



Pensioners' Newsletter – December 2015

News from the South

Hi everyone,

Well, here we are at the end of another successful year for the VPA. All of our trips and outings were fully supported, so a big thank you to all who took part. We hope you all enjoyed the programme of events offered, including the dancing and the Monday Club, and look forward to your continued support in the coming year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the VPA Committee members for their hard work throughout the year and for giving up their time to support all of you. Without our Committee members, there would be no VPA, so I would ask anyone interested in giving up a little of their time to help us in the future by coming along and joining us. Our newsletter, which is also available online, continues to get very positive feedback and to improve our communications still further, we will be introducing a VPA Facebook page. Details will be available in the February newsletter. Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear all,

Another year is nearly gone but where to I don't know. A sign of getting older I suspect. The news on the Club front is a little thin on the ground, with not a lot to report. The table arrangements in the Astra bar are still not ideal, but the best we can manage at the moment. We have said a sad farewell to Bill Dobson, who through continued ill health has stepped down from the Committee. His valuable input over many years will be sorely missed. So, once again, I am appealing for new people for the Committee. As we get smaller and smaller, new blood with new ideas is badly needed.

The Blackpool trip went well, although we did not go as we were away soaking up some much needed sun. Fast approaching is our turkey and tinsel holiday, which is now fully booked, and we are all looking forward to.

The Christmas dinner is on December 9, so I hope you have all dusted off the glad rags.

Due to so many being away in Torquay, the December Club night has been moved to December 8. It is unfortunate I know to have two consecutive evenings, but it's the only date we could get.

The January theatre trip to Manchester to see The Bodyguard is now fully booked and the coach will be leaving the club at 9.00am.

I know I said I hoped to be able to give you a full

list of next year's trips by now, but as yet the Committee have not finalised it. Be assured, I will get them to you as soon as I have them.

Whatever you are doing and wherever you are, I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Till next time all the best
Dave Williams

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to our man from the north Dave Williams, and his wife Jennifer, who have recently celebrated 50 years of married life. Best wishes to you both from the VPA community and may you have many more years together.

100 Years Young

During September, our Chairman, John Boast, had the pleasure of meeting ex Vauxhall/Bedford employee Walter Randall at his home in Leighton Buzzard. John called to congratulate him on reaching his 100th birthday. He was surprised when an upright man with a big grin on his face opened the door and proceeded to show him, as if to demonstrate his age, the many cards he had received and the gardening themed cake he was given in celebration of his big day. He further surprised John by telling him that not only had he been an avid gardener in the past, but that he still worked his vegetable patch, while his granddaughter looked after the flower beds. During a tour of his large garden, he took great pride in showing John a Garden of Remembrance he had created for his wife Margaret, with whom he had 70 wonderful years.

Walter started his Vauxhall working life in 1938 as a Material Handler in the AA Block engine shop. After 18 months, his career was interrupted by the Second World War. He had various postings, finishing in the North African theatre, where he was promoted to sergeant.

When war ended, he returned to Vauxhall as a production operator as the pay was better. He later transferred to Bedford Commercial Vehicles, where he was responsible for machining truck back axles, before retiring at the age of 64 in 1979. He had a very active life outside of Vauxhall/Bedford, being a local councillor, magistrate and a member of the British Legion. All of us in the VPA congratulate Walter on reaching this milestone and wish him many more birthdays in the future.

Monday Club

Calling all Vauxhall retirees living in the Luton area. If you are over 60 years of age with time on your hands, why not come along to the Monday Club, which is held in St Mary's Church Hall opposite the Arndale Centre every Monday. Arrive

from 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start. The group play six games of bingo and there is a raffle, stopping half way through for a cup of tea, a biscuit and a natter. Entrance is only 50p. A bingo card is only 30p and the raffle tickets cost 10p each. So for the sum of £2.50 you get refreshments, six cards at bingo and two raffle tickets. What good value. So get your legs eleven moving, knock at the door and cast your Kelly's eye over the proceedings.

Discounted cruise prices

For those with a yearn to sail the seas, we are pleased to announce that VM have teamed up with Fred Olsen Cruise Lines to give VM staff and pensioners a **10 per cent discount over and above** offers currently on the market. To be clear, if an offer, for example, is two cruises for the price of one, this offer gives a further 10 per cent reduction to the buyer. You can book online at www.fredolencruises.com or ring 0800 0355 110. Do not forget to quote **VAUX10** to get the discount when making your booking.

Fed up with unwanted phone calls?

It is more than annoying to receive calls from numbers that you do not recognise or calls that are silent. There is a website called whocallsme.com which lets you enter the annoying number to find who is responsible. You can also find out if others are experiencing similar calls. On a related topic, who else is tired of being told to ring expensive telephone numbers in order to contact various types of commercial or social organisations? Typically, they may start with a STD code 0842/0843/0844/0845/0870/0871/0872/0873 and we all worry as to the cost of dialling them. Well fear not, as there exists a website, SAYNOTO0870.COM, which allows you to search for an alternative UK geographic number, enabling you to minimise your call costs.

BBC trip - Thursday October 15

A full coach left Luton to visit Broadcasting House in London. We stopped for a very agreeable carvery lunch in Borehamwood, before commencing the next leg of our journey. The tour began by viewing the area that all of the various news and weather shows are transmitted from.



Norman McGregor and Bill Saul

Some of the bravest in our group then took part in a mock weather programme, which provided much amusement. Next, more would be radio stars acted out a mock scene from a radio play, complete with a selection of sound effects, which provided more hilarity. The day ended with refreshments in the famous BBC canteen. Many thanks to the folks in the office for organising the day.

October 7 - VPA Golf Club Pairs Competition

The final event of the year was the Pairs Championship, held at the Bedfordshire Golf Club, where 24 bright eyed members competed for the Peter Johnson Trophy. Phil Thrussell and George Chalmers won with a very creditable 44 points, second were Paul Davis and Dick Shortland with 41 points and with 40 points third place went to Alan Everitt and John Barber. Nearest the pin competitions were won by Alan Smith and Phil Thrussell respectively.

As is traditional at VPA golf days, the players repaired to the club house to study the 3 R's, namely refreshments, raffle tickets and reflecting on putts missed. A great day was had by all and a local hospice benefitted from the raffle.

December Quiz

As you might expect, the theme for this issue is Christmas.

1. If you were born on Christmas day, what star sign are you?
2. What colour are mistletoe berries?
3. What liqueur is set alight over the Christmas pudding?
4. What round cardboard tube contains a joke, a hat and a present?
5. How many reindeers does Rudolph have?
6. Which royal male introduced the Christmas tree to England?
7. Which New York centre is transformed into a big ice rink for the festive period?
8. What sauce is traditionally served with turkey?
9. On what night should Christmas decorations be taken down to avoid bad luck?
10. Miracle on ??th street is a classic film for Christmas. What is the missing number?
11. What Christmas drink contains advocaat and lemonade?
12. What reindeer is an anagram of OTEMC?
13. Where does the Queen traditionally spend Christmas?
14. In cockney rhyming slang, what are "eyes"?
15. Father Christmas is known as Pai Natal in which European country?
16. Who is the servant of Cinderella's father?
17. In which pantomime does Wishee Washee appear?
18. Bethlehem is a village in which UK country?
19. Who composed Auld Lang Syne?
20. Apart from the Beatles, which is the only other act to have three consecutive Christmas UK number one singles?

As usual, a £10 M&S voucher goes to the winner.

Entries close on Friday January 15. Good luck to all.

Answers to October Quiz

- 1 Fawltly Towers
- 2 James Bond
- 3 Wok
- 4 The Archers
- 5 Horse
- 6 Spoons
- 7 King Edward
- 8 Canada
- 9 Etna
- 10 2
- 11 Wales
- 12 Cleo Laine
- 13 Hair
- 14 Salt
- 15 Barbie
- 16 Sewing machine
- 17 M
- 18 Salmon
- 19 Notting Hill
- 20 Badminton

A good response produced a number of all correct replies, so as usual Mrs McGregor's hat came into use. The name drawn was Jean Skipp.

Congratulations to Jean and the voucher is on its way.

Upcoming Events in the South

Mar 3 - Brick Lane Music Hall with afternoon tea £31pp

Mar 24 - Illegal London (inc coffee and lunch). Includes visit to Scotland Yard's Black Museum £31pp

Apr 21 - Bath (coach only) £16pp

May TBA - Tour of Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club and Museum £24pp

June 4 - Annual outing to Eastbourne £13pp

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

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

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

Oct 6 - Faversham and Whitstable (city and village tours). Coffee and lunch included £31pp

Nov 20 - Mountains and Mistletoe (Lochs & Glens five days) £215 pp Deposit of £30pp by July 1

Dec 9 - Christmas Lunch £22pp

Tea Dance Schedule

January 27

February 10, 24

March 9, 23

As usual, events are held in the Riverside Suite.

Entry is £1 per person with a start time of 2.00pm.

VPA Golf section dates 2016

The golf programme for 2016 is as follows:

May 12 - The Steve Brooker Cup, a Texas Scramble competition at Abbey Hill Golf Club.

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 e-mail to all regular players in early spring. 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

Information on trips available during 2016 will be included in the February newsletter.

Tea Dances

December 8, 15

January 12, 19, 26

In Memoriam – Luton

Anderson, Shirley Elain, Division 032

Died 12.9.15, Aged 75, Retired 1994

Anderson, Frances Ionie, Division 150

Died 5.10.15, Aged 84, Retired 1981

Barrow, Gerald James, VM Staff

Died 10.9.15, Aged 90, Retired 1985

Bennett, Donald Clifford, Division 101

Died 22.10.15, Aged 78, Retired 2002

Bourlet, Ruth Mary, VM Staff

Died 6.10.15, Aged 93, Retired 1981

Briston, Albert Edward, VM Staff

Died 2.9.15, Aged 92, Retired 1982

Brown, T, BVC

Died 20.5.15, Aged 86, Retired 1987

Callanan, Michael Anthony, BCV

Died 13.9.15, Aged 83, Retired 1988

Coleman, Carlton Egbert, IBC

Died 16.10.15, Aged 89, Retired 1991

Cunningham, Hugh Francis, BCV

Died 17.7.15, Aged 84, Retired 1988

Dhanjai, Uttam Singh, Division 150

Died 21.9.15, Aged 77, Retired 2002

Dix, Selwyn, VM Staff

Died 21.9.15, Aged 90, Retired 1982

Dodson, Mary Anne Emily, VM Staff

Died 9.9.15, Aged 97, Retired 1978

Drumm, Cecelia, Division 515

Died 2.11.15, Aged 80, Retired 1990

Farmer, Thomas Frederick, VM Staff

Died 14.10.15, Aged 80, Retired 1990

Flynn, Eileen, BCV

Died 11.10.15, Aged 87, Retired 1988

Foster, Francis George, VM Staff

Died 19.10.15, Aged 90, Retired 1983

Garnish, Owen John, IBC

Died 9.9.15, Aged 69, Retired 2003

Gaught, Kenneth L., BCV
Died 23.9.15, Aged 92, Retired 1987

Gibson, Michael E., IBC
Died 16.9.15, Aged 73, Retired 2003

Green, Alen Edward, VM Staff
Died 3.10.15, Aged 91, Retired 1982

Haestier, Terence John, Division 534
Died 7.10.15, Aged 74, Retired 1998

Haider, Ghulam, Division 117
Died 1.10.15, Aged 78, Retired 1994

Hines, Gordon, VM Staff
Died 4.10.15, Aged 84, Retired 1988

Jones, John Frank, VM Staff
Died 9.10.15, Aged 89, Retired 1988

Khan, Mohammed Iqbal, Division 527
Died 21.9.15, Aged 82, Retired 1998

Knight, Leslie Augustus, BCV
Died 8.9.15, Aged 84, Retired 1988

Kyte, Bernard Joseph, BCV
Died 22.10.15, Aged 87, Retired 1987

Langley, Leslie Stuart, BCV
Died 9.9.15, Aged 88, Retired 1986

MacLaughlin, William John, Division 150
Died 16.9.15, Aged 92, Retired 1988

Marstin, John, Division 150
Died 7.10.15, Aged 91, Retired 1982

McCarthy, Michael, Division 035
Died 21.8.15, Aged 58, Retired 2013

McGuinness, Derek, Division 523
Died 16.10.15, Aged 78, Retired 1992

McLaughlin, James, BCV
Died 30.9.15, Aged 85, Retired 1998

Mills, Margaret Ann, Division 515
Died 25.9.15, Aged 84, Retired 1988

Mistry, Ramaniel, IBC
Died 2.10.15, Aged 78, Retired 1994

Mitchell, Peter Derek, IBC
Died 29.9.15, Aged 79, Retired 1994

Mullard, Leonard Richard, VM Staff
Died 30.10.15, Aged 87, Retired 1988

Murphy, James Gerard, VM Staff
Died 12.9.15, Aged 92, Retired 1982

Pereira, Ivan Charles, BCV
Died 7.10.15, Aged 91, Retired 1987

Ramswell, Ronald John, IBC
Died 11.9.15, Aged 84, Retired 1994

Sabatowski, Boguslaw, BCV
Died 24.9.15, Aged 92, Retired 1987

Sargent, Denis George, BCV
Died 8.9.15, Aged 88, Retired 1984

Tuza, Gyula, IBC
Died 27.10.15, Aged 78, Retired 2002

Wiggs, Mollie, VM Staff
Died 29.10.15, Aged 79, Retired 1988

Willett, Albert Edward, BCV
Died 2.9.15, Aged 85, Retired 1990

Wilton, Pauline Sylvia, Division 117
Died 13.10.15, Aged 94, Retired 1976

Wiltshire, John Thomas, VM Staff
Died 27.9.15, Aged 89, Retired 1983

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Allen, Aubrey Bernard, Division 663
Died 18.10.15, Aged 95, Retired 1981

Bell, Donald Alan, Division 628
Died 4.11.15, Aged 85, Retired 1987

Bennett, Brian, Division 616
Died 14.8.06, Aged 51, Retired 1992

Bithell, Colin, Division 678
Died 28.8.15, Aged 80, Retired 1993

Felton, Francis Morris Enoch, Division 672
Died 13.10.15, Aged 72, Retired 2008

Galloway, Neil Douglas, Division 663
Died 15.10.15, Aged 73, Retired 2002

Gillespie, Hugh, Division 628
Died 31.10.15, Aged 93, Retired 1987

Jenkinson, Donald, Division 641
Died 10.10.15, Aged 75, Retired 2004

Large, Derek, Division 663
Died 21.10.15, Aged 81, Retired 1992

Machuta, Edmund Joseph, Division 628
Died 17.10.15, Aged 92, Retired 1987

Melia, John Michael, Division 628
Died 4.10.15, Aged 78, Retired 1998

Patten, Leonard, Division 628
Died 28.10.15, Aged 93, Retired 1982

Watson, Joseph, Division 628
Died 4.10.15, Aged 85, Division 1995

All information on deceased pensioners is provided by the Pensions Department.

How To Access the Newsletter and 2015 AGM Minutes on the Internet

www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner_pages

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

Useful Telephone and Contact Information

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VPA Office 01582 427921

Office is manned Tuesday and Friday between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.

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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.