



Pensioners' Newsletter – December 2016

News from the South

Hi everyone,

Well it's that time of year. Gone is the sun and the warm summer evenings and here is the wind, rain, cold and grey skies. Oh joy, I'll be hunting for that little white ball under all the leaves again! Still, there is Christmas to look forward to, sitting by the fire with a glass of wine and a mince pie or perhaps you would like to join us at the VPA Christmas lunch. Whatever your plans are, the VPA Committee hope that you keep safe and warm and have a happy time over Christmas and into the New Year. The team have put together a great programme of events for 2017 and we hope to see you on some of them. Remember, if you know of any Vauxhall pensioner in need of help at this time of year, please contact Cherie Denton of the Welfare Fund. We do not want any of our Vauxhall family cold and forgotten. Finally, I am sad to report that Jack Harris, who served for many years as Treasurer of the VPA, has passed away along with Olive Read (Ted's wife), who supported him with running the tea dances. You can find an article on Olive in this Newsletter.

Once again, merry Christmas from the VPA Committee.

John Boast

News from the North

Hi folks,

It is hard to credit that another year is almost over and Christmas is looming large.

We have only had one trip since I last wrote, which was a successful trip to Blackpool. As yet, no trips for 2017 have been arranged, but hopefully I will be able to let you have a full itinerary in the New Year.

As I said last time we were preparing to move to a new venue. The Committee looked at several places and narrowed it down to two suitable ones, the British Legion at Little Sutton and the Whitby Sports and Social Club. It was put to the members to vote and the vote went to Whitby Sports and Social Club. At the last minute, we were granted a stay of execution due to the building work not having started, but we will definitely be in our new (temporary I hope) venue for the March social. As I write this, 42 of us are preparing to leave for Scarborough where I hope we will all have a good time.

When we return it will be time to dust down the glad rags in time for the Christmas dinner, which is on December 16 and once more will be at the Brook Meadow Hotel.

All that remains for me to do is wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year wherever you are spending it. Cheerio for now,

Dave Williams

Olive Read

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of Olive Read, wife of Committee stalwart Ted Read. They ran the very successful VPA tea dances for many years and nationally taught and judged dance as well as competing. Our thoughts are with Ted at this difficult time.

Let My Misfortune Help Others

I recently gave someone a lift into Luton to catch a 757 bus from the bus stop (which is set back from the road) in Church Street, between the entrance to the Arndale Centre and the Parish Church. The time was 8.40am and from start to finish, I was pulled in for approximately 25 seconds.

I had carried out this activity a number of times in the past. Imagine my surprise when I received a letter informing me that I had stopped on a restricted bus stop and was liable to a £70 fine. Let me say straight away the fault was entirely mine and I can have no complaints.

The reason for this article is to warn others not to be as unaware as me. Incidentally, when I rang up the council I was told that the restriction was in place to avoid congestion at the bus stop. I asked what I should do in order to drop a person off who has difficulty in walking and was told that a 20 or so second stop on a double yellow line (on the main road) would be ok. I personally would not risk this course of action as it was verbal advice. So just be careful as it's an expensive mistake to make.

Five Most Common Tactics used by Scammers

- 1 *Pretending to be from a well-known brand.* Mentioning the name of trusted organisation, for example banks or utility companies, adds to the credibility of the call.
- 2 *Getting you to share important information.* By revealing to you a piece of personal information the scammer is encouraging you to share other details which could put you at risk.
- 3 *Convince you that there is a problem.* These people often describe a made up issue that does not exist but, because they have caught you on the hop, you may believe them.
- 4 *Force you to rush and panic.* They want to discuss a problem that needs immediate action. The adding of a sense of urgency may take away your time to ask questions.
- 5 *Make the call sound genuine.* Playing the background noise of a busy office or bringing

another person into the call are common techniques to add credibility to the call.

If you believe you have been the victim of a scam, you should ring Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or go online to actionfraud.police.uk

Oct 6 - Faversham & Whitstable

A coach replete with VPA'ites left Luton on a dry and sunny but chilly morning, arriving firstly in Faversham after a good (?) drive on the M25. Faversham is an olde world market town and our first stop was for a coffee or tea at the Sun Inn. Once replenished, we had a walking tour of the town, which captured the beauty of the place, and provided some interesting information about the buildings etc. By now we were ready for lunch, which meant a return to the Sun Inn. We then went to Whitstable and had an enjoyable walking tour along the sea front before having a one hour free time break, after which we visited an apple orchard place (think garden centre with apples not plants!) for a cream tea. Having had a good journey on the motorway in the morning, we certainly paid for it in the evening as the M25 was closed due to an accident and we had a long detour home. Still, all in all, it did not spoil a good day out and, as usual, thanks to the office for their efforts.

Nov 10 – Dickensian Christmas

Two coaches carrying 85 happy passengers on board set off from Luton bound for the City of London to visit the old fish market, the emporium that is called Fortnum & Mason and to partake in a fish and chip lunch. The journey to London went without a hitch (God bless the M25!). Tour guides were collected at Madame Tussauds and then reality kicked in as the coaches travelled at a snail's pace at best before stopping at the Mad Hatters pub for a tea/coffee break. The fish market was driven by (evidently the business of the day was over!) After a mini tour of the usual landmarks it was back to the pub for fish and chips, which were much appreciated. Then on to Fortnum & Mason. On entering the retail palace there was a display of their Christmas hampers. When seeing the prices most of the groups were taken aback at the cost and it was generally felt that if we had sold one of the coaches we might, just might, have afforded a couple. Unfortunately, the coach company would not play ball! Instead, most purchased economically, mainly to get the bag. It was then back on the coaches and to fight the traffic on the M25/M1. Despite the slow movement on the roads a good day was had by all.

October 4 - VPA Golf Pairs Championship

Taking advantage of the warm and sunny weather, 26 members ventured on to the course at the Aylesbury Golf Club to compete for the Peter Johnson Pairs Championship trophy. For many, this was the first time they had played this course, which was made worse by difficult wind conditions. However, the play was of a high standard. The winners were Mike Roberts and

Chris James with 44 points. Runners up, with 42 points, were Phil Thrussell and Fred Burrell, and Jim Gleasure and John Barber took the bronze with 41 points. The nearest to the pin competitions were won by Roger Deane and Jim Heaney respectively, and John Boast sunk the longest putt of 150 yards. As is traditional, the play on the course was followed by revelry off the course in the shape of beer, banter and beef and ale pie. It was a good day out which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. As usual, proceeds from the raffle were donated to a local hospice.

December Quiz

We continue with the pot luck theme:

- 1 Which is the largest American State by population?
- 2 What phrase was Joan Bakewell known by?
- 3 What famous landmark was designed by David Marks and Julia Barfield?
- 4 What name is collectively given to the towns of Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester and Strood?
- 5 Which 'B' is a line on the London Underground which opened in 1906?
- 6 What is the cheapest property on the UK monopoly board?
- 7 Where in London are all ships registered?
- 8 What is a cricket umpire signalling with both arms outstretched horizontally?
- 9 Piers Morgan used to edit which English national newspaper?
- 10 Where specifically in the Zulu Wars were 11 Victoria Crosses won in a single action?
- 11 Which 6 letter word can mean neat and smart and also a Christmas tree?
- 12 What is the American word for a shorthand typist?
- 13 Which town is the Administrative Headquarters of Buckinghamshire?
- 14 Which 'L' was the nickname of Lord Lucan?
- 15 Which 'A' German word means attention or beware?
- 16 Which car company makes models called Carlsson and Sonett?
- 17 Jill St John played Tiffany in which James Bond film?
- 18 Who wrote the books Bondage of Love, Branded Man and Kate Hannigan?
- 19 Who wrote Kane and Abel?
- 20 What was the middle name of Winston Churchill?

The closing date is Monday, January 16, 2017, with the winner receiving a £10 M&S voucher. Good luck to all who enter.

October Answers

- 1 2
- 2 The eye
- 3 Red Rose
- 4 Jamaica
- 5 Trois
- 6 Animal
- 7 Fire
- 8 Reveille
- 9 Limerick

- 10 Max Bygraves
- 11 Greece
- 12 Laurence
- 13 Brush
- 14 Etc
- 15 Jellyfish
- 16 Are zoos
- 17 Tap
- 18 U
- 19 Speaking to them
- 20 3

With a higher than usual number of entrants, the names of the all correct respondents were put in the hat and Pete Laurence was extracted. Congratulations to him and a voucher is on the way. Thanks also to all of you who entered and shame on you to those that 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. 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.

£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 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

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

Dec 16 - Brook Meadow Hotel

Christmas Dinner - 6.30pm for 7.15pm.

2017 trips will be included in February Newsletter.

Tea Dances

December 13, 20, 27

January 10, 17, 24, 31

In Memoriam - Luton

Ali, Main Manawar, BCV

Died 13.6.16, Aged 79, Retired 1987

Allen, Herman George, Division 015

Died 17.10.16, Aged 85, Retired 1996

Bromfield, Dorothy Pearl, Division 506

Died 4.11.16, Aged 87, Retired 1981

Brumpton, Arthur William, Division 301

Died 14.11.16, Aged 100, Retired 1975

Cabut, Nadzija, IBC

Died 24.10.16, Aged 88, Retired 1987

Carpenter, Peter Ivor Percival, Staff

Died 6.10.16, Aged 83, Retired 1988

Crawley, Kenneth Percy, BCV

Died 10.10.16, Aged 84, Retired 1988

Denton, Peter Robert, Division 032
Died 10.10.16, Aged 70, Retired 2002
Derviller, Roy Frederick, Staff
Died 22.11.16, Aged 91, Retired 1982
Dunne, Herbert Joseph, IBC
Died 29.9.16, Aged 75, Retired 2006
Durrington, Gordon, Vauxhall
Died 3.10.16, Aged 101, Retired 1979
Fowler, John, Division 032
Died 10.10.16, Aged 79, Retired 1995
Higgs, Carole Vivienne Virginia, Division 032
Died 14.11.16, Aged 75, Retired 2001
Horne, Robert Francis, Staff
Died 14.11.16, Aged 93, Retired 1987
Jordan, Francis Joseph, Division 435
Died 10.10.16, Aged 96, Retired 1982
Keay, Alan Richard, Division 051
Died 4.11.16, Aged 63, Retired 2006
Lathwell, Leslie David, Division 527
Died 31.10.16, Aged 68, Retired 2011
Lawrence, Thomas, Division 350
Died 7.11.16, Aged 96, Retired 1976
Meakins, Raymond William, IBC
Died 19.10.16, Aged 73, Retired 2002
Murray, Hugh Sylvester, Division 527
Died 21.9.16, Aged 80, Retired 2002
O'Shea, Patrick Francis, Division 527
Died 4.11.16, Aged 74, Retired 2002
Page, Kenneth, Division 224
Died 12.10.16, Aged 97, Retired 1976
Parcell, Betty Sheila, Division 037
Died 18.10.16, Aged 82, Retired 1991
Parker, Ronald John, BCV
Died 30.8.16, Aged 85, Retired 1988
Smith, Vivian, Division 033
Died 7.11.16, Aged 80, Retired 1995
Stanbridge, Claude Roy, Division 015
Died 26.9.16, Aged 82, Retired 1993
Thomas, Frank, Division 515
Died 27.9.16, Aged 95, Retired 1981
Wade, John Otho, BCV
Died 2.11.16, Aged 90, Retired 1987
Willey, Stephen John Pedder, BCV
Died 29.7.16, Aged 89, Retired 1987
Wood, Dennis Robert, BCV
Died 7.11.16, Aged 85, Retired 1988
Wright, Hugh Vincent, BCV
Died 5.10.16, Aged 86, Retired 1987
Young, Albert Edward, Division 117
Died 7.11.16, Aged 74, Retired 2002

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Allan, John Phillip, Division 643
Died 17.10.16, Aged 89, Retired 1992
Berry, John Joseph, Staff
Died 10.11.16, Aged 91, Retired 1982
Bryan, John Albert, Division 663
Died 26.9.16, Aged 76, Retired 1999
Clarke, Albert Edward, Division 628
Died 2.11.16, Aged 84, Retired 1997
Davies, Arthur, Division 674
Died 15.11.16, Aged 77, Retired 2004

Every, David William, Division 642
Died 7.11.16, Aged 65, Retired 2002
Fenton, Barry Goodwin, Staff
Died 16.11.16, Aged 75, Retired 2006
Gillham, John William, Division 640
Died 25.10.16, Aged 69, Retired 2002
Gilmer, John Division 675
Died 8.11.16, Aged 60, Retired 2007
Henderson, Alan, Division 641
Died 25.10.16, Aged 59, Retired 2011
Jones, Arthur Davies, Division 627
Died 19.10.16, Aged 79, Retired 2001
Lipscombe, Shaughan, Division 616
Died 14.11.16, Aged 81, Retired 1998
MacKenzie, Malcolm Alexander, Division 663
Died 26.9.16, Aged 81, Retired 1998
Roberts, Charles, Staff
Died 15.9.16, Aged 92, Retired 1989
Rosser, Arthur Reginald, Division 663
Died 5.10.16, Aged 82, Retired 1994
Sampson, Joan Edna, Division 6417
Died 8.11.16, Aged 94, Retired 1981
Sneddon, Margaret, Staff
Died 17.10.16, Aged 99, Retired 1979
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 online, 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.