

Pensioners' Newsletter – October 2016

News from the South

Hi Everyone:

I have to start this time with the sad news that Maureen Clark, one of our long serving Committee members, has passed away. You can read a special article about Maureen, who I am sure many of you will remember, in this issue. On a lighter note I had the pleasure last month of accompanying one of our pensioners, Mr Walter Randall, and his son on a trip around the Heritage Centre, organised and conducted by Andrew Boddy. Walter really enjoyed the chance to look at all the vintage Vauxhalls on display and chat to Andrew about them and his time with Vauxhall. Why is this in the Newsletter you may ask? Well Walter is a few weeks off being 101 years young and walked around the Centre with just the aid of a stick!! Thanks to Andrew and the guys at the Heritage Centre for making Walter's day. Finally it looks like the autumn is almost here after what turned out to be a very nice, although late summer. So all you gardeners out there will have plenty to do. Me? I'm getting ready to enjoy the autumn colours on the golf course.

John Boast

News from the North

Hello All:

You may remember last time I wrote that we were jetting off for a wedding. Well I am pleased to report we had two lovely sunny weeks in Tofino on Vancouver Island. The wedding was just perfect, a beautiful sunny day in a wonderful setting on the edge of the Clayoquot Sound. It was lovely to have all the family together in one place if only for a little while.

The mystery tour was a great success. The weather was perfect and we ended up in Skipton. We had almost a full coach which was good to see. Let's hope our future trips can be as well supported. We had a lovely lunch at the Eastham Golf Club, so once again thanks must go to the Committee for organising this.

At last we have some definite news as to the immediate future of the Club. Planning permission was granted recently for the building of houses and flats on the Club site, and as the work is due to start in November we now have to find a suitable alternative venue in which to hold our social evenings. As yet we have not secured one, but hopefully we will have some news on that at the social evening on October 4, so do try and be there so you know where we will be after the move. It looks as if we will be at the alternative venue until the new Club is built.

The Blackpool trip will leave from the club at 9am on October 12.

At present we will be able to park our cars in the

back car park when we go on the Turkey and Tinsel holiday. That is if we still have a car park in November! If not we may have to make alternative pick up arrangements.

Christmas dinner has been booked at the Brook Meadow Hotel once again. It will be on December 16 at 6.30pm for dinner at 7.15pm, so out with the glad rags.

That's all for now, so cheerio folks.

Dave Williams

Maureen Clark

Maureen, a long serving member of the VPA Committee, passed away on August 9 aged 76 years. I know that a great many of you will know Maureen, not only from her work with the VPA, but also her time at Vauxhall. Maureen joined the Company straight from college in the 1950s and following a career break to raise her family, returned in March 1970. She spent all of her time at Vauxhall in the Finance Department, starting as an NCR accounting machine operator and following several other positions ended up with the onerous task of vetting employee's expense reports, a role which I can assure you from my own experience she was very good at. Maureen retired in August 2004 and joined the VPA in March 2006. She gave up a great deal of her time working in the VPA office and was a very popular group leader on the coach outings. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this sad time.

Facebook and the VPA

We have embraced social media by opening up our own Facebook group. By joining you can be kept up-to-date with our diary dates as the full list of 2016 events is pinned to the top of the group's timeline. Once a member you can interact with fellow VPA'ites and even re-connect with old colleagues. You can share photographs providing they are relevant to the VPA and not controversial! You can find the group at:

www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAsociation

Bill Saul is our resident expert on this and he frequently puts items relevant to the VM history on line. So give it a go and see what you think.

Jamming Devices - Car Owners Beware!

We are hearing a new (to us) means of breaking into cars. It involves the use of a jamming device which, it appears, can be picked up on the internet for around £30. Would be thieves keep watch for people locking their car remotely with the key fob and by using this device prevent the remote from working. In other words the car remains unlocked. It is suggested that after locking with the remote you should manually check that the door is locked

or else lock car doors the old fashioned way by turning the key in the lock.

Good News for Older Drivers

The idea that older persons are bad drivers is a myth, according to research undertaken by Swansea University, which shows that they are no more dangerous on the road than other users - and are, in fact, safer than boy racers. It also adds that forcing pensioners to give up driving may be worse for their health than staying behind the wheel. Swansea University researcher, Charles Musselwhite, said "my research suggests that while people think older people are dangerous on the road - they aren't". He also adds "people also think testing older people will make the roads safer - it won't".

He told the British Science Festival in Swansea that while older people are more likely to be killed or injured, it was due to frailty making injuries more serious rather than having more crashes.

Janet Morrison of the charity Independent Age said "driving is usually not about having the fastest reaction speeds, but about having the knowledge and experience to keep yourself and other road users safe. Driving can be a vital part of staying independent and older people should not be subjected to unnecessary driving restrictions on the basis of misconceptions about their capabilities". To which I can only add - hear, hear!

A Small Ask Can Save Lots of Money

I guess many of us pay our bills by direct debit. For example I pay my gas insurance annually by 12 months' worth of direct debits. When I received the latest renewal notice it had increased by over £100 from last year, despite the fact that I have made no claims in that period. So I rang the gas company and said it seemed a bit steep and what could we do to reduce the quote. As I expected introducing an excess would reduce costs or taking out certain items (my policy includes 3 items of white goods for example) would also reduce costs. When I stated that this was still not making me happy they finally offered (finally!) a price hold for the next year. In other words a no rise policy with the same terms. Success!! If you have direct debits do challenge at every opportunity, you never know what might be the outcome. I cannot wait to talk to Virgin Media, Sky and the rest of them.

Things Not to Put in the Fridge

I read this article and thought it might be instructive.

Bread will go stale faster in an airless fridge than a bread bin and is best kept in a cool dry place.

Onions and garlic can taint other foods in a fridge and are best stored in a dry, dark, ventilated area.

Avocados are best kept in open brown bags.

Tomatoes will lose their taste in a fridge and are best stored at room temperature.

Only cakes with real cream should be refrigerated.

All others are best kept in airtight containers.

Honey never goes off so can be kept in a cupboard.

Melons only need to go in the fridge when cut up.

Coffee will absorb other smells in the fridge. Starch in potatoes is converted to sugar at low temperatures, and when baked or fried, the sugar can react to form a harmful chemical called acrylamide.

However, to redress the balance I love to eat chocolate fresh from the fridge!

Brassingham Gardens - July 28

The 6th outing of the 2016 programme saw 49 members set off from Luton heading for the Brassingham Steam and Gardens in Norfolk. On arrival the boys were presented with a choice of three rides - a Standard Gauge Railway, the Waveney Valley Railway and a Nursery Railway, all of which visited different parts of the site. Other attractions were the Dad's Army Museum, a Victorian Gallopers Roundabout, a garden centre, a restaurant, a cafe, the obligatory gift shop and, of course, the fine landscaped gardens.

Thankfully the weather was good and all too soon it was time to get on the coach to return home. As usual, thanks to Sylvia for looking after the group.

Thames River Cruise and Buckingham Palace – August 18

54 eager travellers arrived at Greenwich, only to find that the boat was running late (leaves on the water!). So being Brits a queue was formed and people waited with good humour until the boat arrived. There followed a pleasant and informative trip before disembarking at the Houses of Parliament. After a break to take refreshments the group boarded a coach bound for Buckingham Palace and guess what - they were running late, so another queue was formed and after about an hour entry was gained to see the main attraction, a display of royal dresses which was well received by the women and a couple of dubious men!

A big thanks to Sylvia for coping with all the delays.

Mystery Tour - September 15

A full coachload of VPA'ites, agog with trembling anticipation, left Luton at 9am and arrived in Chichester at 11.15am having seen more motorways than anyone wanted to. The weather was hot with plenty of sunshine and Chichester itself is a charming, picturesque place which is totally bewitching and owes much to the cathedral, which to the astonishment of all was free to explore. There were an abundance of shops, eating establishments and pubs to satisfy all tastes and splendid peaceful gardens in the cathedral grounds. All too soon the coach was waiting at 4.30pm and after a journey from hell (thanks mainly to the M25) we arrived in Luton around 8pm. Thanks to the team for the usual efforts which resulted in a great day out.

October Quiz

The theme continues with Pot Luck:

1 What is the greatest number of consecutive calendar months with 31 days?

- 2 What name is given to the calm area at the centre of a hurricane?
 - 3 What flower is the symbol of the British Labour Party?
 - 4 Kingston is the capital of which island?
 - 5 What is the French word for the number 3?
 - 6 Is a sponge animal, vegetable or mineral?
 - 7 According to the proverb there is no smoke without what?
 - 8 Which army bugle call is played to wake up the troops?
 - 9 Which Irish town gives its name to a 5 line humorous verse?
 - 10 Who was renowned for saying "listen, I wanna tell you a story"?
 - 11 Which country produces the pine scented wine called retsina?
 - 12 What is the Princess Royal's married name?
 - 13 What is the tail of a fox called?
 - 14 Which abbreviation means "and so on"?
 - 15 What is a Portuguese man-o-war?
 - 16 What do London, Whipsnade and Chessington have in common?
 - 17 What is the British equivalent of an American faucet?
 - 18 Alphabetically, which is the last of the vowels?
 - 19 What are we not doing if we send someone to Coventry?
 - 20 How many balls are used in billiards?
- The closing date is Thursday, November 17 with the winner receiving a £10 M & S voucher. Best of luck to you if you submit an entry.

August Answers

- 1 Lily
 - 2 3 points
 - 3 Meg
 - 4 Tear gas
 - 5 Zhivago
 - 6 Henry Fielding
 - 7 Polish
 - 8 Single
 - 9 13
 - 10 Fish
 - 11 C5
 - 12 Pheasants
 - 13 F Scott Fitzgerald
 - 14 Terry
 - 15 Roberts
 - 16 String
 - 17 Caracas
 - 18 Water divining
 - 19 Milhous
 - 20 Laughing gas
- Congratulations to our winner this month, namely Jim Penfold. An M & S voucher is on its way.

Upcoming Events in the South

- Oct 6** - Faversham & Whitstable. City & Village tours (inc coffee & lunch) £31 pp
- Nov 10** – Dickensian Christmas. Visit old meat and fish markets, Mayfair, Fortnum & Mason (inc coffee and fish and chip lunch) £31 pp

Dec 5 – Tinsel & Turkey, Bembridge Coast Hotel, (Warners) Isle of Wight (4 nights) £250 pp including coach. Option to visit Osborne House to see Victorian Christmas decorations on Wednesday December 7 – cost £15 pp.

Dec 15 – Christmas Lunch

Venue 360, Gypsy Lane 12 noon for 12.30pm
£18 pp.

Tea Dance Schedule

Oct 1, 19

Nov 2, 16, 30

Dec 14

As usual this event is held in the Riverside Suite commencing at 2pm and costs £1 per person.

Upcoming Events in the North

Oct 12 - Blackpool trip

Depart Club 9.00am. £10 pp.

Nov 28 – Turkey and Tinsel

5 days staying at New Southlands Hotel, Scarborough. Including a day in Whitby and a day in York. £161 pp. Deposit of £65 required.

Dec 16 – Brook Meadow Hotel

Christmas Dinner – 6.30pm for 7.15pm.

Tea Dances

October 11, 18, 25

November 8, 15, 22, 29

In Memoriam – Luton

Ball, Derek Henry, Division 074

Died 15.8.16, Aged 82, Retired 1998

Bishop, Cecil, BCV

Died 22.8.16, Aged 83, Retired 1988

Broome, Richard, BCV

Died 24.7.16, Aged 67, Retired 2003

Bullard, Frederick Eastwood, Division 117

Died 27.7.16, Aged 77, Retired 2002

Cipullo, Alessandro, VM Hourly

Died 6.8.16, Aged 88, Retired 1988

Clark, Maureen Patricia, Division 326

Died 9.8.16, Aged 76, Retired 2004

Crowley, Rhona Maud, VM Staff

Died 8.8.16, Aged 99, Retired 1975

Darton, Keith John, BCV

Died 30.7.16, Aged 85, Retired 1987

Fensome, Clifford James, BCV

Died 5.8.16, Aged 86, Retired 1987

Green, Maurice Rex, VM Staff

Died 11.9.16, Aged 87, Retired 1988

Griggs, John, Division 089

Died 3.8.16, Aged 80, Retired 1995

Gunn, George William, VM Hourly

Died 29.8.16, Aged 87, Retired 1987

Harte, John, Division 239

Died 29.7.16, Aged 90, Retired 1987

Harvey, James Harry, Division 827

Died 7.9.16, Aged 91, Retired 1987

Holden, John, VM Hourly

Died 11.8.16, Aged 83, Retired 1987

How, Ronald Arthur, BCV
Died 8.9.16, Aged 89, Retired 1988
James, Gordon, Division 527
Died 4.8.16, Aged 58, Retired 2002
Maraia, Rocco Antonio, Division 500
Died 3.8.16, Aged 84, Retired 1993
Mingo, Sheila Erelida, Division 838
Died 3.9.16, Aged 83, Retired 1987
Murphy, Patrick Malachy, BCV
Died 9.7.16, Aged 93, Retired 1987
Nanton, Charles, Division 838
Died 23.8.16, Aged 98, Retired 1981
Prescott, Samuel, BCV
Died 8.8.16, Aged 90, Retired 1987
Pudney, Betty, VM Staff
Died 22.7.16, Aged 97, Retired 1979
Pugh, David John, Division 046
Died 19.8.16, Aged 88, Retired 1991
Quinn, Teresa, Division 302
Died 11.7.16, Aged 78, Retired 1992
Reid, Joseph Bartholomew, Division 041
Died 8.7.16, Aged 78, Retired 2002
Ryan, Maurice, BCV
Died 20.7.16, Aged 91, Retired 1987
Sargent, Kenneth Roy, Division 430
Died 19.8.16, Aged 93, Retired 1982
Shorey, John Albert, BCV
Died 22.6.16, Aged 79, Retired 1994
Smith, Robert Edward, VM Hourly
Died 5.9.16, Aged 80, Retired 2001
Spillane, William John, Division 015
Died 29.8.16, Aged 86, Retired 1994
Stringer, Aubrey, Division 454
Died 9.7.16, Aged 93, Retired 1985
Troisi, Filippo, Division 033
Died 31.7.16, Aged 82, Retired 1998
Whale, Herbert Anthony Norton, VM Staff
Died 3.8.16, Aged 90, Retired 1988
Wilkie, Malcolm Melles, Division 349
Died 12.8.16, Aged 66, Retired 2005
Wyatt, Edwin Thomas, Division 032
Died 4.9.16, Aged 82, Retired 1998

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Achilles, Alan Sydney, Division 663
Died 3.9.16, Aged 80, Retired 1999
Allen, George, Division 616
Died 17.7.16, Aged 89, Retired 1988
Costello, Isaiah, Division 625
Died 26.7.16, Aged 94, Retired 1982
Haggie, Keith David, Division 625
Died 2.8.16, Aged 85, Retired 1988
Hardman, Robert, Division 641
Died 3.8.16, Aged 82, Retired 1993
Hill, Victor, Division 642
Died 5.8.16, Aged 84, Retired 1993
Howard, Raymond, Division 674
Died 31.8.16, Aged 80, Retired 2000
Hutchinson, Christopher, Division 674
Died 4.7.16, Aged 68, Retired 2006
Huxley, James William Alfred, Division 616
Died 4.7.16, Aged 81, Retired 1993

Kieran, Christopher, VM Staff
Died 7.7.16, Aged 85, Retired 1990
Nijs, Jan, Division 670
Died 4.8.16, Aged 95, Retired 1983
Phillips, Eric William, Division 641
Died 13.7.16, Aged 78, Retired 2002
Rimmer, Joseph Anthony, Division 642
Died 18.7.16, Aged 81, Retired 1999
Rimmer, Edwin William, Division 642
Died 1.7.16, Aged 87, Retired 1987
Robinson, John, Division 642
Died 9.8.16, Aged 79, Retired 1999
Scott, William, Division 678
Died 10.7.16, Aged 81, Retired 1992
Shaw, George Anthony, Division 663
Died 24.8.16, Aged 79, Retired 1999
Stading, Brian Lawrence, Division 642
Died 20.7.16, Aged 70, Retired 2003
Thompson, Michael Robert, Division 612
Died 10.8.16, Aged 79, Retired 1992
Watts, Alan, Division 605
Died 16.7.16, Aged 88, Retired 1988
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

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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.