

Pensioners' Newsletter – February 2015

News from the South

Hi everyone:

Hope you all had a nice Christmas and have not broken your New Year resolutions yet! Our annual VPA Christmas dinner took place at the Riverside Suite on December 4 where we all enjoyed a meal and then dancing to Danny Glass. Congratulations to all involved in the organisation of this event. The Monday Club also held its Christmas dinner, albeit in January, at the Cross Keys at Pulloxhill. Thanks this year go to Jean Glenister who took over the organisation of the event owing to Ted Read being incapacitated. The Welfare Committee AGM took place on January 14 where Tom Fox announced that he was resigning as both a Committee member and a Trustee of the Fund after representing the VPA on the Committee for the past ten years. All trustees expressed their thanks to Tom for his commitment to helping those pensioners in need of support over that time. Tom also advised the VPA Committee at their January meeting that he would be retiring as a member of that group as of end of January. I would like to add my thanks to Tom for the time he has dedicated to both groups and as my Vice Chairman. We will now be looking for a replacement for Tom so if you are interested in helping on either the VPA Committee or the Welfare group please contact Cherie Denton or Dave Linney at Vauxhall. Finally and on a sad note I have to advise all of you that the wife of David Young, one of the VPA past Presidents has passed away. Our thoughts are with David and his family at this time.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear All

May I begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year and hope that however you spent the Christmas holiday you enjoyed it. With Christmas behind us I am sure you are all looking forward to the Spring and maybe making arrangements for summer holidays and if we have as good a summer as last year it will be lovely. I said last time we were looking forward to our Turkey and Tinsel holiday. Well it did not disappoint - it fulfilled all our expectations and more. The hotel had had a facelift and the welcome was as warm as before. The food and entertainment was excellent and I think I can speak for us all when I say we had a great time in Tenby. Our December Club night was almost sabotaged by a power cut, but thank you to all those who with typical British bulldog spirit sat in the gloom with coats on till power was

restored. Our Christmas dinner dance was a most enjoyable evening. The Club staff went to great lengths to make the room look festive and the meal was very good. This was followed by dancing and entertainment. In January our M.C. Simon brought along his group to entertain us and what a good job they did. Thank you Simon. Information on one or two events is shown later in the Newsletter. I will let you know details of future trips as I get them so until next time take care and enjoy the beautiful Spring flowers as they show themselves.

Kind regards

Dave Williams

2015 Annual General Meeting

The 2015 Annual General Meeting will take place on **Monday** March 16 in the Riverside Suite at Venue 360 commencing at 2.15 pm and as usual will be preceded with refreshments. If you wish to ask any questions at the meeting please send them to the VPA Office either via e-mail or post – details at the end of the Newsletter - to arrive 2 weeks prior to the AGM.

Search For A (Gardening) Star

I know that within our readership we have a large number of persons interested in gardening, all at different levels of expertise. I am sure that many of you have a favourite tip to pass on. So please send it in by whatever means you can so we can build up a VPA horticultural bible. Who knows if we get enough material we could keep it going as a running feature. Initially we might want to focus (in our April Newsletter) on plants etc. that will be in bloom in May/June time. However, this is only a suggestion and feel free to send whatever you want. I do hope that I get some responses as you, the readers, are the lifeblood of this Newsletter. You can submit by letter to the office or to my e-mail address shown at the end of this Newsletter.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

In the December Newsletter we covered Home Fire Safety checks. At the end of the article I gave the name to ring if you wished to take advantage of this service. Alas, I spent the ladies name incorrectly and it should have read Laraine Rason (**not** Lorraine Eason) Apologies for that. The telephone number was correct as 0800 043 5042.

I also asked Laraine what advice she could give us about CO and received the following: CO poisoning can be fatal or at the very least cause damage to your health. CO is produced

when carbon fuels do not burn completely. It has no taste or smell.

CO can be produced in any fuel burning appliance that is not properly maintained. Sources include cookers, heaters, gas tumble dryers, hot water heaters and fireplaces. Check for CO leaks. If flames are orange there may be a problem. Have gas appliances serviced yearly by a qualified engineer. Make sure your flue is not blocked. Ensure there is adequate ventilation in your home and that air bricks are not blocked. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, dizziness, tiredness and nausea. If you think you are suffering from CO poisoning open the windows and get out into the fresh air at once. If the symptoms are more serious see your doctor or go to the casualty department in the nearest hospital.

For further information go to www.COvictim.org

CO detectors are not supplied free by the Fire Service as a matter of practice and I am told that CO poisoning is discussed as part of the regular Home Fire Safety Check.

However, if you have any concerns I suggest you ring Laraine on the number above. For information it seems that B & Q sell detectors from £13 upwards though I cannot recommend any particular type and in the interests of fair play should state that all decent DIY stores most likely sell them also.

February Quiz

The quiz this time has a lateral thinking theme. We are ringing the changes slightly in that the lucky winner will receive a cheque for £10. The closing date is Wednesday March 25.

- 1 Which word, if pronounced right is wrong, but if pronounced wrong is right?
- 2 What type of cheese is made in reverse?
- 3 Can you find a 5 letter word which if typed in capitals (or upper case for the silver surfers) reads the same upside down?
- 4 What is common to the middle of the month in all of the seasons except summer and happens only in the night, never in the day?
- 5 Kevin's mother had three children. The first was called Alpha, the second was called Beta. What was the name of the third?
- 6 In Birmingham you cannot take a photograph of a person with a wooden leg. Why not?
- 7 In which sport are shoes made entirely of metal?
- 8 A man is condemned to death and has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of fire, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns and the third is full of lions that have not eaten for two years. Which room should he choose?

9 If you overtake the second person in a race what position are you in?

10 A man bets his friend that he can predict the score of a football game before it starts. His friend agrees but loses the bet. Why was this an absolute certainty?

11 What are the next three letters in this sequence o t t f f s s?

12 Name a sport in which neither spectators nor participants do not know the score until the activity ends.

13 An electrician and a plumber were waiting to go into a DIY store. One of them was the father of the other's son. How is this possible?

14 In which sport do the winners move backwards and the losers forward?

15 This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so plain you would think nothing was wrong with it. It is unusual though. Study it and think about it but you still may not find anything odd. What is unusual? Good luck to all that take part.

December Quiz Answers

- 1 The Mousetrap
- 2 Sheep (Dolly)
- 3 St. Pancras
- 4 October (the month of Michael Fish!)
- 5 Bill Gates
- 6 Dick Emery
- 7 A bean
- 8 Siam
- 9 John Prescott
- 10 Fishermen
- 11 His wife Cora
- 12 A stipend
- 13 Sugar, almond paste, egg
- 14 Red
- 15 Gin
- 16 Taiwan
- 17 Argentina
- 18 William Golding
- 19 Coronation Street
- 20 Grown

We had a few entries that got all 20 correct so I purchased a new hat for Mrs McGregor, put the names in it and drew out Bill Saul. He will be pleased! The others will not be and the wife was certainly not delighted at the use I put her new hat to! A £10 M & S voucher goes to Bill with our congratulations.

Lexophilia

Lexophilia is a word used to describe those that have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", or "to write with a broken pencil is pointless."

A competition to see who can come up with the best lexophiles is held every year in an undisclosed location. This year's winning submission is posted at the very end. When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
 When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A. The batteries were given out free of charge.
 A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
 A will is a dead giveaway.
 With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
 A boiled egg is hard to beat.
 When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.
 Police were summoned to a day care centre where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
 Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.
 A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.
 When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
 The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
 He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
 When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.
 Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
 And the cream of the twisted crop:
 Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.

Upcoming Events in the South

2015 Events

Thursday February 12

Mickies Palace
 Enjoy a "Cockney Ding-Dong" & roast beef lunch
 £27.00 pp

Thursday March 26

Legal London
 Services of a Blue Badge Guide. After coffee and biscuits at the Devereux Pub there is a tour of the Middle Temple Halls and the Royal Courts of Justice. Following a roast lunch there is a tour of Lincoln's Inn and Fleet Street before heading home.
 £33.00 pp

Thursday April 23

Ashdown Forest Explorer East Grinstead & tour of Ashdown Forest by coach.
 This gentle entertaining day visits beautiful places and has (it is claimed) minimal walking. Includes morning coffee and lunch at Heaven Farm and a guided tour and cream tea in a country house in the afternoon. So it is possible to enjoy this day out without putting your hand in your pocket/purse once! You meet the tour guide at the farm just south of East Grinstead to take refreshments at 10.30 am before taking a coach tour through the forest. After lunch you will visit Saint Hill Manor finishing off with a cream tea prior to returning home.
 £35.00 pp

Thursday May 14

Steam trip on the Severn Valley Railway and visit to the Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley
 £27.00 pp

Saturday June 6

Annual outing to Brighton - coach only
 £12.00 pp

Thursday June 25

Visit to Winchester - coach only
 £15.00 pp

Thursday July 16

Kennet & Avon Canal trip
 Visit Hungerford and then enjoy a horse-drawn canal barge ride with afternoon tea.
 £30.00 pp

Wednesday August 26

Lochs & Glens tour including Edinburgh tattoo 4 nights staying at the Loch Long Hotel.
 Deposit of £30.00 pp required by June 1
 £260.00 pp

Thursday September 17

Visit Bakewell and Derbyshire Dales - coach only
 £18.00 pp

Thursday, October 15

Tour of BBC Broadcasting House, London
 £24.00 pp

Monday November 23

Tinsel & Turkey - 4 nights at the Langstone Cliff Hotel in Dawlish Warren
 Deposit of £30.00 pp is required by August 1.
 £240.00 pp plus coach (tbd)

Thursday December 3

Christmas Dinner & Dance
 £23.00 pp

Please note that the VPA do not provide insurance cover for any of these trips and that for your own peace of mind and protection you may want to arrange your own cover. This particularly applies to the Lochs and Glens and the Tinsel and Turkey trips

Message From The Office Regarding Trips

I have been asked to request that would anyone booking a number of trips please include a self-addressed envelope for each individual trip so that the confirmation letter can be sent to you with the minimum of fuss. The office will arrange for the envelopes to be franked. Thanking you in advance for your cooperation.

VPA Golf Section - 2015 events

Thursday May 7 - Texas Scramble at Abbey Hill Golf Club
 Thursday June 18 - Singles Competition at Whipsnade Park Golf Club
 Wednesday October 7 - Pairs Competition at Bedfordshire Golf Club, Stagsden

Tea Dance Schedule – 2015

Wednesday February 11 and 25

Wednesday March 25

Dancing is 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Entrance is £1 per person and refreshments may be purchased in the Balcony Bar.

Upcoming Events in the North

Tuesday February 3

Club House

Barn Dance commencing 7.00 pm

Tuesday March 3

Club House

AGM commencing 7.00 pm

Wednesday March 11

Matinee trip to Liverpool Empire to see Mama Mia. **Currently fully booked, but there is a reserve list**

Tuesday April 7

Club House

Hot Pot Supper commencing 7.00 pm

Monday April 20

5 day holiday staying at the Duke of Gordon Hotel in Kingussie, Scotland – **fully booked**

Tea Dances

February 10, 17, 24

March 10, 17, 24, 31

Luton Lottery (drawn November 12)

B. Awuah	P1015799	£83.30
A.D. Pratt	P2001429	£41.65
A. Gardner	P0352080	£41.65
T. Phelps	P1011292	£41.65
S. Spillane	P1008428	£41.65
B.E.M. Gardner	P1009479	£41.65
I.A. Green	P1000998	£20.83
A. Everett	P1005972	£20.83
T.A. Freeman	P1844481	£20.83
D. Matthew	P100636	£20.83
T. Phelps	P1011292	£20.83
L.J. Chilton	P1001547	£20.83

E/Port Lottery

No results available

In Memoriam – Luton

Adie, James Young, Division 117

Died 27.11.14, Aged 63, Retired 2002

Cook, John William Joseph, BCV

Died 15.11.14, Aged 84, Retired 1986

Foot, Frank Arnold, Division 003

Died 30.12.14, Aged 98, Retired 1981

Hedges, Bernard, Division 874

Died 17.11.14, Aged 82, Retired 1986

Higgs, Cecil, Division 033

Died 23.12.14, Aged 95, Retired 1981

Kempton, Albert John, Division 033

Died 1.12.14, Aged 92, Retired 1974

Ling, Arthur Ernest, Division 838

Died 16.12.14, Aged 92, Retired 1983

Paul, Charles, VM Staff

Died 29.12.14, Aged 86, Retired 1974

Read, Alfred Fredeerick, Division 003

Died 17.12.14, Aged 93, Retired 1985

Salt, James Donald Schofield, Division 534

Died 18.12.14, Aged 85, Retired 1987

Taylor, Jeffery, BCV

Died 23.11.14, Aged 83, Retired 1986

Thomas, Joseph, BCV

Died 19.11.14, Aged 81, Retired 1986

Todd, Alan Charles, Division 006

Died 3.1.15, Aged 90, Retired 1986

Wiseman, Kenneth Cyril, VM Staff

Died 19.12.14, Aged 91, Retired 1981

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Green, Bernard Patrick, Division 627

Died 21.11.14, Aged 61, Retired 2011

Griffiths, Geoffrey Wellington, Division 619

Died 28.12.14, Aged 63, Retired 2006

Halliday, William Arthur, Division 617

Died 20.11.14, Aged 70, Retired 2002

Kendall, Mark, Division 629

Died 17.11.14, Aged 75, Retired 2001

Penn, Robert Leslie, Division 670

Died 30.11.14, Aged 62, Retired 2005

Ritchie, Leslie Cameron, Division 627

Died 21.12.14, Aged 82, Retired 1997

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

How To Access the Newsletter and 2014

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: jessica.porter@vauxhall.co.uk

Useful Telephone and Contact Information

VPA South

VPA Office 01582 427921

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

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.