

# **Pensioners' Newsletter – June 2016**

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## **News from the South**

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are all well and starting to enjoy the warmer weather. It's great to be back in the garden, fixing the mower, cutting the grass, getting rid of the weeds and doing all those jobs that appear at this time of the year (alright, I am lying!), but it is nice out on the golf course.

By now, you should have received a letter from Vauxhall asking you to provide them with your contact details, so that they can begin a communication link with you. I want to let you know that the VPA has been involved in this initiative and is fully behind it. Since the demise of the Vauxhall and then *GM Mirror*, we have tried to re-establish a link between the company and VPA members with the introduction of this Pensioners' newsletter, the link to the Pensioners' website and the recent introduction of the Facebook page, which we see this as yet another tool in pensioners knowing what's going on at Vauxhall. Please don't just throw it in the bin. Have a read and then decide what you want to do.

Well, having done all my jobs, I am now going to sit in the garden with a beer (if the rain ever stops!) All the best,

*John Boast*

## **News from the North**

Dear all,

How is your summer coming along? After a lovely warm dry spell it appears to have reverted to the norm of wet and windy, although it is lovely sitting here watching all the young birds being fed outside my window.

There is not a lot to report this month, as we have had quite a quiet period. The Llandudno trip went ahead despite there only being 19 of us. Our cut off point is 25 for financial reasons but, as some people unfortunately cancelled at the last minute, we went anyway. We enjoyed the day, but it was disappointing to have had so little support.

The mystery trip, however, was much better supported, so a coach full were treated to a lovely day along the byroads of North Wales. We headed first to Welshpool for coffee, then down to Porthmadog and finally back through the moors to Tweedmill, for more coffee and shopping.

Unfortunately, due to lack of support, the Lake District trip has had to be cancelled. Names will be taken at the June social evening for the trip on July 13 to the Llanberis Electric Mountain and also for the trip on August 17 to Powys Castle. Both these trips leave at 9am from the club, but I am not sure at this point of the cost. Having just visited Powys Castle with my walking club, it is a trip I can highly recommend. It is a very interesting castle and the gardens should be even more colourful in

August than last week.

The Turkey and Tinsel holiday is selling well. We only have three single and three twin rooms left. The cost is £161pp with a £20 single supplement and a £65 deposit.

A meal has been arranged courtesy of the club at the Holiday Inn, Ellesmere Portm, for Friday July 1 at 12pm for 12.30pm. Unfortunately, on the date we advertised, the hotel could not accommodate us so please pass this information round.

Till next time, cheerio,

*Dave Williams*

## **Message from the VPA President**

Vauxhall is making a major effort to re-establish communication with retirees. A letter is being sent to all Vauxhall and associated company pensioners asking them to confirm their address and to send in an email address where available. This initiative was triggered by the Vauxhall Pensioners Association and it would be good if we all supported it.

So, when the letter drops through your letterbox, please don't bin it, but send it back as requested! An email address is especially important as communications such as Partners offers, car plans and factory visits are all online these days.

Please forward this message to all your (relevant) contacts so that we can get the message to the maximum possible number of people, and also please accept my apologies if you have received this already from someone else!

Many thanks,

*Dave Kirke*

## **Save Lives**

Try to make time to carry out the following tasks. They might save lives.

Think how to exit your property in case of a fire and then practice it.

Clear all escape routes of obstructions to effect a speedy exit.

Test all smoke alarms monthly. They can only save lives if they work.

Keep all door/window keys in a known and accessible (but secure) place and make sure other people in the house know of their location.

To quote Marika Anderson of the Beds Fire and Rescue Service: "Just two or three breaths of toxic smoke can cause unconsciousness, so every second counts when escaping a fire.

"Having working smoke alarms and knowing the best way out of your property can make all the difference."

## **New Barnardo's store opens in Luton**

Pop along to your local Barnardo's store in the Bushmead Shopping Centre in Luton, where you can be sure to pick up a bargain, be it clothes, toys,

games and much more. The Luton store has a small, friendly team of staff and volunteers, but is in need of more volunteers to help with the stock and on the shop floor. Please call Stella or Julie on 01582 482200 if you'd like to volunteer for Barnardo's.

### **Random useful tips**

To chill wine by the glass, drop a handful of frozen grapes into it. This will cool it without diluting it. Using a clothes peg to hold nails will avoid hitting fingers with the hammer and bad language. Pop an unused tea bag into a smelly trainer. It will neutralise odours and make them smell sweetly. Need a cold beer and your bottles are warm? Wrap one up in a wet piece of kitchen towel and pop into the freezer. Within two minutes the beer will be chilled.

### **Trip to Bath – April 21**

A full coach of VPA members (I was going to write reprobates but I cannot spell it) set off for Bath, which is located in the rolling countryside of southwest England.

Famous for its natural hot springs and 18th century architecture, it is not surprising that a visit to the Roman Baths (including the Great Bath statues and a temple) was very popular. Or was it the afternoon tea served in the pump room!?

Some of the group took the open top bus tour, which was a great way to see the town and learn something about the sights and their history. The weather was kind in that the rain held off, which contributed greatly to the good time that was had by all.

### **Golf section tournament – May 12**

The season started with a team Texas Scramble played over 18 holes at the Abbey Hill Course, Milton Keynes.

The weather was warm and sunny, and a lower than normal number of entrants (holidays mainly) competed for the Steve Brooker Cup.

The winners were a team consisting of Jim Gleasure, Roger Deane, Fred Burrell and John Barber. Second were a three man team of Alan Everitt, Jim Waites and Mike Roberts. The nearest to the pin winners were Alan Everitt and Jim Waites. After the golf, the group retired to the 19th hole for a welcome late lunch and the traditional raffle in aid of the Keech Hospice.

### **Tour of Wimbledon Tennis Club – May 19**

On arriving at the facility, a full coachload were split into two groups and given a personal guide to tour the complex. It included the brilliant view from the top of Henman Hill, the player's lounge, the commentary box, where Sue Barker broadcasts from, and several of the other courts, before ending at the centre court. The groups were shown the Royal box, before sitting around the court to be

given an informative and amusing talk by the guide.

The official tour having ended, people were free to visit the Wimbledon Museum and partake of refreshments in the Wingfield Cafe.

The coach left at 2.15pm, stopping on the way home at a Toby Carvery to round off a very enjoyable day.

### **June quiz**

The theme this month is the 1960s and mixes general knowledge and popular music.

- 1 Who played the piano for Peter Cook?
  - 2 Which doctor's report led to the cutting of the UK rail network?
  - 3 Which Francis sailed solo around the world?
  - 4 The Torrey Canyon was what type of transporter?
  - 5 Which theatre that "never closes" finally did?
  - 6 Which French President initially blocked Britain's entry into the EEC?
  - 7 Which English footballer retired in 1965 at the age of 50?
  - 8 Who shared a bed with John Lennon to promote world peace?
  - 9 Which country banned a tour by the English cricket team?
  - 10 George Brown was a prominent member of which political party?
  - 11 Who was Crying in the Chapel?
  - 12 Diana Ross fronted which Tamla group?
  - 13 Which group loved Jennifer Eccles?
  - 14 Which schoolgirl sang Please Don't Treat Me Like a Child?
  - 15 Which Dusty was Going Back?
  - 16 Which city did the Searchers come from?
  - 17 Who yodelled I Remember You?
  - 18 Which 5 were in "Bits and Pieces"?
  - 19 Which group sang about Flowers in the Rain?
  - 20 Who sang about his refuse collecting father?
- The prize for the winner is a £10 M & S voucher. The closing date is July 15 so good luck to all who enter.

### **Answers to April Quiz**

- 1 Black Bess
- 2 Travel Agents/Tour Operators
- 3 Numbers
- 4 Hood
- 5 Richards
- 6 Jamboree
- 7 Familiarity
- 8 Countess
- 9 Brown
- 10 Kenneth Williams
- 11 Tennis
- 12 Dutch
- 13 Banbury Cross
- 14 Hair loss
- 15 Apples
- 16 Red
- 17 Liquorice
- 18 Lock
- 19 March
- 20 Navel

We had a five-way tie for the winner (all on 19 out of 20) and after the boss drew the name out of her hat (she is now pushing to buy a new one!), I am pleased to report that William M Smith will receive the £10 M&S voucher. Congratulations to William and thanks to all who entered.

### **Just for fun (April edition)**

What was unusual was that no word contained the letter e.

### **Upcoming Events in the South**

**June 4** - Annual outing to Eastbourne £13 pp

**July 28** - Bressingham Gardens (optional steam train ride) £23 pp

**Aug 18** - Thames River Cruise and Buckingham Palace £30 pp

**Sept 15** - Mystery Tour (coach only) £16 pp

**Oct 6** - Faversham & Whitstable (City and Village tours) coffee and lunch included £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) £224 pp + coach

**Dec** TBA

### **Tea Dance Schedule**

June 15, 29

July 13, 27

Aug 10, 24

Sept 7, 21

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

### **VPA Golf Section Dates 2016**

**June 16** - The VPA Championship, a singles competition at Whipsnade Park Golf Club

**October 4** - The Peter Johnson Trophy, a pairs competition at Aylesbury Vale Golf Club.

The details of these events plus entry forms will be sent by email to all regular players.

Should any other golf playing VPA member with a club handicap wish to participate, please register by contacting either Mike Roberts or Jim Heaney at the VPA Office, UK1-100-020, Griffin House, Osborne Road, Luton, LU1 3YT.

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

**July 1** - meal at Holiday Inn, Ellesmere Port  
12pm for 12.30pm start

**July 13** - Electric Mountain and Llanberis  
Depart Club 9.00am

**August 17** - Powys Castle and gardens  
Depart Club 9.00am

**Sept 14** - Ffestiniog Railway and Caernarvon  
Depart Club 9.00am

**Sept 23** - meal venue TBA

**Oct 12** - Blackpool trip  
Depart Club 10.00am

**Nov 28** – Turkey and Tinsel

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

### **Tea Dances**

Jun 14, 21, 28

Please note there are no Tea Dances during July and August.

### **In Memoriam – Luton**

**Adams, John, BCV**

Died 19.3.16, Aged 83, Retired 1988

**Barker, Peter Frank, BCV**

Died 5.4.16, Aged 87, Retired 1988

**Best, Norman, BCV**

Died 15.11.15, Aged 87, Retired 1984

**Brandon, Douglas, BCV**

Died 13.4.16, Aged 83, Retired 1988

**Brooks, David Wayne, Division 015**

Died 1.4.16, Aged 72, Retired 1998

**Burrett, Donald, BCV**

Died 3.4.16, Aged 89, Retired 1988

**Carter, George Eric, Division 033**

Died 2.4.16, Aged 99, Retired 1981

**Drury, Leslie Edwin, BCV**

Died 19.3.16, Aged 90, Retired 1984

**Essex, George Henry, BCV**

Died 7.2.16, Aged 80, Retired 1994

**Fitzgerald, Michael, BCV**

Died 3.3.16, Aged 87, Retired 1988

**Fowler, Allen, BCV**

Died 12.3.16, Aged 85, Retired 1987

**Godfrey, Kenneth, BCV**

Died 14.4.16, Aged 89, Retired 1988

**Griffiths, Leslie Raymond, BCV**

Died 13.4.16, Aged 89, Retired 1989

**Harris, Reginald John, Division 033**

Died 23.3.16, Aged 93, Retired 1982

**Hinton, Harry Thomas, Staff**

Died 30.3.16, Aged 93, Retired 1982

**Jones, David Trevor, BCV**

Died 22.3.16, Aged 72, Retired 2003

**Jules, Marie Alexandrine, Division 033**

Died 19.3.16, Aged 94, Retired 1981

**Keep, Derek Claude, BCV**

Died 15.3.16, Aged 87, Retired 1988

**Larn, Ernest James, Staff**

Died 3.3.16, Aged 95, Retired 1981

**McVey, Derek James, BCV**

Died 12.4.16, Aged 86, Retired 1988

**Moroney, Patrick Joseph, Vauxhall**

Died 24.3.16, Aged 84, Retired 1987

**Patel, Maganohai, Division 033**

Died 3.4.16, Aged 86, Retired 1994

**Reid, William Martin MacIntosh, Division 033**

Died 21.3.16, Aged 92, Retired 1982

**Robbins, Walter John, BCV**

Died 9.4.16, Aged 82, Retired 1989

**Rodens, Frank Robert, BCV**

Died 25.4.16, Aged 84, Retired 1988

**Rolls**, Anne Patricia, Division 152  
Died 21.4.16, Aged 77, Retired 1996  
**Saunders**, Reginald, Division 033  
Died 23.3.16, Aged 96, Retired 1982  
**Shanley**, Penelope, Division 032  
Died 4.4.16, Aged 61, Retired 1996  
**Stephenson**, Harold William, Staff  
Died 9.3.16, Aged 93, Retired 1983  
**Sturmey**, Henry John, Division 041  
Died 11.4.16, Aged 81, Retired 1998  
**Teasdale**, Ronald, Staff  
Died 27.4.16, Aged 97, Retired 1975  
**Turner**, Headley Augustus, BCV  
Died 18.4.16, Aged 86, Retired 1987  
**Waller**, Stanley George, BCV  
Died 26.3.16, Aged 88, Retired 1988  
**Wishart**, Donald MacInnes, Division 033  
Died 3.4.16, Aged 85, Retired 1977  
**Wooding**, Leslie Lawrence, Staff  
Died 8.4.16, Aged 87, Retired 1989  
**Worsley**, Robert, BCV  
Died 1.4.16, Aged 89, Retired 1987  
**Wright**, Ronald Peter, Division 082  
Died 24.3.16, Aged 84, Retired 1996

### **In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port**

**Ashforth**, John Cyril, Division 616  
Died 27.2.16, Aged 93, Retired 1987  
**Bebbington**, Roger Alfred, Division 619  
Died 3.5.16, Aged 72, Retired 2007  
**Crighton**, Gerard, Division 616  
Died 11.3.16, Aged 84, Retired 1993  
**Croft**, Brian Martin, Division 641  
Died 8.3.16, Aged 69, Retired 2004  
**Done**, John Brian, Division 610  
Died 20.3.16, Aged 81, Retired 1999  
**Hannah**, Timothy Patrick, Division 641  
Died 30.4.16, Aged 67, Retired 2002  
**Heath**, Anthony Patrick, Division 527  
Died 29.3.16, Aged 78, Retired 2003  
**Hemmings**, Samuel, Division 616  
Died 29.12.15, Aged 93, Retired 1982  
**Henderson**, Edward Neville, Division 616  
Died 16.3.16, Aged 89, Retired 1982  
**Heron**, William Henry, Division 616  
Died 30.4.16, Aged 91, Retired 1988  
**Howell**, Muriel, Division 650  
Died 24.1.16, Aged 90, Retired 1986  
**Hughes**, Albert, Division 616  
Died 7.4.16, Aged 88, Retired 1990  
**Jee**, Frank Collett, Division 642  
Died 19.3.16, Aged 88, Retired 1988  
**Jones**, Robert Owen, Division 616  
Died 31.1.16, Aged 92, Retired 1988  
**Jones**, Ronald Charles, Division 616  
Died 20.4.16, Aged 75, Retired 2001  
**Kearney**, Gerard, Division 616  
Died 10.3.16, Aged 94, Retired 1981  
**Lovejoy**, Stephen Charles, Division 527  
Died 16.4.16, Aged 58, Retired 2015  
**Lyon**, Ernest George, Division 616  
Died 5.4.16, Aged 88, Retired 1987

**McConville**, Francis Patrick, Division 617  
Died 16.4.16, Aged 78, Retired 1999  
**Morrish**, Albert Edwin, Division 641  
Died 29.3.16, Aged 87, Retired 1990  
**Oddy**, Andrew Arthur, Division 527  
Died 23.04.16, Aged 66, Retired 2004  
**Pennington**, William Francis, Division 670  
Died 10.4.16, Aged 76, Retired 2003  
**Price**, Robert Gordon, Division 650  
Died 18.4.16, Aged 81, Retired 1990  
**Randles**, Colin, Division 627  
Died 9.3.16, Aged 69, Retired 2006  
**Roach**, Brian, Division 642  
Died 26.11.15, Aged 85, Retired 1993  
**Scott**, Raymond Arthur, Division 642  
Died 6.5.16, Aged 72, Retired 2009  
**Towns**, Robert, Division 527  
Died 24.4.16, Aged 78, Retired 2002  
**Winrow**, Norman, Division 616  
Died 9.5.16, Aged 88, Retired 1992  
**Young**, Arthur Ernest, Division 616  
Died 7.1.16, Aged 86, 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](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:  
[chloe.burrowes@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto:chloe.burrowes@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](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.