

Pensioners' Newsletter - June 2012

News from the South

Hi Everyone

Hope you are all enjoying the Spring weather!! I have invested in a deepwater diving outfit so that I can retrieve the golf balls that I have lost in the lake that was our golf course! Let's hope it improves for the summer.

This month a number of your Committee members attended a trial visit to the Vauxhall Heritage Centre where we were given a presentation showing Vauxhall past, present and future, together with the latest information about the Company's performance. This was followed by a tour of the centre where most of the models ever produced by Vauxhall are kept. It was a very interesting visit and gave the opportunity to ask questions about the future. The Company intend to run a number of these visits throughout the summer months as part of an initiative to improve communication with retirees. You will be receiving a letter from the Company shortly requesting an e-mail address where you can be contacted for an invitation to an event and on going information about the Company. I would suggest that where possible you provide this information in order to be better informed. We will of course be continuing with the Pensioners Newsletter.

Finally, congratulations to Ellesmere Port in being awarded the New Astra. This is great news for Vauxhall, its employees and retirees.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear Members

I must begin on a sad note. Many of you will know that Maggie Noblett has been very poorly for some time and sadly passed away recently. She was a much respected member of the club and committee and as such she will be greatly missed.

On a happier note I am told that summer is approaching so we have much to look forward to. With the good news about the factory we should have a good supply of pensioners for the future.

In April a hot pot supper was enjoyed at the club followed by good entertainment.

Also in April the coach trip was to the Black Country Living Museum, which despite the inclement weather, was enjoyed by all. This was followed in May with a trip to the Malvern Spring Gardening Festival. As our June social evening coincides with the Queens Diamond Jubilee we will be celebrating the event with a

Jubilee dinner at the club. I will report back on this event in the next Newsletter.

I am sure many of you will be enjoying summer holidays, so here's hoping for some lovely summer weather with not too much rain.

Best wishes

David Williams

Introducing Your Committee

This issue we are spotlighting the William and Katie of the VPA. Yes, it's Jean and Bob Bavister. Bob joined Vauxhall in 1956 in the Engineering Body Development Shop initially working on the "F" type model project and was continually involved in all models that were in development until his retirement in 1988. He cites the move into the new Engineering AJ Block in the sixties as a career memorable event.

Jean joined Vauxhall in 1945 on the Monday before having a holiday on the Tuesday to celebrate VJ day. Working in various positions, firstly in the Cost Office and then in Staff Wages, she left the Company in 1980 to join BHS.

Both Bob and Jean were original members of the Riding Section which was started in the Engineering Department. Incidentally Jean Skipp, the VPA Minutes Secretary and co-author of this Newsletter, was also a member of this section, albeit joining at a later date. Jean and Bob are actively involved in the running of the Monday Club and are keen on ballroom dancing so support Ted Read's tea dances. Bob also enjoys swimming and lawn bowls (although not together) while Jean is also keen on reading, knitting and sewing. It is believed that the dynamic duo are the second husband and wife team to serve the VPA Committee and that Jean's father was on the VPA Committee at one time and that her mother was in the Vauxhall Pensioners Ladies Choir both singing with them and playing the piano for them.

Did You Work At Vauxhall In The 60s/70s?

The following e-mail has been received:

I am doing research at Cambridge University, looking into a study which was carried out with the help of Luton Vauxhall employees in the 1960s. It was called the Affluent Worker Study and was of considerable historical and sociological importance.

I am seeking to find anyone who was involved in the original study or worked at Vauxhall during this period, or family members who

may have had parents or grandparents who worked there at any time in the 1960s. I am keen to talk to people about their education and work experiences and maybe those of their children and grandchildren. I am regularly in Luton and would very much enjoy meeting anyone who could help. Please contact me at Lucyhowson@aol.com or 01223 84236

Calling all ex Engineers

We have been approached by an organisation called Remap which provides custom made equipment for people with disabilities. They are keen to start a REMAP panel in Luton. Each panel largely consists of retired engineers and craftsmen who work from their homes designing and making pieces of equipment for people with disabilities. To find more about either ring Bruce Carr on 01462 673375 (or e-mail nhremap@ntlworld.com) or Roger Balls on 01234 741846 (e-mail roger.balls@btinternet.com). Alternatively ring the VPA office and if we have enough people interested we can arrange for someone to meet with us. If you do ring either of the above names please let the VPA office know.

Vauxhall Memories

We never thought that this item would prove to be as popular as it is. It was especially rewarding this month to receive the following letter from Cliff Dimmock. It is repeated here as received.

"When I came out of the RN in 1946 I joined VM and worked in the Dunstable Plant in Charlie Walker's Engineering Shop. It was a very happy environment and the manager, Mr Walker, and his staff organised many activities outside of working hours. At that time many ex Luton Town players played indoor games for local clubs with Joe Payne and Steve Ball among them. Joe played for Beech Hill Conservative Club and is best known for scoring 10 goals for Luton in a league match against Bristol Rovers. I played in many indoor activities for the Dunstable Plant and Reginald Pearson, a senior manager in VM, encouraged these events and often came to watch. (Reginald Pearson eventually became the Chairman and Managing Director of Vauxhall and ended up Sir Reginald Pearson) In those early days the shop floor workers were paid on a bonus system and also benefited from a good profit sharing scheme and holiday entitlements. VM was one of the first companies in England to introduce a 5 day working week.

Kind regards
Cliff Dimmock "

We would love to hear from anyone who knows Cliff or can add to his memories or indeed have any others of your own.

Please note that due to lack of space this month, the quiz has been held over until the next Newsletter.

April Newsletter Quiz - Answers and Winners

The answers were as follows:

Smarties	Buttons
Mars Bar	Bounty
All Gold	Wispa
Picnic	Mint Imperial
Polo	Dime Bar
Turkish Delight	Kitkat
Tic Tac	Wine Gums
Dolly Mixtures	Cadbury's Roses
Double Decker	Black Magic
Jelly Babies	Galaxy and/or Mars (2 answers 1 point each)

Congratulations to Steve Waterhouse who, with a score of 20 out of 21, narrowly missed a full house. A £10 M&S voucher is on its way to him.

Mickies Palace – Tuesday, 3rd April

The theme of the day was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and some of the VPA party were fortunate to sit in the "Royal Box". Prior to the show everyone enjoyed a tasty roast beef mains with apple pie to follow. Mickie and his fellow artistes put on an excellent show. The room was festooned with Union Jack pennants creating a vibrant atmosphere. All enjoyed themselves and a special thanks to Tom Fox, our Vice-Chairman, for giving this report.

Olympic Village and Site Tour – Tuesday, 10th April

Two coaches of VPA would be athletes began the day with a series of gentle exercises in the Park Street car park before getting on the coaches and, after a light meal, having a pre event nap. The group, after picking up our guides for the day, visited the Woolwich Firepower Museum for a look round the premises and lunch.

We then viewed the various arenas (from the coaches) and tried hard to take on board all the info the guides gave us. Finally we ended up at the viewing gallery in John Lewis which gave a super view of the main stadium. All in all a really enjoyable day out and thanks to those in the VPA office for organising it.

Golf Event, Abbey Hill - 3rd May

The first event in this year's calendar saw 28 entries in a Texas Scramble (not a cattle stampede). Most days prior to the 3rd were wet so it was no surprise as rain fell for most of the day. Flooded greens, fairways and lakes on the course made for very difficult conditions, but playing battled on valiantly. Of

course working at Vauxhall for a number of years prepares you for adversity! As might be expected as the last hole concluded the rain ceased. The club house was very welcome and all sat down to a meal of steak and ale pie followed by apple pie and lashings of custard. The winning team comprised of Messrs Huxley, Heaney, Alford and Roberts with a score of 61.4. Runners up were Messrs Gleasure, Chadwick, and the Thomson twins (I and E) with a score of 60.5.

Cotswolds Tour – 15th May

The group arrived at Moreton-in-the-Marsh and spent the first part of the day visiting the market, perusing the shops or taking on board refreshments. They then travelled to Friars Court by way of a very picturesque route. On arrival the owner greeted them and took them to the room for high tea. The overall consensus was that the tea was extremely good and nobody left with an empty stomach. After the meal the group were taken on a tour of the location which typically was curtailed due to heavy rain. Nevertheless all had a good day out. Thanks to the girls in the office and also a special thanks to the coach driver.

Upcoming Events in the South

Bournemouth, Saturday, 16th June

Annual Outing
£10.00 pp

Wembley – Tuesday, 3rd July

Stadium Tour with optional pub meal
£18.50 pp

Southend – 1st August

Day trip with fish and chip supper
£15.00 pp (Fully booked)

Buckingham Palace and Royal Mews –

Wednesday, 15th August

£32.00 pp

RHS Wisley Flower Show –

Friday, 7th September

Enjoy the Wisley Flower Show 2012. With around 40 exhibitors and a stunning display by the Surrey NAFAS the show is a must for all interested in plants.

Whilst in the garden take in the late summer borders and the inspirational Surrey Sculpture Society Trail with around 60 exhibits from both up and coming and more established artists. Cost is £20 pp for non RHS members and £10 for pp for RHS members.

Calling All You Tottenham Hotspur Supporters!!!!

We have booked 10 places with our nominated travel provider to visit the Arsenal Emirates Stadium for a tour of the facilities, including the Arsenal museum. The date is Thursday 23rd August and the price is £10.00 pp for

concessions and children. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Please contact the VPA office for more details of these events. Telephone number and office hours are at the end of this Newsletter.

Golf Dates

Tuesday 19th June - Caddington Golf Club - Annual Singles Tournament

Thursday 4th October - South Beds Golf Club - 4 Ball event

Quiz Nights

Quiz Nights will be held on 16th October and 4th December. Note that all dates are Tuesdays and the event begins at 7.00 pm 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 for 2012 are:

Jun 13 th , 20 th	
Jul 4 th , 18 th	Aug 1 st , 8 th , 29 th
Sept 12 th , 26 th	Oct 10 th , 24 th
Nov 7 th , 14 th	Dec 5 th

Upcoming Events in the North

Monday, 25th June

Crich Tramway Village, plus visit to Bakewell

Monday, 16th July

Coach trip to Wales, with a train journey from Porthmadog to Caernarfon

Monday, 27th August

Trip to Ludlow, calling at the Judges Lodgings in Powys

Wednesday, 26th September

Trip to York

Wednesday, 20th October

Trip to Blackpool

Full details of times and cost can be obtained from the club on social evenings

Tea Dances:

Tuesdays 12th, 19th, and 26th June.

There will not be any Tea Dances during August and September.

Pensioners Lottery Results – Luton

Drawn 9th May 2012

A.E. Clarke	P019276	£ 53.06
M.W. Bee	P2006419	£ 25.53
E. Birks	P1010562	£ 26.63
R.S. Bowles	P1006965	£ 26.53
D.E.J. Farrar	P2004657	£ 53.06
J. McGee	P015113F	£ 53.06
R.F. Raines	P1006610	£ 53.06
L. Tearle	P028923	£106.11
E.L. Vaughan	P2007927	£ 26.53
S.R. Whitworth	P1010156	£ 53.06

Pensioners Lottery Results – Ellesmere Port Drawn 1st May 2012

J.E. Carley	P0233454	£144.00
E.G. Cooper	P1011943	£366.00
J. Donaldson	P1006994	£144.00
J. Dunbar	P1007180	£366.00
J. Gates	P1009597	£144.00
P.E. Georgeson	P1000987	£144.00
R.J. Howard	P1010665	£366.00
J.J. McLean	P1011367	£144.00
C.F. Newham	P1005925	£144.00
J. Ovens	P1001700	£144.00

In Memoriam – Luton

Beresford, John William (Jack) Division 054
Died 21.4.12, Aged 96, Retired 1976

Boucher, John, Division 801
Died 21.4.12, Aged 92, Retired 1982

Brandon, Anthony John, BCV Staff
Died 24.4.12, Aged 78, Retired 1988

Butterfield, John Halstead, Division 357
Died 23.4.12, Aged 78, Retired 1992

Cathcart, Francis Robert, VM Staff
Died 6.1.12, Aged 79, Retired 1990

Compton, John William, Division 896
Died 19.4.12, Aged 86, Retired 1983

Cooper, Kenneth Stanley, Division 117,
Died 16.3.12, Aged 81, Retired 1988

Cottam, Robert, Division 036
Died 23.3.2012, Aged 85, Retired 1988

Farrant, Francis William, BCV Staff
Died 16.4.12, Aged 85, Retired 1987

Finan, Norman Martin, Division 851
Died 6.5.12, Aged 80, Retired 1988

Gobbett, William David, Division 041
Died 29.3.12, Aged 89, Retired 1985

Hitchins, Robin David, VM Staff
Died 21.3.12, Aged 82, Retired 1989

Holes, John Henry, Division 123
Died 23.4.12, Aged 70, Retired 1999

Holloway, Herbert Raymond, BCV Staff
Died 24.4.12, Aged 86, Retired 1986

Howells, David Roy, VM Staff
Died 25.1.12, Aged 88, Retired 1982

Hulm, Kenneth Frederick, Division 53
Died 15.11.11, Aged 69, Retired 2002

Hussey, John Joseph, Division 117
Died 23.4.12, Aged 83, Retired 1991

Johnson, Alvin, Division 033
Died 18.3.12, Aged 72, Retired 1998

Kraushaar, Anthony Robert, BCV Staff
Died 27.4.12, Aged 80, Retired 1988

Little, James Duncan (Jim), Division 330
Died 18.3.12, Aged 63, Retired 2002

Murphy, John Joseph, Division 999
Died 22.3.12, Aged 89, Retired 1981

Organ, Sidney Leonard, Division 003
Died 27.3.12, Aged 85, Retired 1987

Parmar, Govind Purshottam, Division 152
Died 16.03.12, Aged 75, Retired 2002

Perry, Anthony Terrance, Division 002
Died 24.4.12, Aged 82, Retired 1987

Smith, Denis, Division 021
Died 28.4.12, Aged 85, Retired 1982

Sparling, Dennis Austin, Division 873
Died 18.3.12, Aged 88, Retired 1981

Speirs, John, BCV Staff
Died 16.3.12, Aged 83, Retired 1987

Stevens, Ralph Arthur, Division 969
Died 6.5.12, Aged 88, Retired 1982

Unwin, Derrick Mont, Division 376
Died 24.4.12, Aged 97, Retired 1980

Worsley, Keith Albert, Division 089
Died 21.3.12, Aged 75, Retired 1998

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Fuchs, Walter John, Division 638
Died 5.4.12, Aged 70, Retired 1999

Grant, John Alexander, Division 641
Died 2.5.12, Aged 86, Retired 1987

Hartley, Darren, Division 608
Died 29.4.12, Aged 46, Retired 2010

Neale, Robert William, Division 670
Died 28.4.12, Aged 72, Retired 1999

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 Newsletter is available on line, please send your e-mail address to:

rachael.hayman@vauxhall.co.uk

Useful Telephone and Contact Information VPA South

Cherie Denton, Vauxhall Welfare Officer
01582 427204

E-mail cherie.denton@vauxhall.co.uk

Vauxhall Pensions Department 01582 721122

E-mail marion.mcdonald@vauxhall.co.uk

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 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.