

Pensioners' Newsletter – February 2014

News from the South

Hi everyone and welcome to 2014! Hope you had a good Christmas and have not been affected by the recent flooding, particularly over the holiday period. Looking forward to better weather Sue, Sylvia and Dave have put together a great programme of events for the coming 12 months including a Mystery Tour in July (even the Committee doesn't know where we are going) and we hope you will be able to join in. So for details of all the events please look further in this Newsletter. I would also like to remind you about the Vauxhall Welfare Fund which was established years ago to help pensioners facing hard times and still operates today. If you know of anyone needing help please call the VPA office or contact the Welfare Officer Cherie Denton.

Finally I would like to send best wishes to one of our Committee members - Jean Glenister - who is recovering from a recent operation. Get well Jean. We look forward to seeing you in the very near future.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear all,

A bit late I know but I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year, and for all those on the Wirral and the North Wales coast I hope you didn't suffer too much with the floods and wind damage.

Although I missed the panto trip and the Christmas dinner I am assured by those who attended that both were enjoyed. I hear that the German market was a huge success. The Christmas meal and entertainment were superb. Thank you to the lovely school children who provided festive entertainment with Christmas carols. We did think of you while we were enjoying ourselves being pampered in a lovely hotel in Devon.

As I write the Falmouth trip is fully booked, as is the Lion King for June.

Tickets have been booked for the Liverpool Empire to see Wicked. The tickets are £30. More details later.

Dave Williams

E-Mail Prompts for Torque and Newsletter

Vauxhall have recently changed their electronic mailing system to Outlook and during this transition there has been some technical issues with the distribution lists. You will have received an e-mail prompt for the Retirees Day but not for Torque or the VPA Newsletter. This problem has now been

resolved so you will receive your prompts as usual.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Ex-Engineers Take Note

We received the following note from Bob Bolton: "When Engineering closed I was transferred to ADC and was responsible for installing the utilities necessary to separate ADC from the remainder of AJ Block frontage. During this time I came across several photographs of Engineering personnel and the original brochures of the opening of AJ Block. If you are interested in looking at these please contact me on

bob.bolton@ntlworld.com"

If anyone contacts Bob and has a story to tell, please let me know on

normanmcgregro3@gmail.com

VPA 2014 Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Monday March 24 in the Riverside Suite at Venue 360, starting at 2.15 pm. Refreshments will be on hand before the meeting. As is usual, company representatives will present pension plan, business and product updates. Please try to attend what is an interesting and informative meeting.

Luton Site Development

Property investment and development company, the Augur Group, received planning permission to develop the old Vauxhall site in Kimpton Road at a January Luton Borough Council Meeting. The proposal includes the erection of 625 dwellings, two hotels, a casino and various other items. For much better detail, including a plan of the site, go to www.napierpark.com.

Millbrook Proving Ground

In October 2013 Rutland Partners exchanged contracts with General Motors for the acquisition of the Millbrook Proving Ground Ltd for an undisclosed amount, with added funds being made available for the development of new facilities. GM will remain a key customer of the business post-completion, with both parties entering into a number of long-term supply agreements. Millbrook has successfully developed non-GM relationships in recent years which account for the majority of their Testing and Engineering revenues and will accelerate this growth in the

future, aided in part by the expansion of facilities and by help from Rutland to invest further in and expand its service proposition.

Do You Want To Save Money?

At the risk of teaching grandmothers to suck eggs I thought it might be useful to collate some ways in which money can be saved. Use kettles for boiling water for cooking instead of heating it up in a pan on the stove. Transfer the water to the pan and continue as normal. This is cheaper and quicker. But be very careful in transferring the water. The use of a microwave or pressure cooker will usually cook food quicker. Always use the right size pan to maximise efficiency and with a lid to speed cooking. Load and unload fridges or freezers as quick as possible. Defrost on a regular basis. Keep fridges and freezers away from cookers and direct sunlight. Use economy programmes on the washing machine. Put washing outside rather than tumble (no problem so far this year!) Keep central heating radiators clear of washing etc. to assist the boiler efficiency. Put radiator panels behind radiators fixed to outside walls to help reflect heat back into the room. Hopefully I haven't insulted the female half of the readership of this Newsletter with these tips. My only defence as a married man is that the workings of, for example, a washing machine are totally alien to me.

Home Computer Security

Irrespective of which operating system you use (for example Mac or Windows) computers are inherently secure and only become insecure when turned on and the user interacts with them. Installing programmes and connecting to the internet are usually the first things a person does with a new computer. Since a totally safe computer is one that is disconnected from the internet, and therefore not useful, there are some ways of working that can lessen any risk. To begin with, control what you type in to any website and send out on the internet. Do not give your address, phone number, e-mail address etc. unless it is absolutely necessary. Avoid saving your passwords in a single file on your desktop (it may be an idea to save passwords on a memory stick and not on your hard drive). Since the majority of risk comes from what the computer user does it follows that the majority of risks depend upon fooling the user to do something that is not intended. Viruses are

often sent by e-mail, posing as innocent attachments or pictures trying to get you to click on them and thus infecting your system. As a general rule never click on an e-mail attachment unless you are 100% aware of the contents and were expecting to receive the file. If you need to confirm the contents with a phone call, it might be better to do this, rather than have to deal with the problems of a virus. Phishing, like a virus, is an act committed via an e-mail although this is an attempt to have you giving out confidential information. Official looking e-mails can be sent masquerading as your bank, building society or e-mail provider asking you to "confirm information" (for example passwords etc.). I fell foul of this with a request from 'google mail' and then having obtained access to my e-mail account the scammers sent an e-mail to all of the people on my mail account explaining that I had been robbed at gunpoint in Barcelona and required funds to get home. I don't know which was worse - the scam itself or having only one person ringing to see if it was true! Still it saved on Christmas cards! To avoid being phished never respond to an e-mail, and make it a habit to telephone the source to confirm the validity of the request. Often, simply by opening a new web browser (e.g. Yahoo) and manually typing in the company's proper website address, most attempts at phishing are bypassed as the phish is often a seemingly innocent and near identical copy of the site involved. The use of home computers can be of great benefit and enjoyment, but it is wise to keep in mind that they can easily be a source of malpractice and fraud.

Who Said The English Language Was Easy? (Part 3 of 3)

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word and that is **UP**. We all understand **UP** towards the sky, but in the morning why do we wake **UP**? At a meeting why does a topic come **UP**? Why do we speak **UP**, why are officers on a committee **UP** for election and why is it **UP** to the secretary to write **UP** the minutes? We call **UP** our friends, we brighten **UP** a room, polish **UP** silverware, warm **UP** leftovers and clean **UP** the kitchen. We lock **UP** the house and have someone fix **UP** the car. People stir **UP** trouble, queue **UP** for tickets, work **UP** a thirst and dream **UP** excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed **UP** is special. If a drain is blocked **UP** we open it **UP** to repair.

We open **UP** a shop in the morning and but shut it **UP** at night.

When it looks like rain we say it is clouding **UP** and when the sun comes out we say it is clearing **UP**.

In a desk-sized dictionary the word **UP** takes **UP** about a third of a page and can have **UP** to 30 meanings.

I could go on and on but I had better finish **UP**.

This was the last article on the many uses of the English language. If you are still reading/awake, thanks for staying with me!

February Quiz

Hopefully this issue's quiz will attract a number of entries.

All the answers are items of jewellery, precious metals or gemstones.

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

1. Call me
2. Small appearance in a play
3. 30 years of married bliss
3. Lunar 14 pounds
5. Head support with decorative trimmings
6. Get ready to move
7. Award for king of the jungle
8. Sleeve end joins the golf course
9. Zero friend
10. Strangler
11. We can hear the bells
12. Palace burnt down in 1936
13. Forever a circle
14. A peril in Dandy
15. Girl's best friend
16. Blimey with little Alfred
17. Headless pony with a kiss
18. Partner of Steele on TV
19. Was an age
20. Bluish green

Closing date for entries is Wednesday

March 19. Good luck.

Christmas Party – Thursday December 5

A good crowd enjoyed splendid Christmas fayre and lively and tuneful entertainment. The latter being supplied by Danny Glass and also by Kerry George. Thanks to the people in the office for organising and a big thank you to Les Potter for obtaining the raffle prizes.

Upcoming Events in the South

Listed below are trips planned for 2014:

Monday February 10

Mickie's Palace - £26 pp

Thursday March 27

Greenwich, Cutty Sark & Cable Car - £35 pp

Thursday April 24

Canterbury - coach only - £13 pp

May - date to be decided

Cotswolds by steam & Cheltenham - £28 pp

Saturday June 7

Annual outing to Brighton - coach only – £12 pp

Friday June 20

Blenheim Palace Flower Show (inc. admission to House and Gardens) - £23 pp

Wednesday July 16

Mystery tour - coach only - £13 pp

August - date to be decided

Lords Cricket Ground Tour

Adults £18 pp/grandchildren £15 pp

Thursday September 11

Denbies Vineyard Tour - £25 pp

(including wine and food tasting)

Thursday October 9

Imperial War Museum Duxford - £27 pp

November 24 (4 nights)

Tinsel & Turkey, Warners Hotel, Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales
£275 pp

Thursday December 4

Christmas Party - £22 pp

If you have any questions regarding the above or require more information, please ring the office where Sue, Sylvia or David will be only too happy to assist.

VPA Golf Section - 2014 events

Thursday May 8 - Abbey Hill - Team Texas Scramble

Thursday June 12 - Whipsnade Park - Singles Stableford

A third event is still being arranged and details will be provided as soon as possible.

Tea Dance Schedule

February 26

March 5, 19

April 2, 16, 30

May 14

June 4, 18

July 9, 23

August 6, 13

September 3, 17

October 8, 29

November 12, 26

December 10

Upcoming Events in the North

Tuesday February 4 – Barn Dance

This social night is to include a barn dance for the first hour followed by the usual bingo, draw and dancing to our resident m.c. and musician Simon, who since he joined us has proved to be a great asset to the Club. He has brought a huge breath of fresh air to proceedings. He is jolly friendly and above all a good musician.

Wednesday February 26 - Tweedmill Craft Centre

Leave Club at 9.30 a.m.

£5.00 pp

Tuesday March 24 – AGM

Commencing 7.00 p.m.

Saturday March 22 – Trip to London

Leave Club at 10.00 a.m.

£142 pp

An overnight trip to London. We will be going to the Albert Hall to a Classical Spectacular. This should prove to be a magnificent evening with fireworks, cannons and lasers. We will be staying at a hotel near Heathrow and includes time for shopping on Sunday morning. We are going with GB Tours. The coach is leaving from the Club so arrangements have been made to leave cars overnight at the back of the Club.

Tuesday April 1 - Hot Pot Supper

Commencing 7.00 p.m.

Tea Dances

The tea dances have been very well supported this last year and the new dates are:

Feb..... 11, 18, 25

March 11, 18, 25

Luton Lottery (drawn January 8)

P. Liverpool	P1005775	£341.18
R. Carvisglia	P035463H	£85.30
T.F. Carey	P1004045	£85.30
R.H. Savage	P2006233	£42.65
B.F. Smith	P1001691	£42.65
D.E.J. Farrar	P2004657	£21.32
C.A. Clayton	P1010266	£21.32
I. Parmar	P1008049	£21.32
P.K. Cain	P2003380	£21.32

E/Port Lottery

No results available

In Memoriam – Luton

Bell, Andrew, VM Staff

Died 20.11.13, Aged 89, Retired 1987

Caffrey, A.C. Division 005

Died 29.12.13, Aged 88, Retired 1986

Chapman, Eric William Rex, BCV

Died 30.12.13, Aged 82, Retired 1986

Day, Kenneth John, BCV

Died 23.11.13, Aged 84, Retired 1986

Dean, Vernon Arthur, Division 032

Died 28.11.13, Aged 85, Retired 1981

Duck, Kenneth Cyril, Division 615

Died 19.12.13, Aged 92, Retired 1981

Edwards, Abijah, BCV

Died 5.1.14, Aged 90, Retired 1985

Giddins, Kenneth, BCV

Died 30.11.13, Aged 83, Retired 1988

Hart, Jean Patricia, VM Staff

Died 29.11.13, Aged 86, Retired 1981

Koukkides, Neoclis Christoforou, Div 615

Died 23.12.13, Aged 90, Retired 1983

Larby, Michael Burton Roy, BCV

Died 14.12.13, Aged 84, Retired 1986

McCormack, Brenda A., Division 526

Died 20.12.13, Aged 73, Retired 1993

Mercieri, Carlo, Division 615

Died 19.12.13, Aged 89, Retired 1986

Perry, Dennis Leonard, BCV

Died 1.12.13, Aged 79, Retired 1986

Slater, Michael Clifford, Division 616

Died 24.11.13, Aged 85, Retired 1989

Squires, Graham John, Division 054

Died 21.11.13, Aged 85, Retired 1993

Watson, Richard, Division 033

Died 28.12.13, Aged 81, Retired 1993

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Guest, Nigel Frederick, Division 618

Died 19.11.2013, Aged 63, Retired 2011

Hayes, Gordon Arthur, Division 670

Died 29.12.13, Aged 74, Retired 1999

Jones, John, Division 631

Died 18.11.2013, Aged 92, Retired 1981

Mohring, Kenneth, Division 678

Died 11.12.13, Aged 66, Retired 2006

Powell, Raymond George, Division 633

Died 1.12.13, Aged 62, Retired 1981

How To Access the Newsletter and 2013 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: annisa.whitehall@vauxhall.co.uk

Useful Telephone and Contact Information VPA South

VPA Office 01582 427921

Office is manned Monday, 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.