

Pensioners' Newsletter - February 2012

News from the South

Hello to Everyone

First of all I would like on behalf of the VPA Committee to wish all of you a Happy 2012 and hope you had an enjoyable Christmas. On that note I would like to thank everyone involved in the VPA party this year which I thought was great.

Maureen, Sue and Dave have put together a varied programme of events for 2012 (details in this Newsletter) and I am sure there is something to appeal to everyone, so please come along and meet up with some old friends and make some new ones.

Don't forget that the VPA Annual General Meeting will take place at the Recreation Club on Thursday, 15th March commencing 2.15 p.m. with refreshments available beforehand and as usual representatives of the Company will be there to report on the performance of the Company and your pension funds, so if you want to know the latest and have questions you would like answered make sure you come along.

I am going to end on a sad note as just prior to Christmas we were advised of the death of Tony Burnip. Tony was one of our Vice Presidents and helped me a lot when I was a young engineer in the Reliability Department. Our thoughts are with his family and many friends.

John Boast

News from the North

Hello Everyone

Well New Year is upon us. I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday over the Christmas and New Year. Our Christmas dinner and dance was a lovely night with a good turn out I hear and very mild weather – so different from last year when the snow came and stayed with us. Sorry I could not join you, but I am slowly getting better. Thank you for your good wishes.

We have got plenty on offer in the year 2012, but details are yet to be finalised. Final details will shortly be available at the Club House for you to pick up.

Our 5-day holiday commences 20th February. Please let me have some feed back.

The AGM will take place at the March Social Evening. Please be there if you can.

Suggestions can be put to the Committee.

Please be brief so as many people as possible can have their say. A donation will be made to our Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

Maggie Noblett

Introducing Your Committee

Many of you who attend our events will know Maureen Clark who joined the VPA in 2008. Maureen is one of the team who are at the other end of the telephone in the VPA office, although answering the phone hardly scratches the surface of the work they do. Maureen is also a member of the Welfare Committee and visits our pensioners regularly. Her interest in voluntary work began in 1982 (as a mere slip of a girl) and she has been involved in many activities within the Luton and Dunstable Hospital (such as support for drug and tranquiliser users and serving as a NHS patients representative) and as a VM employee representative both in the Luton Plant and nationally.

She joined Vauxhall in September 1954 continuing the family tradition of working at the Company. Her first placement was as a filing clerk in the Finance Department in F block and subsequently worked in blocks W, S, K and AJ whilst remaining with Finance. Her final job before retirement was processing employee's expenses payments and American Expense cards covering business travel both in the UK and abroad.

Family wise Maureen has three sons, one daughter and five grandchildren. These keep her busy and also are very supportive to her. Maureen loves all kinds of music from jazz through soul and ending up with Pavarotti. She enjoys holidaying in Italy and her must do is to visit the recently refurbished La Scala opera house in Milan.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

Vauxhall have asked that we alert you to 2 surveys in the Auto Express which cover customer satisfaction with the car you drive and with the retailer (dealer). To take part please go to the Auto Express website (www.autoexpress.co.uk), click the link on their homepage which is titled "Driver Power 2012 Survey" and complete the survey. Please take the time to take the survey as it will only take a few minutes and one lucky entrant will win £2000 of car accessories. Even if you do not want the prize think e-bay!

Down Memory Lane

I was talking with Jean Skipp and our Vauxhall memories came up in the conversation. We felt that many of our readers might remember similar events or indeed have some of their own.

These are the items that we thought of. Children's Christmas Parties where children were entertained and (most importantly) given a goodie bag. Some lucky (?) children were invited on stage. Jean even sang "I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch". You couldn't make this up. What about the annual Vauxhall Spectacular which covered all range of activities, but was probably best known for the stars who would appear - such as Diana Dors, Alf Garnett and Bill Roach to name a few. Perhaps you can remember others. Of course for the males there was always the "Miss Vauxhall" contest. If anyone who entered this competition is reading this, why not drop us a line describing your experience. What about 3 lunch breaks spread over 3 canteens plus the Executive Dining Room. Prior to Christmas the various choirs, plus the orchestra, would give concerts. Before we leave this theme my own memory is of Tuesday lunch - liver, bacon, chips and gravy with macaroni pudding for afters. Heaven! The canteen was also well known for Christmas puddings, Hot X buns, sugared doughnuts, but mostly bread and dripping (the lumpier and blacker the better). Other random thoughts - the strikes in the 60s/70s and the marches down Kimpton Road and Osborne Road: working with our coats on during nationwide industrial action when energy supplies were severely restricted. Never has the Finance Department been so happy! No computers in those days, only old fashioned typewriters and the dreaded ormig machine. The Friday tannoy announcement reminding employees to switch of all energy consuming items before leaving for the weekend - do you remember being told "Friday Night is Danger Night"? Kimpton Road full of double deckers at start and end of shifts, plus at lunch hour so the women could do their shopping.

On a non Vauxhall subject how many of you remember the "Green 'Un" which came out every Saturday during the football season. In an age without computers, I-pads and mobile phones the paper was at the newsagents every Saturday by 6.00 pm with full match reports of all local league football matches that had only ended at 5.20 pm.

If any of the above has stirred up your own thoughts then we really would like to receive them. No prizes for sending them - just the warm feeling you get from seeing your name in print! Just send them by post or e-mail to the address at the bottom of this Newsletter.

A New Chance To Win £10 M&S Voucher

Listed below are 18 cryptic clues. The answers to them are makes of cars or car manufacturers (old and new). The first

answer is shown to give an indication of what we are looking for.

- 1 One who wanders (answer = Rover)
- 2 A bridge over the river Thames
- 3 A short skirt
- 4 Not a roundhead
- 5 Jesus takes me for one
- 6 A famous artist
- 7 A game on the links
- 8 A temporary hut
- 9 To win overall
- 10 An oriental flower
- 11 He will take you to a dance
- 12 Moor your boat here
- 13 Go underground in Paris
- 14 Its capital in Texas
- 15 A pupil with power
- 16 An English dancer
- 17 Sound like there is food kept here
- 18 22 and 23 in the alphabet

Send your answers (with contact details) in to either the office or to normanmcgregor3@gmail.com to enter the draw. Competition closes on 23rd March. First correct answer drawn out wins a £10 M&S voucher. Good luck!!

Turkey and Tinsel - November 2011

Over 50 members stayed 4 nights at the Carlton Hotel, Torquay (note the Vauxhall theme) and took full advantage of the in-house entertainment, as well as eating and drinking fine food and wines (leaving the health aspect for the youngsters to worry about!!) A superb time was had by all and feedback indicates that we will need more than one coach this year.

Quiz Night – 6th December

Our best attendance ever saw an exciting contest deservedly won by Maureen Clark, Denis Cowap, Susan McGregor and Norman McGregor. Given that the last name writes this Newsletter I should be telling you that the team won by a landslide, but the truth is that it was a very close contest with all teams within two or three points of each other.

Christmas Party – 8th December

A low attendance did not spoil the evening. Music and entertainment was by the ever popular Danny Glass group. The second act was Jeff Wayne who sang and told jokes. Not many people know (certainly not Michael Cain!) that Jeff is the father of the young lady who has played the electric violin at previous VPA parties. The general consensus was that his daughter is far easier on the eye. However the most pleasing aspect of the evening for the Committee concerned the meal. There has

been criticism in recent years of the standard and warmth of the meals provided. We have spoken with the relevant people in the Recreation Club about this, along with, I believe, the 25 Year Club and the result was a much improved level of catering in all aspects. It was refreshing for the VPA office to receive positive calls regarding the evening. So would those of you who did not attend please bear all this in mind and give serious thought to coming this year.

Upcoming Events in the South

Diary Dates for 2012

Dates and prices for 2012 are now firm.

They are as follows:

14th March - Cambridge

£10.00 pp (coach only)

3rd April - Mickies Palace

(Diamond Jubilee)

£24.00 pp

10th April - Olympic Village Tour

(including morning coffee, roast lunch and entry to Woolwich Firepower Museum)

£27.50 pp

15th May - Cotswold Tour

(visit to market at Moreton-in-Marsh and afternoon tea at historic house)

£19.00 pp

8th May - Yorkshire mid week break

3 nights in the heart of York at the Best Western Monkbar Hotel

£200 pp

16th June - annual seaside outing

Bournemouth

£10.00 pp (coach only)

3rd July - Wembley Stadium Tour

(optional pub meal extra)

£18.50 pp

1st August - Southend

with fish and chip supper

£15.00 pp

7th September - RHS Wisley Flower Show

RHS members £10.00 pp, others £20.00 pp

11th October - Bletchley Park

(including guided tour and Dobbies Garden Centre)

£19.50 pp

24th November - Birmingham Tattoo

and shopping

£35.00 pp

26th November - Turkey & Tinsel

4 nights Carlton Hotel Torquay

£210.00 pp

6th December - Christmas Dinner and Dance

£20.00 pp

12th December - London lights

with fish and chips

£20.00 pp

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 for 2012

Thursday 3rd May - Abbey Hill Golf Club - Texas Scramble

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

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

Quiz Nights 2012

Our increasingly popular Quiz Nights will be held on 20th March, 15th May, 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 - 2012

Held in the Riverside Suite and starting at 2.00 p.m. the dates for 2012 are:

Feb 1st, 15th, 29th

Mar 14th, 21st Apr 11th, 25th

May 2nd, 16th Jun 13th, 20th

Jul 4th, 18th Aug 1st, 8th, 29th

Sept 12th, 26th Oct 10th, 24th

Nov 7th, 14th Dec 5th

Upcoming Events in the North

Entertainment and trips for 2012 are still to be finalised. Details will shortly be available at the Club House and will be included in the next Newsletter.

AGM – March Social Evening.

Tea Dances:

Feb 14th, 21st, 28th

March 13th, 20th, 27th

In Memoriam – Luton

Bacon, John Andrew, VM Staff

Died 18.11.11, Aged 98, Retired 1975

Beresford, Garfield Bernard, Division 33

Died 21.12.11, Aged 78, Retired 1992

Brown, Rose Alice, Division 103

Died 14.1.12, Aged 86, Retired 1976

Buchonski, Richard, VM Hourly

Died 4.12.11, Aged 95, Retired 1981

Buckingham, Kenneth Charles, VM Staff

Died 24.12.11, Aged 84, Retired 1988

Chamberlain, John, Division 349

Died 16.1.12, Aged 67, Retired 2002

Clements, Antony Robert, BCV Staff

Died 17.12.11, Aged 82, Retired 1988

Darmanin, Mildred Lilian, Division 527
Died 25.11.11, Aged 70, Retired 2006
Denman, Laurence Douglas, BVC Hourly
Died 27.11.11, Aged 86, Retired 1988
Dodd, Derek Roland, VM Hourly
Died 27.12.11, Aged 89, Retired 1984
Gentle, Alan James, Division 523
Died 3.12.11, Aged 82, Retired 1989
Gibbins, Bernice, Division 15
Died 20.11.11, Aged 61, Retired 2002
Hearn, Eric Stanley, VM Hourly
Died 21.12.11, Aged 91, Retired 1982
King, Thomas Martin, BCV Staff
Died 19.11.11, Aged 82, Retired 1987
Lee, Bernard Anthony, BCV Staff
Died 21.1.12, Aged 89, Retired 1976
Leitans, Antons, Division 893
Died 23.11.11, Aged 98, Retired 1976
Paterson, John Nimmo, Division 41
Died 19.12.11, Aged 78, Retired 1992
Rollings, Frederick Charles, Division 451
Died 25.11.11, Aged 82, Retired 1988
Simpson, Junior Lloyd, Division 49
Died 29.12.11, Aged 58, Retired 2010
Tidey, Patricia, VM Staff
Died 20.12.11, Aged 84, Retired 1982
Walker, Mary, BCV Hourly
Died 19.12.11, Aged 85, Retired 1986
Woollard, Francis William, BCV Staff
Died 24.11.11, Aged 79, Retired 1988
Worby, Charles Joseph, VM Hourly
Died 19.11.11, Aged 91, Retired 1982

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Bedson, Kenneth Walter, Division 628
Died 10.1.12, Aged 83, Retired 1993
Birch, Alan, Division 617
Died 20.12.11, Aged 81, Retired 1993
Burnip, Anthony Roger, Division 123
Died 3.12.11, Aged 73, Retired 1997
Davies, John, Division 622
Died 17.1.12, Aged 76, Retired 1981
De Jesus, Vasco, Division 616
Died 17.1.12, Aged 76, Retired 1993
Edwards, Clive Bellis, Division 641
Died 12.1.12, Aged 70, Retired 2002
Ellwood, Ralph, Division 640
Died 26.12.11, Aged 75, Retired 2001
Frodsham, John Dennis, Division 630
Died 7.12.11, Aged 85, Retired 1989
Grimes, Joseph Roy, Division 695
Died 11.1.12, Aged 73, Retired 1994
Hart, Hector Lorenier, Division 631
Died 2.1.12, Aged 93, Retired 1975
Harvey, Ronald Frank, Division 627
Died 1.1.12, Aged 87, Retired 1986
Hugh, Alfred James, Division 627
Died 8.1.12, Aged 80, Retired 1996
Irving, Robert, Division 671
Died 26.12.11, Aged 83, Retired 1987

Jackson, Roy Frederick, Division 627
Died 13.12.11, Aged 85, Retired 1981
Johnson, Leslie Hugh, Division 670
Died 7.12.11, Aged 67, Retired 2005
Jones, George Alan, Division 629
Died 6.11.11, Aged 75, Retired 1991
Keating, Peter, Division 617
Died 28.12.11, Aged 83, Retired 1992
Lambert, Reginald George, Division 675
Died 10.12.11, Aged 85, Retired 1986
Mold, Basil William, Division VAB
Died 27.12.11, Aged 82, Retired 1994
Moore, James, Division 641
Died 22.12.11, Aged 74, Retired 2001
Quinn, Harold,
Died 25.1.12, Aged 91, Retired 1981
Rowlands, Glyn, Division 622
Died 3.1.12, Aged 69, Retired 1976
Ruby, Charles Edward, Division 642
Died 29.12.11, Aged 84, Retired 1991

How To Access the Newsletter 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 Newsletter is available on line, please send your e-mail address to:

rachael.hayman@vauxhall.co.uk

Useful Telephone and Contact Information

VPA South

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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@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.