

# ***Pensioners' Newsletter - October 2013***

---

## **News from the South**

Hi everyone:

Lots of news about your Committee members this time. First of all, congratulations to Ted Read, our very own Len Goodman, who has just celebrated his 90th birthday (there is more about this in the Newsletter), to Jean and Bob Bavister on their diamond wedding anniversary and to Lou Chadwick who is celebrating 50 years of marriage this month. Unfortunately I have to report that Lou has decided to leave the Committee after doing a grand job organising the VPA golf events, along with Malcolm Large who left last month for health reasons. Mike Roberts and Jim Heaney have agreed to take over running the golf events following the one at South Beds in October. Thanks to Mike and Jim. Brian Champkins has also resigned from the Committee where he was involved in running our Scottish trips, again owing to health reasons, and I wish him and Malcolm all the best for the future. This obviously leaves a number of empty places on the Committee, so if you feel you can contribute to running the VPA please let us know by calling the office on 01582 427921. You are welcome to come along to a meeting and see what's involved before making up your mind. Finally we are still running low on numbers for the Christmas Party this year so if you want to attend what is a really good night of entertainment and dancing please let us know.

Enjoy what is left of a great summer.

*John Boast*

## **News from the North**

Dear all,

I am composing this well in advance as I am going to be away for the next month and return too late to get it to print. Haven't we had a superb summer, just like they used to be when we were children, long hot days spent outdoors (or at least that's how I remember them) maybe something to do with rose-tinted specs. I hope it continues for those at home and also for us as we cruise down to the Black Sea, plenty of time to acquire sea legs and hopefully not carry too much 'excess baggage' when we return.

I am sure the September trip to Ludlow will have gone well by the time you read this. A five-day holiday has been arranged for the spring. It is from Monday 21 April, 2014. The holiday is with Alpha Travel staying at the Hotel Madeira in Falmouth. The cost is £194 with no single supplement. Bookings are now

being taken and details of the hotel and trips out can be obtained at the October social night. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Cheers,

*Dave Williams*

## **Remembrance Sunday**

We will be holding our service on Sunday 10 November at 8.30 am at the Kimpton Road Memorial to commemorate employees who lost their lives during the last wars. David Alexander, our work place chaplain, will be holding a short service. Everyone is welcome to join us.

## **Significant Anniversaries**

Committee members Jean and Bob Bavister celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on the 12 September 2013.

Ted Read reached the grand age of 90 on 16 September 2013.

Congratulations to them all from the VPA community.

## **The Engineering Old Boys Club**

The above mentioned club have a collection of memorabilia which includes a group picture of those who worked at the Chaul End Test Centre in late 1979/early 1980. This was published in the Vauxhall Mirror of February 1980. At each end of the front row are two security officers who were on duty that day. Alas their names are not known and Dick Stangan, who maintains this type of record, is eager to complete the set. If you know who these chaps were, or indeed are one of them, please ring Dick on 01582 507241 and he can supply a copy of the picture.

Slightly related (and to indicate how desperate we are for articles!) I would think that ex-security personnel are a never-ending fund of memories. To stay legal we are not looking for names but rather incidents - ideally humorous but embarrassing or salacious would also do. Please send in to [normanmcgregor3@gmail.com](mailto:normanmcgregor3@gmail.com) or by post to the office.

## **Out With The Old And In With The New**

The Brache as a venue title no longer exists. What was The Brache is now to be known as Venue 360. So now you know. Why am I telling you this? Well as I remember it Tuesday lunches at The Brache carried a 10% discount. At Venue 360 the Tuesday lunch discount has doubled to 20%. Sometimes change can be for the good, Heaven knows we all remember the other type of changes in our

working life (think how often HA Van production was alternated).

### **Senior Activities at Venue 360**

Venue 360 is committed to providing sports and leisure activities to everyone and run dedicated fitness classes and sports sessions for those who put the angst of teenage acne behind us some years ago. Venue 360 is offering Senior Conditioning Classes on Mondays and Thursdays, table tennis on Tuesdays, Badminton on Wednesdays and Tennis on Fridays. For further details ring Venue 360 on 01582 418873. As for me, all this talk of exercise has quite tired me out so I am going to lie down !

### **A Blast From The Past!**

Sidney Randall was on holiday at Portland Bill during September 2013 when this lovely Vauxhall Velox pulled into the car park. As Sidney is a Vauxhall pensioner he was curious to have a word with the driver. The Dutch couple who own it said it had been in the family since new in 1963; it was built in Germany, and had original paintwork and chrome with leather bench front seat with centre armrests.



It just stood out from all the modern cars in the car park and got so many glances from passing admirers that he thought you would like it for our Newsletter.

### **Home Fire Safety Check**

We included this item some time ago, but thought it timely to remind our members that the Bedfordshire Fire Service offers a free Home Fire Safety Check upon request. They visit your property and will advise where improvements can be made or potential concerns exist. They also supply and fit smoke alarms (normally two) free of charge. These alarms are battery-free and have a life of 10 years. If you wish to take advantage please ring Andy Martin on 01582 875226.

### **For All The Young At Heart!**

We all love Christmas and we are well-served in the area around us with a good number of options when it comes to visiting Santa. Whether you go with a partner, families or with a group of friends there are many choices. With no particular axe to grind (and with no backhanders coming my way!) I can heartily

recommend the World's End Garden Centre at Wendover, Bucks. The theme this year is based on the Wizard of Oz and Noah's Ark. If it repeats last year's display (The Chronicles of Narnia), I promise you will not be disappointed. Events start on Saturday 16 November with the arrival of Santa and a family of reindeer, continuing through to Christmas.

### **Warning for Computer Users**

We don't wish to cause any alarm, but for those of you who use Windows XP on your computer, you should be aware that from 8 April 2014, Microsoft will no longer support Windows XP which means that if you use XP, no further up-dates or security 'patches' will be issued as of that date. Those of you who use internet banking should be aware that this could put your security at risk. The Microsoft website will provide you with more details.

### **Appeal For Transport.**

The Little Bramingham Care Home based in Luton, which is run by a charity called Friends of the Elderly, is looking for a replacement mini-bus to enable staff to be able to take residents on trips, hospital appointments, etc. Their current mini-bus is, quote "just about on its last legs". If anyone reading this Newsletter is aware of a wheelchair friendly mini-bus for sale, please ring the manager, Emma Lawrence on 01582 582433.

### **October Quiz**

The October quiz is based on General Knowledge. As usual there is a £10 M&S voucher for the winner and the closing date for entries is Friday, 24 November.

1. What is the longest highway in the world?
2. What is the biggest desert in the world?
3. What is the longest river in the world?
4. Which capital city is on the River Danube?
5. What is the biggest island in the world?
6. Which city was once known as the Forbidden City?
7. Which country is the volcano known as Vesuvius located in?
8. Dublin is situated at the mouth of which river?
9. On what date is World Environmental Day held?
10. Who was the first Republican President of the USA?
11. What country is known as the Land of the Midnight Sun?
12. Which British university was the first to admit females on degree courses?
13. Who wrote the Harry Potter books?
14. Which city was the first motion picture played in?

15. Who said "History is bunk"?
16. Which US state is known as the Blue Grass state?
17. In which year was the first crossword puzzle in the world published?
18. What was the name of the dog in the Punch and Judy show?
19. Whose real name was Marion Michael Morrison?
20. Who wrote Bleak House?

### Who Said The English Language Is Easy?

This is the first article in a series of three which illustrates the difficulties faced in learning the English language. In this issue we will concentrate on identically spelt words which have different meanings.

1. The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.
2. The farm was used to **produce** differing types of **produce**.
3. The dump was so full that it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.
4. We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.
5. The soldier decided to **desert** his dessert in the **desert**.
6. Since there is no time like the **present**, he decided it was time to **present** the **present**.
7. When shot at the **dove** quickly **dove** into the bushes.
8. I did not **object** to the **object**.
9. The insurance was **invalid** for the **invalid**.
10. There was a **row** among the oarsmen about how to **row**.
11. I was too **close** to the door to **close** it.
12. The buck **does** frisky things when the **does** are present.
13. To help with his planting the farmer taught his **sow** to **sow**.
14. The **wind** was too strong so I could not **wind** up the sail on my yacht.
15. I had to **subject** the **subject** to a series of tests.

That's it for this issue, more next time!

### Thursday, 8 August - Thursford Experience

A smaller than hoped for group visited the display of Wurlitzer organs and old-time fairground rides, with the more adventurous tucking in their underwear and taking advantage of the rides on offer. The weather was pretty good and those that went had a good day.

### Tuesday, 3 September - Southend

Luckily a bigger group took the coach to the coast and had an enjoyable day at one of the south coast's premier resorts. Okay I exaggerated the last part but, hey, my nose will shorten in time. By all accounts everyone had a

fun time and returned to Luton with a light heart and a heavy tan!

### Thursday, 26 September – Chelsea Hospital and Poppy Factory

Two separate locations which somewhat tested the stamina of those travelling. Nevertheless my mum and her friends had a jolly good day and I assume that went for the rest of the group. It was an early start and a late return so everyone had value for money and of course both places were deserving causes. As can be seen in the photo below we at least sent a happy group to London. Thanks to all in the office for organising and to Sylvia for her efforts on the day.



### Upcoming Events in the South

**25 November for four nights** - Turkey and Tinsel, Russell Court Hotel, Bournemouth £170.00 p.p.

Guaranteed: fun, frivolity and frolics

**Thursday, 5 December** - Christmas Party  
At £21 p.p. this event has to be the bargain of the year. For this minor outlay you get a four-course meal and a mince pie with coffee/tea, **plus** music from the Danny Glass combo, **plus** seasonal and popular songs from Kerry George, who you will recall was the winner of Luton's Got Talent 2013, **plus** a free raffle, although in fairness you will have to purchase tickets to take part! Book your tickets and get further details by ringing the office. The number is shown at the end of this Newsletter.

**Tuesday, 10 December** – Rochester Christmas Market, Rochester - Coach only  
For a coach-only charge of £15 p.p. you can visit the famous Christmas Market which is set in the grounds of the iconic (so it says in the handout) grounds of Rochester Market. Trees and bushes will be festooned with all manner of Christmas decorations all designed to fill you full of seasonal cheer and tug at the heart (and purse) strings. Go on, give it a go and avoid the shame of being called Scrooge. You can get more details or book through the office (01582 427921).

### Golf Dates for 2013

Thursday, 17 October - South Beds

### Quiz Nights for 2013

Tuesday, 15 October

Tuesday, 3 December  
**Tea Dance Schedule**  
Oct 2, 9, 16, 30  
Could be subject to cancellation.

### Upcoming Events in the North

#### Ludlow Good Food Show - 13 September

£7.00 (includes entry to Ludlow Castle)

#### Blackpool – 9 October

Leave Club at 10.00 a.m.

£5.00 p.p.

**Dunoon and the Scottish Highlands – 21 October for four nights** staying at the Esplanade Hotel, Dunoon. **Fully booked.**

#### Dick Whittington Pantomime/Shopping at

#### Christmas Market – Thursday, 12 Dec

Leave Club at 9.00 a.m.

£13.00 p.p.

#### Christmas Supper Dance – Friday, 13

December - More details to follow

### Tea Dances

October 8, 15, 22 and 29

November 12, 19, and 26

### Luton Lottery (drawn 14 August)

L. Boyce	P1010750	£48.66
A. Gardener	P035208D	£48.66
A. Field	P1010765	£48.66
J.G. Aries	P024692A	£24.33
J.D. Wright	P2007758	£24.33
B.G. Simley	P1010051	£24.33
I.J. Fairley	P11840009	£24.33

### E/Port Lottery (drawn 30 August)

G.G. Peters	P1006096	£1420
P. Dambrogio	P1007938	£ 110
E. Astbury	P1006535	£ 110
T. May	P1010692	£ 110

### In Memoriam – Luton

**Audas**, James Howard, Division 436

Died 22.6.13, Aged 90, Retired 1982

**Brewer**, Edward George, BCV

Died 22.6.13, Aged 82, Retired 1988

**Cain**, Peter, Division 824

Died 15.6.13, Aged 91, Retired 1982

**Caswell**, Daniel Horace, Division 032

Died 29.7.13, Aged 76, Retired 2000

**Coyle**, Gerald, Division 615

Died 28.7.13, Aged 92, Retired 1982

**Crowley**, Constance Rose, Division 198,

Died 18.6.13, Aged 90, Retired 1981

**Davey**, Pete Newton, Division 033

Died 11.8.13, Aged 80, Retired 1995

**Golder**, Ronald Desmond, Division 432

Died 19.8.13, Aged 90, Retired 1982

**Gribben**, John Robert, Division 150

Died 26.6.13, Aged 63, Retired 2002

**Hocking**, Ronald George Percy, Div 522

Died 22.8.13, Aged 73, Retired 1993

**Lack**, Ronald Baden, Division 041

Died 18.7.13, Aged 99, Retired 1976

**McGrath**, Mary Nancy, Division 527

Died 2.7.13, Aged 75, Retired 2002

**Naseem**, Mohammed, Division 033

Died 21.6.13, Aged 62, Retired 2001

**Paradine**, Ronald Frederick Charles, Div 615

Died 18.7.13, Aged 86, Retired 1982

**Sinfield**, John Anthony, Division 485

Died 29.7.13, Aged 82, Retired 1988

**Smith**, Anthony Michael, Division 390

Died 22.8.13, Aged 64, Retired 2000

**Smith**, Philip, Division 527

Died 31.7.13, Aged 78, Retired 1988

**Stanton**, Robert, Division 834

Died 22.6.13, Aged 86, Retired 1982

**Wilson**, Albert, Division 431,

Died 18.8.13, Aged 85, Retired 1984

**Wilson**, Kenneth, Division 839

Died 18.7.13, Aged 88, Retired 1982

### In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

**Brady**, John Arthur, Division 628

Died 2.9.13, Aged 78, Retired 1998

**Crilly**, George Aloysius, Division 663

Died 9.8.13, Aged 74, Retired 2002

**Eddy**, Anthony Alfred, Division 661

Died 8.8.13, Aged 67, Retired 2011

**Steele**, Norman Edward, Division 612

Died 20.7.13, Aged 92, Retired 1983

### How To Access the Newsletter and 2013

#### 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: [annisa.whitehall@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:vpa@gm.com)

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.