29.11.16, Aged 89, Retired 1987

Cardwell, Brian, Vauxhall

Died 2.12.16, Aged 82, Retired 1990

Fowler, John, Division 032

Died 8.10.16, Aged 80, Retired 1995

Gordon, Shemroy Nathaniel, BCV

Died 25.12.16, Aged 85, Retired 1987

Harris, Herbert Alan, Division 242
Died 11.1.17, Aged 95, Retired 1986
Harris, Donald Roland, Division 302
Died 19.12.16, Aged 86, Retired 1995
Martindale, Eleanor Joyce, Division 438
Died 20.11.16, Aged 85, Retired 1982
McCormick, Keith Lester Walpole, Division 082
Died 13.1.17, Aged 83, Retired 1996
McLaren, Eric, IBC
Died 24.11.16, Aged 79, Retired 1999
Meade, Alan Edward, Division 523
Died 3.12.16, Aged 79, Retired 1993
O'Brien, Christopher James, IBC
Died 30.12.16, Aged 85, Retired 1987
Plowman, Bryan Edward, BCV
Died 9.1.17, Aged 84, Retired 1988
Pollard, Vera Sarah, Division 897
Died 3.12.16, Aged 89, Retired 1982
Rawlings, Arthur, IBC
Died 14.12.16, Aged 84, Retired 1987
Robinson, Thomas William, Staff
Died 3.12.16, Aged 87, Retired 1990
Simpson, Mervin Thomas, Division 015
Died 12.12.16, Aged 86, Retired 1995
Sletcher, Henry Harold, IBC
Died 24.12.16, Aged 92, Retired 1987
Spring, Sidney Herbert, Division 032
Died 25.12.16, Aged 85, Retired 1993
Szulerecki, Edmund Kazlimierz, Division 905
Died 22.11.16, Aged 90, Retired 1984
Thompson, Ileene, Division 198
Died 29.11.16, Aged 80, Retired 1993
Waring, Moria June, Vauxhall
Died 29.12.16, Aged 87, Retired 1982
Wilkins, Leonard Frank, Division 022
Died 3.1.17, Aged 103, Retired 1978
Wilson, Charles John, Division 832
Died 2.1.17, Aged 90, Retired 1984

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Aspinall, Alan, Division 630
Died 15.12.16, Aged 88, Retired 1994
Atherton, Charles Dennis, Division 628
Died 22.1.17, Aged 76, Retired 2000
Davoren, James Thomas, Division 610
Died 12.1.17, Aged 74, Retired 2004
Edwards, Alan Garmon, Division 664
Died 17.11.16, Aged 92, Retired 1988
Edwards, Noel Godfrey, Division 625
Died 5.12.16, Aged 87, Retired 1981
Fildes, Peter Ernest, Division 641
Died 19.1.17, Aged 66, Retired 2011
Francis, Leslie, Division 627
Died 28.11.16, Aged 83, Retired 1993
Gorman, William David, Division 639
Died 25.11.16, Aged 79, Retired 2002
Henderson, Ronald, Division 604
Died 14.12.16, Aged 90, Retired 1988
Jones, Norman, Edmond, Staff
Died 25.12.16, Aged 88, Retired 1987
Messham, Donald Wilfred, Division 628
Died 5.12.16, Aged 76, Retired 2001

Newport, John Leslie, Division 608
Died 1.12.16, Aged 94, Retired 1987
O'Connor, William Joseph, Division 616
Died 29.11.16, Aged 89, Retired 1992
O'Malley, John Joseph, Division 670
Died 16.11.16, Aged 83, Retired 1998
Podmore, Gordon, Division 691
Died 25.12.16, Aged 77, Retired 1992
Saphier, Graham John, Division 617
Died 11.1.17, Aged 64, Retired 2008
Skinner, David, Division 643
Died 13.1.17, Aged 63 Retired 2013
Wainwright, Joseph, Staff
Died 25.11.16, Aged 82, Retired 1989
Williams, Terence John, Division 627
Died 30.11.16, Aged 78, Retired 1994
Wood, Charles Harold, Division 663
Died 24.12.16, Aged 81, Retired 2000
Wood, John William, Division 670
Died 8.11.16, Aged 87, Retired 1993
Woods, Leslie, Division 663
Died 2.12.16, Aged 82, Retired 1998
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:

hana.tucker@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.