

# ***Pensioners' Newsletter - February 2013***

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## **News from the South**

Hi Everyone:

Well, I think we can say that 2013 has come in with a bang!! Flooding to start and then the snow!! I was born in 1947 and experienced the winter of 1963 so I guess things could have been a lot worse! I hope you have all managed to stay safe and warm and enjoyed Christmas. The Christmas party held at the Riverside was a really good night (or at least I am told that I enjoyed myself!!) and I would like to congratulate all concerned with organising it and the Recreation Club staff who did an excellent job.

Well onto 2013, Maureen Clarke, Sue Kirby, Dave Linney and Brian Champkins have put together a great programme of events for the coming year ranging from one day coach outings to a trip to Scotland, with as usual the ever popular Tinsel and Turkey. Have a look at the programme (details will be in this and future Newsletters) and come along. Finally the AGM will be held on 26th March in the Riverside Suite at the Recreation Club where the Company will provide an update on the Pension Plans and answer your questions. This is your opportunity to raise issues that are worrying you so make sure you attend.

*John Boast*

## **News from the North**

Dear All:

Can I begin by wishing you all a happy and peaceful New Year and hope you all had a good Christmas, wherever you were and however you celebrated it.

The Christmas dinner dance was a huge success enjoyed by all who attended. The meal was lovely and the entertainment good. The trip to Manchester to the pantomime was enjoyed by all with lots of opportunity for Christmas shopping at the Christmas market. At the moment our chairman Ken is poorly and I am sure you will join me in wishing him a speedy return to full health. He has been our chairman for many years and his presence is sorely missed, along with his humour when calling the bingo.

Some of the trips mentioned in the last Newsletter have now been finalised and more details are given towards the end of this Newsletter.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter we have been in existence as a club for 40 years in June so we have decided to celebrate in true nostalgic style by having an Abba night. I will let you have further details nearer the time.

I will bring you further news on trips as they are finalised and also keep you posted about Ken.

Cheers until next time.

*Dave Williams*

## **Introducing Your Committee**

Sylvia Pemberton joined the VPA Committee about 3 years ago, but had been a stalwart committee member of the Vauxhall 25 year club for many years helping organise the annual dinner evening and more recently was heavily involved in the social activities serving as Treasurer and helping organise the many trips that were undertaken. She was famous for her supply of bacon rolls to feed trip participants.

Sylvia joined Vauxhall in January 1959, working in the Trim Shop in AC Block in the manufacture of vehicle upholstery, especially sewing on "special vehicles". In those days the Royal Family were given a car when new models were introduced (particularly the Cresta range) and Sylvia would have worked on these. In 1976 she moved into a staff position in the Shipping Department in S Block and in 1980 relocated to K Block as part of the Traffic Section where she remained until she took early retirement in 1992. She did however relocate into P Block in the early 1980's and Griffin House in 1992. Truly she got around!

## **Old Vauxhall Mirrors**

Do you remember the time when the Vauxhall Mirror was thick, shiny and the Luton/Ellesmere Port equivalent of OK Magazine? Well are you in luck because we have most of them from the 1960's. You will have to arrange to collect them and return them in the condition you receive them. If you are interested please ring the office with details.

## **Vauxhall Memories**

We received a letter from Robert Chappin who writes as follows:

"I have some information on my family who worked at Luton Vauxhall. My father, Roy Chappin, worked in Die Design and Press Tooling. Other family members who worked at Vauxhall - Norman, Donald, Joy, Jim, Joe and Timothy (who is currently at IBC), plus myself, have a grand total of 210 years service between us. My father Roy played football for Vauxhall Motors FC in the days when Ken Edge was team manager. Eventually Norman joined Roy in the first team. Roy played on the

right wing/striker and Norman centre half. Roy played many games for Vauxhall in the years 1947 to 1956 and scored two goals in a drawn cup game that was televised (Kenneth Wolstenhome did the commentary). Roy also played for Luton Schools, England Amateurs, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, along with spells at Hitchin Town, Shefford, Barnet and his village team Slip End. While Roy was in the RAF he was out in Bahrain where the RAF played a Bahrain International Eleven winning 13-1 with Roy scoring 10 goals. I became physio to Vauxhall FC when Derek Mardle was manager and was also physio to the Beds county team."

It was great getting this letter from Robert and what struck me straight away was the pride he felt for his father and family. Many of us will remember that one of the questions asked when applying for a job with Vauxhall was - have you any relatives working at Vauxhall? This then led me to thinking is 210 years a record for any one family or can you beat this? Anyone with a good family service please write in with details. If anyone wants to contact Robert please call the office with your details and we will pass them on to him.

#### **A Quiz With A Difference**

I thought I would try something different this issue (as well as thwart those of you who use Google!) This is all to do with lateral thinking and the prize for the winner is a £10 M&S voucher. Answers in by 31st March latest please. All responses treated equally, it is not a benefit to be first to reply rather than last.

1. If you have 2 coins with a total value of 11p and one of the coins is not a penny, what are the 2 coins?
2. Dividing 40 by half and adding 10 gives you what?
3. A farmer has 15 cows and all but 6 die. How many does he have left?
4. If you are running in a race and you overtake the second person what position are you in?
5. If a red house is made of red bricks and a blue house is made of blue bricks what is a green house made of?
6. If a plane crashes on the Italian/Swiss border where do you bury the survivors?
7. Name 3 consecutive days in English without using Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday.
8. A cowboy rode into town on Friday, spent one night there and left on Friday. How come?
9. How many birthdays does a typical woman have?
10. What can you put in a wooden box that will make it lighter?

11. A window cleaner is cleaning the windows on the 25th storey of a skyscraper when he slips and falls. Even though he is not wearing a safety harness and nothing slows his fall he is uninjured. How so?
12. Why can't a man living in Newcastle be buried west of the River Tyne?
13. To the nearest cubic centimetre how much soil is there in a 3m x 2m x 2m hole?
14. Is it legal for a man to marry his widow's sister?
15. A man went into a store to buy an item and was told one would cost £2, ten would cost £4 and one hundred would cost £6. What was he buying?

#### **December 2012 Quiz results**

- 1 George V (1932)
- 2 Oliver Cromwell
- 3 Pigs in blankets
- 4 Cake
- 5 Carrot
- 6 Turkey
- 7 26<sup>th</sup> December
- 8 Jacob Marley
- 9 Norway
- 10 Ladies dancing
- 11 White
- 12 Melchior, Caspar, Balthasar
- 13 Christmas Crackers
- 14 Mexico
- 15 Robert Burns
- 16 Six
- 17 Pannettone
- 18 Arctic
- 19 12<sup>th</sup> Night
- 20 India
- 21 Almond
- 22 Australia
- 23 Griswold
- 24 Seven
- 25 Canada
- 26 Wales
- 27 Candles
- 28 364
- 29 Christmas Card
- 30 Holiday Inn

We had a good number of entries, many of which many were 100% correct. All winning names were put into a hat and the winner chosen by my wife Susan (losers know who to blame). Congratulations to Bill Saul - a gift voucher is on its way to you.

#### **Turkey and Tinsel - 30th November 2012**

On Friday, 30th November a smallish group of VPA members travelled to the Marine Parade Hotel, Eastbourne to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. On arrival they were given refreshments in the lounge and warned as to how they should behave by the hotel management! I made that last bit up! On

Saturday bus passes were used (while we still have them) to visit Brighton or Hastings. What was wrong with Eastbourne I ask myself? Enjoyable entertainment was provided on Friday and Saturday evenings and the group returned home on Monday.

#### **Christmas Party – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

Despite the fears of a low turnout a good crowd were in attendance for what was a super evening. Since we met with the caterers prior to the 2011 event there has been a huge improvement in the quality of the meals, an improvement which was maintained in 2012. Our thanks go to Maureen, Dick and Dave for their efforts in this direction. Also helping to make the evening a great success was the music and singing of Danny Glass and the spirited rendition of carols, etc by the Vauxhall Male Voice Choir. Lastly many thanks to Les Potter for his efforts in obtaining the raffle prizes. Although I have to say my thanks are somewhat lukewarm given that I did not have a winning ticket! Still there is always next year.

#### **London Lights - 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Two separate trips, one common conclusion. A good time was had by all. The lights were stunning to see, including the shop front displays of the major stores. Plus everyone enjoyed a fish and chip supper to round of a very pleasant day on what were the last trips of 2012. Our thanks go to Maureen, Sue and Dave for their efforts in organising all the trips throughout the year.

#### **Upcoming Events in the South**

##### **Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March - Bank of England/ Houses of Parliament**

Visit the Bank of England museum to look at the Bank in all its glory days and prior to the bonus scandals etc. If desired we can provide rotten fruit to throw at any passing bankers (only joking)!! After leisure time for lunch we visit the Houses of Parliament for a guided tour. All of this for only £12.

##### **Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March -Thames Cable Car Trip/Tour of London Sights**

Opened in July 2012 the Cable Car is a must do for visitors to the capital. We will fly twice - once in daylight and once in the hours of darkness. In between time we are including a tour of London sights. At £30 per head this is by no means our cheapest trip, but surely represents value for money.

Other trips planned for 2013 are

**Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May** - Camden Market  
Coach only - £11 pp

**Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May** - Black Country Living Museum - £25 pp including entry

**Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June** - Oxford and Friars Court for High Tea - £22 pp

**Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> June** - Savill Gardens, Windsor - £19 pp including entry

**Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August** - Thursford Experience Norfolk - £20 pp including entry

**Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September** - Southend Coach only - £10 pp

**October (t.b.a.)** - Chelsea Hospital and Poppy Factory - £18.50 pp

**November (t.b.a.)** - Turkey and Tinsel Venue and price to be established

**Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Party £21 pp

**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Market, Rochester - Coach only - £15 pp

You can get more details or book through the office (01582 427921)

#### **Golf Dates for 2013**

The following dates have been decided for the golf competitions. More details will be included in the April Newsletter.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Abbey Hill

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June - Caddington

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October - South Beds

#### **Quiz Nights**

The next Quiz night is on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March in the Acorn Room at the Recreation Club. It starts at 7.00 pm and ask yourself where else can you have a fun packed evening for just £1.

#### **Tea Dance Schedule**

There are no dances in February due to refurbishments in the Riverside Suite, plus the dance planned for 6<sup>th</sup> March is cancelled as the room is not available. However, Ted has negotiated extra dates in April, July and August and these are 24<sup>th</sup> April, 17<sup>th</sup> July and 11<sup>th</sup> August. Three for one - not even Tesco can match that. Well done Ted.

The dates for the first half of the year are:

20<sup>th</sup> March

3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April

1<sup>st</sup> May

5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June

3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July

#### **Upcoming Events in the North**

**AGM – 5<sup>th</sup> March**

**Hot Pot Supper – 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

Club Night

**Bury Market/Bygone Days – 10<sup>th</sup> April**

Details later from the Club

**Spring Holiday – Spalding Flower Festival  
3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May**

£145 p.p.

**Sleeping Beauty on Ice – Llandudno**

### **8<sup>th</sup> May**

Leave Club at 9.00 a.m.

£16 p.p.

### **Abba Night – June (t.b.a.)**

40 Year Celebration Night

### **Great North Show, Yorkshire – 10<sup>th</sup> July**

Leave Club at 9.00 a.m.

£18.50 p.p.

### **Shrewsbury Flower Show/Fireworks**

### **10<sup>th</sup> August**

£21 p.p.

### **York Trip – 25<sup>th</sup> September**

2012 trip cancelled due to bad weather.

Leave Club at 9.00 a.m.

£5.00 p.p.

### **Blackpool – 9<sup>th</sup> October**

Leave Club at 10.00 a.m.

£5.00 p.p.

### **Tea Dances**

Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

Mar 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>

### **In Memoriam – Luton**

**Adams**, Francis, Division 241

Died 28.11.12, Aged 88, Retired 1982

**Alger**, Dennis George, Division 286

Died 20.12.12, Aged 84, Retired 1987

**Blackwell**, Ronald William, Division 222

Died 16.12.12, Aged 91, Retired 1982

**Bower**, Francis Patrick, Division 845

Died 5.10.12, Aged 82, Retired 1987

**Brodie**, Alexander William, VM Staff

Died 16.11.12, Aged 92, Retired 1981

**Broom**, Trevor Harold, Division 729

Died 1.1.13, Aged 83, Retired 1987

**Clark**, Alexander, Division 232

Died 22.11.12, Aged 86, Retired 1983

**Davies**, Dennis, Division 015

Died 23.12.12, Aged 68, Retired 2001

**Davies**, Thomas Miles, Division 215

Died 30.12.12, Aged 100, Retired 1976

**Draper**, Peter Edwin, BCV Staff

Died 28.11.12, Aged 87, Retired 1986

**Fearn**, Frederick William, Division 292

Died 25.12.12, Aged 89, Retired 1987

**Gunnell**, Dennis Victor, Division 019

Died 19.11.12, Aged 89, Retired 1982

**King**, Joan May, Division 037

Died 28.11.12, Aged 82, Retired 1982

**Justice**, Leonard Frederick (Len), Div 249

Died 26.12.12, Aged 82, Retired 1988

**Meilinger**, George, Division 150

Died 29.11.12, Aged 83, Retired 1993

**Peach**, Colin George, Division 082

Died 17.11.12, Aged 69, Retired 2001

**Pinney**, Frederick William, Division 146

Died 18.11.12, Aged 89, Retired 1982

**Salisbury**, Donald, Division 883

Died 6.1.13, Aged 96, Retired 1979

**Stocker**, Walter Henry, Division 047

Died 19.11.12, Aged 86, Retired 1988

**Thirkettle**, Ronald Victor, Division 015

Died 30.10.12, Aged 83, Retired 1993

**Tomlin**, Christine Isabella Emma, Div 927

Died 19.12.12, Aged 86, Retired 1985

**Wiseman**, Robert Arthur, Division 087

Died 30.11.12, Aged 91, Retired 1982

### **In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port**

**Bramhill**, John, Division 635

Died 5.1.13, Aged 87, Retired 1981

**Bulley**, Thomas Allan, Division 670

Died 5.12.12, Aged 84, Retired 1988

**Chamberlain**, Kenneth, Division 625

Died 17.1.13, Aged 87, Retired 1980

**Clibery**, Roy, Division 663

Died 29.12.12, Aged 77, Retired 2000

**Downes**, Peter, Division 643

Died 18.1.13, Aged 62, Retired 2010

**Hawksey**, James John, Division 638

Died 5.12.12, Aged 61, Retired 2006

**Ives**, Leslie, Division 691

Died 22.1.13, Aged 77, Retired 1999

**Linton**, Walter Kenneth, Division 610

Died 7.12.12, Aged 63, Retired 2003

**Lloyd**, Peter, Division 623,

Died 15.1.13, Aged 76, Retired 1981

**Seddon**, Brian Edward, Division 682

Died 26.12.12, Aged 79, Retired 1989

### **How To Access the Newsletter and 2012 AGM Minutes (New Introduction) 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: [ashley.daly@vauxhall.co.uk](mailto:ashley.daly@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.