

# ***Pensioners' Newsletter – October 2012***

---

## **News from the South**

Hi Everyone:

Well it looks like the summer (did we have one this year?) has decided to leave and the nights are already drawing in fast. I can always tell when autumn begins as I have a squirrel who somehow finds his way into my loft each year and proceeds to start hiding his nuts away ready for the winter. I live in a bungalow and as he particularly likes the area directly above my bedroom I can hear him banging and scratching most nights. I am sure he wears hob nailed boots and likes ten pin bowling! Anyone with any ideas on how to get rid of him please write to the VPA office. All ideas considered!! On a more serious note, as winter approaches it becomes more important that we keep an eye out for our older members, so if you know of any living near you please take the time to pay them a visit and if they are in need of help let us know. Remember we have a Vauxhall Welfare team who can help with things like broken down boilers, fires and cookers, so let's make sure all our retirees are as safe and warm as my squirrel through this winter.

*John Boast*

## **News from the North**

Dear All:

I do hope you have all enjoyed the summer, even if it did leave you rusty and not suntanned! Our August trip saw a full coach sally forth to visit Ludlow, stopping en route at the Judges Lodgings in Powys. I think everybody enjoyed it and speaking for myself and people I spoke to, the Judges Lodgings were very interesting. What a change to be able to visit a museum without ropes and 'no touching' notices. In fact we were actively encouraged to pick things up and examine them. It was a couple of hours well spent wallowing in nostalgia (I am not saying we could actually remember using most things). By the time this goes to print the trip to York will be past, but I wish all those going a great day – there is so much to see and do there. Finally, as the dark nights are upon us once more, it has been decided to bring the social evening to a close at 10.30 p.m. The evening timetable has been re-arranged to accommodate this without losing out on any of our activities during the evening.

*Dave Williams*

## **Introducing Your Committee**

This month we feature Lou Chadwick who is primarily concerned with the administration of the golfing section (one way of making sure he wins a prize now and again!).

Lou joined Vauxhall in 1954 as an apprentice gaining an Ordinary National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering and a Higher National Certificate in Production Engineering before finishing his apprenticeship in 1960. He first worked as a Jig and Fixture Draughtsman until 1963 and then became a Production Engineer until 1968. In that year he moved into the Buying Department as a Senior Buyer responsible for the procurement for all Vauxhall and Bedford prototype requirements. He was promoted to General Supervisor in 1970 and again to Group Buyer in 1975 having responsibility for the purchase of fasteners, seats, hardware and forgings. In 1979 he switched responsibilities to purchase brakes, electrics, mechanical assemblies, engines, transmissions and axles. In 1991 he was appointed Purchasing Executive. He later joined IBC Vehicles, swiftly becoming Purchasing Director, a position he held until 1996 when he retired after 42 years service. These are the bare facts behind the career of Lou Chadwick. What they do not tell is the influence he had, and the role he played, in the dealings between General Motors, Isuzu (Midi and Frontera models) and Suzuki (Rascal model). Our oriental partners held him in high regard and I know from personal experience how vital a role he played in bringing all these vehicles into the Luton Plant. He also did this when, initially, it was most unusual for Vauxhall people to travel to Japan. A trailblazer indeed! I am sure that there were many occasions when Lou found it necessary to use his innate good humour to get through the day in what were always tough negotiations.

## **Remembrance Day Service**

A service will be held on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30 a.m. at the War Memorial in Kimpton Road, Luton.

## **Meeting With Researcher**

In June 2012, we published a communication from a researcher from Cambridge University who was keen to talk to anyone involved or family members who remember a study which took place in the 1960s called 'The Affluent Worker Study'. A meeting has been arranged with the researcher on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, commencing at 1.00 p.m. in Griffin House. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please call the VPA office for further details.

## **Vauxhall Memories**

John McKiernan remembers fully laden buses arriving at the Luton Plant every morning.

Most passengers upon alighting would join the slow-moving queue at the paper stall at the bottom of the canteen steps. One cheeky chappie used to pick up a paper, scan the bits of interest to him and then replace it before he reached the counter. On this particular morning the long-suffering newsagent barked in a loud voice: "Are you buying that?" "No," replied the now red-faced chap. "Well nobody else will now that you have read it – it's second hand now," replied the seller. Suffice it to say there was one less person in the queue from that day on.

Jeane Bailey worked in the Parts Department from 1943 through 1958. During that time she saw many Churchill tanks rolling down the hill on their way from the Service Station. One day a loud bang was heard, and upon looking out of a window, she saw an explosion following the dropping of a V2 rocket in Biscot Road. Jeane also recalls feeling rather nervous after cleaners had cleaned the glass ceiling light shades. If screwed up too tightly they were liable to shatter when the lights were turned on. Fortunately nobody was harmed. Health and Safety was evidently not an issue in those days. After working in the Parts Department Jeane became a secretary in the Sales Division, finally leaving Vauxhall in 1975 to become a nurse.

During a severe fuel shortage in the middle of a very cold winter, everyone worked with no heating. Typists sat with overcoats on and typed with gloved fingers. Dave Taylor in the April Newsletter recalled much the same about keeping going in extreme weather conditions. We were certainly a hardy lot in those days!

It is encouraging to receive your memories. They are always of interest and make my writing the Newsletter so much easier so please keep them coming. As Hughie Green used to say "We can't do it without your input folks". (Actually I am not sure he did, but he probably said something like that.) Please send in any memories you have as this column only gets written if you supply the data.

#### **Your Chance To Win £10 M & S Voucher**

The answers to the questions below are all found in the world of television advertising. As the number of entries is growing issue by issue, there is no free answer this month.

1. Which ad featured a feathered friend called Buzby?
2. Who said, rather hopefully perhaps, "We're getting there"?
3. What did the very first TV advert advertise?
4. Which sweets, now called Starburst, were made to make your mouth water?
5. Which cigarette brand was as cool as a mountain stream?

6. Every little bit helps, said which shopping chain?

7. What makes budgies bounce with health?

8. What product did Tony say was "greeaaaat"?

9. Leonard Rossiter and Joan Collins advertised what?

10. What was "full of eastern promise"?

11. Where would you look to find 'Fly Fishing' by J R Hartley?

12. Which ad had robots laughing at humans peeling a vegetable with knives?

13. "Mr Shifter do you know the piano's on my foot?" "You hum it son and I'll play it!" advertised what?

14. According to the advert, this is the real thing.

15. Rowan Atkinson played an inept spy in this series of ads, but what was being advertised?

16. Who played Beattie in the BT ads?

17. Harry Enfield said "This bloke's a nutter" advertising what?

18. What put a tiger in your tank back in the 60s?

19. Victor Kyam liked the product so much that he bought the company. What was the product?

20. What is probably the best lager in the world?

Competition closes on Friday, 16th November. Send your entry to either the VPA office or [normanmcgregor3@gmail.com](mailto:normanmcgregor3@gmail.com). Please include your address on your entry. Best of luck.

#### **Answers to August 2012 Quiz**

The answers were:

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1 Bath         | 2 Dover           |
| 3 Nuneaton     | 4 Crewe           |
| 5 Edinburgh    | 6 Blackpool       |
| 7 Newcastle    | 8 Mansfield       |
| 9 Douglas      | 10 York           |
| 11 Stoke       | 12 Blackburn      |
| 13 Earls Court | 14 Crystal Palace |
| 15 Doncaster   | 16 Chelsea        |
| 17 Exeter      | 18 Sittingbourne  |
| 19 Sevenoaks   | 20 Livingstone    |

The winner was David Walton who will shortly receive a £10 M&S token.

Well done to David and all the others who submitted entries. Only a couple of points covered all participants.

#### **Trip to Southend**

To many of our party there was considerable surprise in seeing the seafront. The old 'Kursaal' funfair has gone and been replaced by a modern area of restaurants, cafeterias, gardens, an excellent shopping centre and other new activities. Those that made the trip to relive the days of their youth were at least pleased to see that the long pier was still there

with its train ride to the end and back. The weather was kind and the organised fish and chip tea was enjoyed by all. Our headmistress for the trip, Maureen Clark, told me that she wore a kiss-me-quick hat all day, but had few takers. For those of you who remember the Nags Head outing to Southend in Only Fools and Horses, I am pleased to report the coach did not catch fire and all returned safely.

#### **Buckingham Palace – 15<sup>th</sup> August**

An excited coach of royalists began the visit at the Palace and were suitably impressed with all the magnificent works of art on display with the added bonus of a special exhibition of the Queens diamonds. Security was, unfortunately, very strict so no mementos were obtained! Maureen Clark, the leader for the day, was resplendent in a mauve outfit and was mistaken for Her Majesty by a group of Japanese tourists. She enjoyed signing autographs, but was a bit miffed at being thought of as 85 years old! The visit then continued with a look around the Royal Mews where the royal carriages are housed with special oohs and aahs being reserved for the gold State Coach. Animal lovers were catered for by seeing a couple of the carriage horses in the stables. On the way home the group stopped for a carvery meal to round off a right royal day (boom, boom!).

#### **RHS Wisley Flower Show – 7<sup>th</sup> September**

A smallish group made the trip and were blessed with marvellous weather with hats and parasols being the order of the day. As well as the usual immaculate permanent displays in the flower beds and borders there were numerous stalls selling plants and all things Percy Throwerish (a blast from the past!). A few people had pains on their faces and holes in their wallets after succumbing to temptation. Although there were lots of visitors finding a seat to simply rest or somewhere to eat was no problem. A good day was enjoyed by all who took the trip.

#### **Scottish Trip - July 2013**

An information sheet giving details of this trip will be given to all participants on our future trips this year including the Christmas Party. A sheet will be included with the mailed issue of the Newsletter and can also be obtained by ringing the office. Deposits are required by the end of January 2013. After the turkey and mince pies on Christmas day, settle down, read the sheet and make your decision.

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

**Bletchley Park/Dobbies Garden Centre**  
**Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> October**

£19.50 per person

#### **Birmingham Tattoo/Shopping**

**Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> November**

£35.00 per person

#### **London Lights/Fish and Chips Supper**

**Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December**

£20.00 per person

You can get more details or book through the office (details at end of this Newsletter)

#### **Our Christmas Party**

We have had a positive response to our plea in the last issue for more takers. The same comments as last time still apply. Please do try to attend as it really is a fun night and we have no desire to cancel. We shall make a decision at our October Committee meeting (23<sup>rd</sup>), so in the immortal words of Delia Smith, "Let's be having you"!

#### **Golf Dates**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

South Beds Golf Club - 4 Ball event

#### **Quiz Nights**

Quiz Nights will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> December. Note that the dates are Tuesdays and the event begins at 7.00 p.m. in the Acorn Room at the Recreation Club.

#### **Tea Dance Schedule**

Held in the Riverside Suite and starting at 2.00 p.m. the dates are:

Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>

Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>

Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

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

**Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October**

Trip to Blackpool to see the illuminations.

£5.00 per person

**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November**

Pre-Christmas Lunch, Ellesmere Port College

12.00 noon for 12.30 p.m. start.

£10 per person (this trip is now fully booked)

**Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Trip to the Manchester Opera House to see the pantomime Peter Pan starring David Hasselhoff. The price is £12 p.p. and as there are Christmas markets being held in Manchester at this time the coach will leave the club at 9.30 a.m. so you have time to fit in some Christmas shopping!

**Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas supper dance to be held at the Club. Cost and details t.b.a.

**Please note that the holiday in Cromer in Norfolk on the 18th March 2013 is now fully booked and that the visit to the Good Food Show planned for 28<sup>th</sup> November has been cancelled due to lack of support.**

#### **Tea Dances**

October 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th  
November 13th, 20th, 27<sup>th</sup>

#### **Pensioners Lottery Results – Luton Drawn 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

B. Robinson	P2000912	£395.92
R.H. Savage	P2006033	£ 98.98
J.G. Cohen	P1011994	£ 49.49
A.J. Fisher	P1009849	£ 49.49
E. Manton	P1970193	£ 49.49
B. Evans	P1005903	£ 49.49
P.G. Butterfield	P024646	£ 24.75
D.J. Kearney	P1007163	£ 24.75
J.F. Johnson	P1007112	£ 24.75
M.P. Clark	P1011110	£ 24.75
P. Roach	P1004044	£ 24.75
D.B. Groutcutt	P1011783	£ 24.75
A. Field	P1010765	£ 24.75

#### **Pensioners Lottery Results – E/Port Drawn 28<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

W. Burke	P1005862	£310.00
P.W. Roughsedge	P1006240	£120.00
S. Sumner	P1000178	£120.00
F.R. Savage	P1006592	£120.00
G.T. Bell	P1006325	

#### **In Memoriam – Luton**

**Arnold**, Henry John, VM Hourly  
Died 16.6.12, Aged 90, Retired 1982  
**Barrett**, Bernard Louis Walter James (Jimmy),  
VM Staff  
Died 22.7.12, Aged 92, Retired 1982  
**Bosted**, Len (Ben), VM Staff  
Died 4.8.12, Aged 96, Retired 1980  
**Brumpton**, Charles Edward, VM Staff  
Died 6.8.12, Aged 87, Retired 1982  
**Burnage**, Raymond Dennis, Division 033  
Died 17.7.12, Aged 75, Retired 1998  
**Cherry**, Eric Thomas, VM Hourly  
Died 17.8.12, Aged 97, Retired 1980  
**Collard**, John Joseph Aloysius, BCV Staff  
Died 20.8.12, Aged 85, Retired 1988  
**Dobbs**, Maurice George, Division 033,  
Died 29.8.12, Aged 78, Retired 1993  
**Govan**, James Mowat, VM Staff  
Died 29.8.12, Aged 80, Retired 1989  
**Harding**, Reginald, Division 527  
Died 30.7.12, Aged 79, Retired 1997  
**Hegarty**, Desmond, Division 015  
Died 15.8.12, Aged 91, Retired 1986  
**O'Callaghan**, Joyce, Division 037  
Died 25.6.12, Aged 76, Retired 1992  
**McLean**, Donald, BCV Hourly

Died 30.7.12, Aged 80, Retired 1988  
**Mills**, Selwyn, Division 015  
Died 17.7.12, Aged 68, Retired 2002  
**Morris**, Donald Ernest, Division 055  
Died 4.9.12, Aged 74, Retired 1997  
**Smith**, John Leonard, BCV Hourly  
Died 16.7.12, Aged 82, Retired 1988  
**Thomas**, Leonard Charles William,  
VM Hourly  
Died 19.7.12, Aged 82, Retired 1990  
**Watson**, Eric, VM Hourly  
Died 27.7.12, Aged 91, Retired 1982  
**Whitbread**, Clifford, VM Staff  
Died 19.8.12, Aged 84, Retired 1988

#### **In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port**

**Bamford**, Kenneth, Division 671  
Died 23.7.12, Aged 86, Retired 1987  
**Banford**, William David, Division 642  
Died 30.7.12, Aged 66, Retired 2006  
**Carroll**, Peter, Division 639  
Died 30.8.12, Aged 77, Retired 1998  
**Hunt**, Michael Joseph, Division 663  
Died 21.8.12, Aged 85, Retired 1989  
**Jones**, Victor James, Division 715  
Died 10.7.12, Aged 89, Retired 1981  
**Read**, Clary, Division 629  
Died 1.9.12, Aged 81, Retired 1992

#### **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.