

Pensioners' Newsletter - December 2013

News from the South

Hi Everyone:

Well it's that time of year again and as this will be the last Newsletter of 2013, I would like to wish you, on behalf of the VPA Committee, a very peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please make sure that you keep warm over the coming cold spell and remember if you know of any Vauxhall pensioners in need of help please let us know by contacting the VPA Office or Cherie Denton at Vauxhall. As this is the last Newsletter of the year I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Jean Skipp and Norman McGregor for all the hard work they have put into producing all the Pensioner's Newsletters throughout the year. I think these have been better than any of the pensioner's pages that were in both the Vauxhall and GM mirrors and I know from feedback that a lot of you agree with me. We have our activities finalised for 2014 (details in this Newsletter) and look forward to seeing you on some of the outings planned.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear all

It seems ages since I put pen to paper as I seem to have spent a great deal of time away this year - much to the detriment of my poor allotment. Still it didn't seem to suffer too much and we didn't lose too much produce. Now all of a sudden it seems cold and wintry and Christmas is once again nearly upon us. I think the lovely summer has made us all complacent and the recent weather has come as a shock. Still if it is any consolation, having just returned from Germany it is much colder and wetter over there.

I am assured by those who went to Ludlow that it was a good day marred only by a comfort stop at the Lazy Trout pub which I am sure nobody will need reminding about. The Blackpool trip to see the lights was well supported and enjoyed.

In October a coach full went to Scotland for an autumn break. It was a great trip with lovely days out, and the highlight of the trip was a seven course meal on each night followed by Scottish entertainment.

The annual Christmas dinner is on the December 13. Please remember your tickets, and it's out with the baubles and party clothes. I do hope you all have a good time as once again I shall be away - not in the sun this time but hopefully enjoying a break in Devon with friends.

The holiday to Falmouth is now fully booked and I am informed there is a waiting list. Lots of trips have been suggested for 2014, but so far the only definite is for a trip to Tweedmill and a craft centre. This will be on Wednesday, February 26 leaving the Club at 9.30 am at a cost of £5 pp. I will let you know details of further trips as they are finalised. Well that's all folks so it just remains for me to say on behalf of the Committee I hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas and special thoughts and wishes to all those who are no longer able to join us on our social evenings.

Best regards,

Dave Williams

This Newsletter Leads The Way With Vauxhall!

You perhaps will have read of memories of VPA members in prior issues of this Newsletter.

Vauxhall was 110 years old in 2013 and to mark the occasion current and ex-VM persons are invited to share their memories of either their working life or cars they have driven or indeed both. Submit your stories to www.vauxhallandi.co.uk

Monday Club, St. Mary's

The Monday Club is always looking for new members. Held each Monday in the Luton Parish Church Hall it starts at 1.45 pm and ends around 3.30 pm. Entrance is free, but you do have to purchase refreshments, bingo tickets and raffle tickets if desired. Sounds just the job for teetotal gamblers! For more details please ring the VPA Office.

Early Warning 2014 VPA Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Monday March 4 in the Riverside Suite at Venue 360 (formerly the Recreation Club). It starts at 2.15 pm prior to which free refreshments are on hand. As is the custom Vauxhall representatives will present a pension update.

StaySafe

We have been contacted by Bedfordshire Police to pass on info regarding their StaySafe initiative. This includes a series of tips to help avoid becoming victims of crime.

Protecting yourself

Don't make yourself a target. Keep mobiles and other valuables out of sight.

Register with <http://www.immobilise.com/> for free to help increase the chances of a lost or stolen mobile being returned.

Never carry excessive cash.

Avoid remote areas or else walk with a friend relative.

Carry handbags close to your body with the clasp facing inwards.

If you think you are being followed go to the nearest place with a lot of people and ring the police.

Think about purchasing a personal attack alarm that continues to sound if dropped.

Protecting your vehicle

Never leave keys in an unattended car.

Never leave keys by the doors or windows.

Always leave out of sight particularly at night. If possible use security lights to protect the vehicle.

If you have a garage use it.

Lock all means of entry to the vehicle.

Try to park in well lit and busy locations.

Remove sat nav and the cradle when leaving the vehicle.

Never leave items of value on display.

Protecting your property

Use your lights - preferably with a timer. If possible a radio on a timer is good.

Keep your radio switched on, ideally to a talk show as it sounds as if the house is occupied.

Always lock your doors and windows securely.

UPVC front doors should be double locked.

Fit locks at the top and bottom of patio doors.

Visible alarms make intruders think twice and switch them on when you go out.

Always lock garages and sheds.

Check for weak spots and sagging fences on your property.

Be alert to strangers in the street. Call the police on 101 if you have a concern.

If you have read to the end of this item you are probably thinking along the lines of teaching your grandmother to suck eggs. Well in my conversation with a police representative he was stressed that if the above tips became a common practice the decrease in crime would be remarkable. Worth a thought perhaps.

Who Said The English Language Was Easy? (Continued from the last Newsletter)

English is at best not that easy to get to grips with, as the following examples illustrate.

There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger. There is neither apple nor pine in pineapple and certainly, as the joke goes, no f in cod.

We all take the language for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a

guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write, but fingers do not fing, grocers do not groce and hammers do not ham. If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth and moose, meese?

If a teacher taught what did a preacher not praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables what does a humanitarian eat? How can a slim chance and a fat chance mean the same and yet a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? To finish on a General Motors theme why doesn't Buick rhyme with quick?

The third and final (I promise!) instalment on this subject will be in the next issue.

Classic Cars

Andrew Duthie, ex-Finance, has sent in these photos of a Cresta and Wyvern taken at an Australian Day Classic Car parade in Sydney in January 2011.



Vauxhall Cresta



Vauxhall Wyvern

October Quiz Answers

A very poor response this time, but nevertheless congratulations to Steve Waterhouse for having the most correct answers. A £10 M&S voucher is on its way.

The answers were:

- 1 Trans Canadian
- 2 Sahara
- 3 Nile
- 4 Belgrade

- 5 Greenland
- 6 Peking
- 7 Italy
- 8 Liffey
- 9 June 5
- 10 Abraham Lincoln
- 11 Norway
- 12 London University
- 13 J K Rowling
- 14 Paris
- 15 Henry Ford
- 16 Kentucky
- 17 1924
- 18 Toby
- 19 John Wayne
- 20 Charles Dickens

What Do You Want To Be Included?

I guess the response to the Quiz has made me question if the contents of this Newsletter need fine tuning. I can only do this if you, as readers of it, let me know what you would like to be included.

My e-mail address is shown at the end of each Newsletter or you can write to me via the office. Your input would be greatly appreciated.

Thursday October 17 -VPA Golf Section

A warm and sunny day greeted 23 golfers at the South Beds Golf Club, Luton who were playing in pairs for the Peter Johnson trophy.

This year's winners were Mike King and Alan Currington with Peter Johnson (who donated the trophy) and John Boast in second place. With two other pairs tying for third place it was given to Roger Deane and Mike Roberts due to the score count-back. I haven't a clue what that means. The nearest the pin competitions were won by Peter Johnson and Eric Thomson.

The event was organised, for the last time, by Malcolm Large and Lou Chadwick, who are stepping down after a 4 year stint in the job.

The VPA and all golfing participants thank them for their efforts and wish them well in the future.

Upcoming Events in the South

Diary Dates For 2014

Listed below are trips planned for 2014:

Monday February 10

Mickies 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 - £328 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

Tuesday December 4

Christmas Party - £22 pp

At the time of writing this Newsletter this is all the information at hand. For added info please ring the office on 01582 427921. Opening hours are shown at the end of this Newsletter.

VPA Golf Section - 2014 events

Jim Heaney and Mike Roberts will now assume responsibility for organising future VPA golfing events. Booked already are:-
Thursday May 8 - Abbey Hill - Team Texas Scramble

Thursday June 12 - Whipsnade Park - Singles Stableford.

A third event is as yet to be planned. Details will be made known as soon as possible.

All golf-playing members with a club handicap can register for events by sending a brief note to either Mike or Jim at the VPA Office. The address is shown at the end of this Newsletter.

Tea Dance Schedule

The dates for Ted's tea and tango sessions are as follows. Note that they are all on a Wednesday.

January	8, 22
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

Dick Whittington Pantomime/Shopping at Christmas Market – Thursday Dec 12

Manchester Opera House

Leave Club at 9.00 a.m.

£12.00 pp

Christmas Supper Dance – Friday Dec 13

Tweedmill Craft Centre – Wed Feb 26

Leave Club at 9.30 a.m.

£5.00 pp

Tea Dances

December 10, 17, 24, and 31

January 10, 17, 24 and 31

Luton Lottery (drawn November 13)

C.A. Woolhead	P184426	£346.40
M.P. Clark	P1011110	£86.60
D.J. Philpot	P2003704	£86.60
D.E.J. Farrah	P2004657	£43.30
R.J. Harvey	P1007468	£43.30
A.J. Roberts	P1005774	£43.30
E.V. Edwards	P1006114	£21.65
M.P. Young	P1005700	£21.65
H.W. Gooding	P1006061	£21.65
J.D. Luby	P1003944	£21.65
D.J. Cooper	P2002352	£21.65
J.S. Tams	P1006924	£21.65
W.T. Lewis	P0145768	£21.65
E.M.J. Sarjent	P0877874B	£21.65
B. Evans	P1005903	£21.65
P.R. Rolls	P2001332	£21.65
M.E. Wilkinson	P2007736	£21.65

E/Port Lottery

No results available

In Memoriam – Luton

Allen, Robert Charles, Division 032

Died 22.9.13, Aged 87, Retired 1987

Barton, Richard Edward, VM Staff

Died 17.9.13, Aged 84, Retired 1988

Berry, Ruby, Division 886

Died 16.9.13, Aged 87, Retired 1982

Edgar, Thomas, VM Staff

Died 16.9.13, Aged 77, Retired 1990

Gazeley, Geoffrey Douglas, Division 046

Died 20.10.13, Aged 88, Retired 1986

Jefford, Kathleen Margaret, Division 033

Died 7.9.13, Aged 83, Retired 1981

Jolley, Peter Alexander, BCV

Died 28.10.13, Aged 85, Retired 1984

McCarthy, Patrick, BCV

Died 23.9.13, Aged 84, Retired 1988

Motley, Kenneth James, Division 132

Died 26.10.13, Aged 88, Retired 1986

Ogden, George Wilfred, BCV

Died 25.9.13, Aged 86, Retired 1986

O’Leary, Daniel, Division 615

Died 22.10.13, Aged 90, Retired 1985

Overy, Doreen, Division 615

Died 21.9.13, Aged 88, Retired 1981

Rowe, Robert George, Division 856

Died 27.10.13, Aged 87, Retired 1984

Skegg, Norman, Division 032

Died 25.9.13, Aged 86, Retired 1993

Smith, Arthur Jack, Division 410

Died 23.10.13, Aged 78, Retired 1980

Stevens, Joan, VM Staff

Died 26.10.13, Aged 84, Retired 1987

Tillier, Leonard, Division 615

Died 31.10.13, Aged 90, Retired 1981

Thomson, Willaim Henry, Division 435

Died 24.9.13, Aged 63, Retired 1986

Walker, Ida Frances, Division 833

Died 15.9.13, Aged 87, Retired 1982

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Cheetham, William Henry, Division 799

Died 7.11.13, Aged 79, Retired 1983

Humphreys, Edna, Division 608

Died 22.9.13, Aged 66, Retired 2002

Kennedy, William Kenneth, Division 672

Died 25.9.13, Aged 73, Retired 2004

Nash, Alan, Division 638

Died 21.9.13, Aged 64, Retired 2011

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.