



# Pensioners' Newsletter – December 2014

## News from the South

Hi everyone:

Well winter has really started to bite now but what a great summer we have enjoyed this year. It is now time to start thinking about Christmas, the food, decorations, drinks, presents and of course the tree.

This month's Torque magazine includes an article highlighting the help given to one of our members by a team from the Luton Body Shop. The VPA extends its thanks to Dave Garrett, Simon Petrie, Steve Woodward, Robert Turner and Kevin Allen for showing the true spirit of Vauxhall teamwork and for offering to help our members in future. Well done chaps! You can read Torque on the same web page as the Newsletter is on (see the back page of this Newsletter for access details).

As ever the Committee could use a couple of added bodies to attend the monthly meetings, which last about 2 hours. We get the benefit of fresh thoughts and new inputs. You get the benefit of contributing to the greater good and helping to shape the way forward.

Similarly the VPA Office would like to open for more hours per week and we are looking for volunteers to man the office, initially on a Monday between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm. If you do wish to help please ring Dave Linney on the office number shown at the end of this Newsletter for more details.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee let me wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

*John Boast*



## News from the North

Dear all

I hope you all enjoyed the prolonged summer/autumn, but it looks as if winter has now arrived, strange though as so many summer flowers are still in bloom and shrubs that were pruned have started to flower again - spooky. As we had no response from our last plea for new Committee members I will repeat the plea. Being so short of members makes things like votes difficult and also it is good to have new ideas of places to visit so come on and see what it is like. We really are a friendly bunch - not at all scary.

In October we presented a cheque for £1000 to the Hospice of The Good Shepherd. Some photos were taken and the Hospice has since had one of the photos framed which we have hung in the Club. Over the years we have

donated a large amount to this cause and you should all be rightly proud of yourselves.



Also at the October social we were all treated to a lovely supper, which I hope everybody enjoyed.

Although I did not go to see Wicked I am assured it was very good and enjoyed by all, as was the Blackpool trip.

By the time this goes to print I, along with a coach full, will be enjoying a Turkey and Tinsel holiday in Tenby. As this is a hotel we have been to before, we are all looking forward to a good time, and then Christmas will be upon us. The Christmas supper dance will be on Friday, December 19. Dinner will be served at 7.00 pm followed by dancing and entertainment, so I hope all of you are ready with your glad rags.

All that remains for me to do is to wish you all on behalf of the Committee an enjoyable Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year. Our thoughts and good wishes go especially to those who are no longer able to join us at the social evenings.

Sincerely

*Dave Williams*



## Home Fire Safety Check

A year ago we told you of the free Home Safety Check that the Bedfordshire Fire Service will provide to you on request. They will visit your property and advise of potential concerns that they find and where improvements can be made.

They also supply and fit free of charge smoke alarms, which are battery free and last for ten years. Should you wish to take advantage of this scheme please ring 0800 043 5042 and ask for Lorraine Eason.



## Pensions Department Information

We have been asked to remind readers of the procedure to follow in the event of the passing of a member of the various pension's schemes that cover our pensioners.

Please telephone the Pensions Office on 01582 427565 and give the following details:

Surname of deceased  
Initials or christian names  
Pension number, if known  
Address  
Date of passing  
Widow/Widower initials or name of next of kin  
The provision of this information will enable the processing to take place with the minimum of fuss at what is a difficult time.



### 2015 Annual General Meeting

The 2015 Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday March 16 in the Riverside Suite at Venue 360. It will commence at 2.15 pm and as usual will be preceded with refreshments.

More details will be available in the February Newsletter.



### Monday Club

This Club, as you would expect, meets on a Monday in the Luton Parish Church Hall, Church Street. Doors open at 2.00 pm and the fun ends around 3.45 pm.

Entry is 50p and includes tea/coffee and biscuits. There is a raffle for which you will pay 10p per ticket and bingo for which you will be charged 30p a ticket.

Please note that the raffle and bingo are not compulsory. I know that the group who organise and run this event would be pleased to see more attendees, so if you wish bring along a friend.

As a reminder the Christmas Lunch will take place on Monday January 12. The venue is the Cross Keys at Pulloxhill and the coach will leave St Mary's at 11.30 am.



### December Quiz

After a break from a quiz in the last Newsletter it is timely to reintroduce it for this issue. As is usual there is a £10 M & S voucher up for grabs and the closing date is Friday January 16 2015.

1. Which play has run non-stop in the West End for 60 years?
2. What type of animal was first cloned?
3. From which London Railway Station do Eurostar trains depart from?
4. In which month did the 1987 hurricane take place in the UK?
5. Which Bill is the world's richest businessman?
6. Who famously used the phrase "ooh, you are awful, but I like you"?
7. What vegetable can be a runner, broad or dwarf?
8. Thailand was previously known by which name?
9. Who was Tony Blair's first Deputy Prime Minister?

10. What occupation did Peter and Andrew have before becoming disciples?
11. Who did Dr. Crippin murder?
12. What is the salary paid to a clergyman called?
13. What are the ingredients of marzipan?
14. What colour is cochineal?
15. What alcoholic drink is flavoured with juniper?
16. What is Formosa now called?
17. In which country is South America's highest mountain located?
18. Who wrote the novel Lord of the Flies?
19. Which soap did the character Reg Holdsworth appear in?
20. What is the only English anagram of WRONG?

Good luck with your entry.



### Golf Day, Buckingham Tuesday October 7

A bright and windy morning greeted the 25 VPA golfers at the Buckingham Golf Club who met to compete for the Peter Johnson Trophy. The golf was a very high standard with the greater majority of teams scoring over the par 36 points.

This year's honours went to two stalwarts of the VPA Golf Day, namely Roger Deane and Vince Weatherhead – pictured below



*Roger and Vince*

Second were the team of Peter Johnson (who being a true sport did not threaten to take his trophy back and go home!) and Mike Roberts with Chris Cleary and Fred Burrell in third place. The nearest the pin competitions were won by John Watt and John Barber. After the golf the group retired to the clubhouse and ate a calorie laden meal to round of a most enjoyable day.

All golf playing VPA members with a club handicap can register for events by writing to Mike Roberts or Jim Heaney at the VPA office address shown at the end of this Newsletter.



### Imperial War Museum Duxford Thursday October 9

26 members of the VPA set off on the hours journey to the Duxford, writes Honorary Wing Commander Bill Saul! This left the group with around 6 hours exploration time on a sunny but windy day. You should have seen the windsocks blowing at near vertical. Once inside and having been given a site plan it was apparent that the full 6 hours would be

needed to see everything. There are eight hangers all with a different theme. The Air Space hanger was full of boy's toys and gadgets to play with along with a good number of planes, one of which was Concorde which could be boarded and investigated. Other themes were Flying Aircraft, Air and Sea, Battle of Britain, Conservation in Action, 1940's Operation Room, American Air Museum and lastly Land Warfare. Obviously the day involved a lot of walking and it was not a shock that Wing Co Joe's Cafe was a popular spot to rest the legs and take on board welcome refreshments. Another great day out was had by all.



### **Tinsel & Turkey, November 24**

It was an early Christmas for the 40 VPA members who set off from Luton to the Hotel Bodelwyddan Castle in North Wales on Monday November 24 for 4 nights. The group were greeted on arrival with hot mulled wine and a mince pie. For the first evening they were entertained with an all action Welcome Party Show. Tuesday (Christmas Day) Santa and an elf greeted guests with a yo ho ho and a present after which some of the group went on an organised rambling tour of the estate. Wednesday was pretty much more of the same and the evening meal again was of a very good standard. On Thursday (New Year's Eve - keep up at the back!) most of the group went on a half day trip to Conwy and Llandudno, returning in time to Aladdin performed by the hotel entertainments team. The evening started with dancing, followed by a Musical Muddles Quiz and then at 9.30 pm it was curtains up for the New Year's Party. A good time was had by all.



## **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  
Visit the Royal Courts of Justice & Lincolns Inn. Coffee and lunch included  
£33.00 pp

#### **Thursday April 23**

Ashdown Forest Explorer East Grinstead & tour of Ashdown Forest by coach. Coffee, lunch & afternoon tea included. VPA Office can advise if much walking involved  
£35.00 pp

#### **May - date to be determined**

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**

Kent & 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

#### **October - date to be determined.**

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**



### **VPA Golf Section - 2015 events**

The following golf days have been provisionally arranged for 2015:  
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 January 21  
Wednesday February 11 and 25  
Wednesday March 25  
Dancing starts at 2.00 pm and stops at 4.00 pm. Entrance is £1 per person and refreshments may be purchased in the Balcony Bar.



## **Upcoming Events in the North**

### **Monday April 20 2015**

5 day holiday staying at the Duke of Gordon Hotel in Kingussie, Scotland. The cost is £169 and a deposit of £50 is required.

Details of 2015 trips will be included in the next Newsletter.

### Tea Dances

December 9, 16

January 13, 20 27



### Luton Lottery (drawn November 12)

L. Farrell	P1004022	£332.99
A.D. Pratt	P2001429	£83.25
G. Morgan	P029659B	£41.62
D.E.J. Farrar	P2004657	£41.62
R.H. Savage	P2006233	£41.62
A. Everitt	P1005972	£20.81
T.F. Davis	P1011663	£20.81
B.R. Jeeves	P1000357	£20.81
P.J. Bates	P1010137	£20.81
E. Martin	P029925A	£20.81
M.J. Hill	P1006471	£20.81

### E/Port Lottery

No results available



### In Memoriam – Luton

**Adams, Brenda**, Division 041

Died 27.10.14, Aged 74, Retired 1989

**Boyle, R.J.**, BCV

Died 1.11.14, Aged 84, Retired 1986

**Clarke, Richard**, Division 033

Died 1.11.14, Aged 86, Retired 1983

**Deery, James E**, Division 150

Died 24.10.14, Aged 87, Retired 1992

**Draycott, Brian Edward**, BCV

Died 28.10.14, Aged 80, Retired 1986

**Green, Beverley**, Division 033

Died 16.9.14, Aged 66, Retired 2002

**Hopkins, Maureen**, Division 526

Died 28.10.14, Aged 74, Retired 1993

**Large, Stan**, VM Staff

Died 24.10.14, Aged 81, Retired 1987

**Malcolm, Edgar Loran**, Division 015

Died 27.10.14, Aged 81, Retired 1998

**McGreggor, Coreen**, VM Staff

Died 2.10.14, Aged 85, Retired 1987

**Pitkin, Anthony John**, BCV

Died 30.10.14, Aged 81, Retired 1988

**Ross, James Ian**, Division 117

Died 4.11.14, Aged 70, Retired 1998

**Schaffer, Johannes Bernard**, Division 042

Died 28.9.14, Aged 92, Retired 1981

**Vincent, Peter William**, VM Staff

Died 24.10.14, Aged 88, Retired 1981

**Warner, Ronald**, VM Staff

Died 25.9.14, Aged 84, Retired 1988

**Yearley, Helen Lillian**, VM Staff

Died 27.9.14, Aged 82, Retired 1989



### In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

**Bedford, Albert William**, Division 627

Died 29.9.14, Aged 96, Retired 1982

**Brizell, William Edward**, Division 670

Died 19.9.14, Aged 82, Retired 1994

**Bullerwell, Raymond George**, Division 691

Died 23.10.14, Aged 72, Retired 2005

**Colyer, Margaret Joyce**, Division 668

Died 30.9.14, Aged 93, Retired 1981

**Hughes, John William**, Division 642

Died 16.10.14, Aged 85, Retired 1993

**Jarvis, Alastair**, Division 623

Died 31.10.14, Aged 86, Retired 1981

**Jones, Brian**, Division 642

Died 16.10.14, Aged 82, Retired 1996

**Lindop, Frederick James**, Division 624

Died 9.10.14, Aged 82, Retired 1981

**Lysaght, Sidney Cuthbert**, Division 670

Died 20.9.14, Aged 91, Retired 1987

**Mohin, John**, Division 628

Died 17.10.14, Aged 79, Retired 1999

**O'Brien, Charles**, Division 670

Died 16.9.14, Aged 85, Retired 1988

**Owen, Alan Nigel**, Division 642

Died 27.10.14, Aged 56, Retired 2005

**Porter, Edward**, Division 670

Died 2.11.14, Aged 81, Retired 1985

**Skillen, Peter A.** Division 663

Died 19.10.14, Aged 57, Retired 2007

**Waring, Herbert William**, Division 671

Died 17.9.14, Aged 94, Retired 1981

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](http://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](mailto: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](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.