

Pensioners' Newsletter — December 2011

News from the South

Hello to Everyone

Representatives from the Southern section of the VPA met with the Company on 4th November to discuss various issues raised by your Committee members. Subjects ranged from the performance of the Company, pension outlook, loss of the previous index linking to part of pensions and Company car pricing policy for NCP vehicle leasing. John Fulcher, the new Director of Finance at Vauxhall, agreed to present the latest Company position on all these issues to VPA members at the March AGM in 2012. I would urge those of you interested in these matters to come along, show your concern and ask your questions. The actual date and other details will be advised nearer the event, so please make every effort to attend.

This being the last Newsletter of 2011 may I, on behalf of the VPA Committee, wish all of you a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

John Boast

News from the North

Hello Everyone

This is the last news for this year. Where has the year gone? It is the time of year when the Committee send you our Christmas greetings for those of you here in England and I know many members are now living abroad in many far flung places. Thank you to those members who keep in touch from time to time. Our best wishes and greetings to you all, especially those living alone and who are house bound. You are being thought about.

We have had a wonderful year for new venues and outings. We have a good line up of new ones for 2012. Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas dinner on 16th December with waitress service. I hope the posh frocks are hanging up with the diamonds cleaned up girls!! This will be reported on later in 2012. I hope the weather will be kinder to us this year on the night.

2012 will bring some surprises for you all to enjoy.

Maggie Noblett

Christmas Message from Vauxhall Chaplain

Thelma Howard was the housemaid of Walter Disney. Every Christmas, she was invited into the drawing room and given a Christmas gift.

What she really wanted was \$20. She always opened the envelope with anticipation, but every time was disappointed to find only company stocks. She didn't know what they were, it wasn't what she always wanted, but she said her 'thank you', and went her way disappointed. She retired and for many years lived quite frugally. Then in 1994 her family were cleaning her home and they found Walt Disney's Christmas presents untouched and discarded as worthless under her bed. When checked with a broker they were found to be worth 6 million dollars! If only she had known! If only she had checked out the true value of the gift! It would have changed her life completely! What value will you place on your gifts this Christmas? Christians believe Christmas is all about the greatest gift of all: the gift of God coming to earth to bring real peace to our lives. Why are we celebrating? If an alien landed on earth this December what would he think we were doing? Perhaps some strange religion of tree worship? Vast quantities cut down and decorated with flashing lights in the corner of every living room. Or, perhaps, a sort of harvest festival celebration: to eat the most possible food in the shortest possible time. Turkey till we're stuffed! Then, a short nap, in front of a box. And, then, more food: those turkey sandwiches. Or, perhaps, some weird present buying competition. Or, an enforced period to be nice to our relatives. All good things: trees, food, presents and families. But it's not why I celebrate Christmas. I celebrate because I believe once God did the most surprising thing ever. He came to share the mess we sometimes make of our lives. And to change it. I want to tell you, that is a great present! Being cared for us that much. The angels certainly thought so. As they danced and sang before dazed shepherds: *"I bring you great news of great joy. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all people on whom his favour rests"* Something to really celebrate! May you all know that peace in your hearts this Christmas.

David Alexander

Introducing Your Committee

In this issue we will profile Tom Fox who is the Vice-Chairman of the VPA. Tom joined Vauxhall in September 1957 and retired in September 1997, thus ensuring 40 years service and a handsome presentation gift from the Company. All of his working life was

spent in the AC Block Paint Shop within the maintenance organisation.

Along with his VPA activities Tom is chairman of the Welfare Committee, a trustee of the Welfare Fund and a member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos'.

Clearly Tom is a person to keep on the right side of!

Since retirement he has had the opportunity to indulge in his favourite pastimes, namely golf and ballroom dancing. I am told his quickstep on the 18th green at Caddington Golf Course is a sight to behold.

Tom is married to Pat and they celebrated their golden wedding on 24th September this year. They have 4 sons who all live away from Luton and with visiting them and looking after the grandchildren Tom and Pat are kept busy.

Driver Wanted

An Elderly Persons Home in the Bramingham area of Luton is looking for a volunteer driver of a mini-bus to take residents on days out.

If you have a clean driving licence and would like to help, please contact Emma Lawrence on 01582 582433.

Economic Eating Out

In these austere times we are all looking for the best value for money in every aspect of our lives. This issue we are highlighting eating out. For example were you aware that on a Tuesday the Balcony Bar at the Recreation Club gives a 20% discount to pensioners. Perhaps you are aware of other establishments that offer good food at even better prices and could let the VPA know at the one of the various addresses at the end of this newsletter. With the dark, cold evenings ahead of us it might be that lunchtime bargains are a good place to start. All suggestions will be included and if accompanied by a short critique even better.

University of the Third Age (U3A)

The U3A is a self-help organisation, run by the voluntary efforts of its members who are either retired or no longer in full time employment. It provides educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment.

There are U3As all over the UK, which are charities in their own right and run entirely by volunteers. To find out the nearest U3A in your area log onto www.u3a.org.uk/ and follow the links.

The Luton U3A has over 700 members and covers a whole range of activities. There are more than 50 and to get further details log on to www.u3asites.org.uk/luton. Incidentally if

your particular interest is not covered you are able to start it up yourselves (obviously within the twin boundaries of legality and taste). A monthly meeting is held (always on a Wednesday) in the Riverside Suite at the Recreation Club starting at 10.25 a.m. There is normally a guest speaker, a second hand book stall, a raffle and (quarterly) a bring and buy sale.

For more Information re the Luton U3A you can ring Eric Underwood - the membership secretary, on Luton 616294 or e-mail him on e.underwood@sky.com

Greyhound Racing with Meal – 5th October

On a sunny but slightly chilly morning a group of 24 members boarded the coach for Peterborough. The objective for the male contingent was to spend time in a warm cosy pub followed by a flutter on the dogs. The female party of course had their sights set on lunch, shopping and a visit to the Cathedral before enjoying the evening meal in the comfort of the Corporate Suite at the dog racing track. I need hardly tell you which group won!

Nevertheless it was a most enjoyable day and as usual a big thank you to Sue, Maureen and Dave for organising the event.

South Beds Golf Day – 13th October

Thursday, 13th October saw the last golf event of the year. 28 members played at the South Beds course on sunny and surprisingly warm day. The format was a four ball better ball pairs competition with high/low handicappers being paired together. (It took longer to type that than it would to play the back nine). First place and winner of the Peter Johnson Trophy were Paul Housman and Malcom Tomlinson with 49 points. John Norris and Andrew Duthie were second with 47 points with Jim Gleasure and Tony Slade coming in third on 46 points. Peter Johnson put his ball nearest to the pin on the 12th.

Thanks, as always, go to Malcolm Large, Lou Chadwick and Geoff Fountain for making it all happen.

Remember we are always looking for new faces to join us so why not give it a try in 2012.

Trip to Cadburys' World – 27th October

24 members and grandchildren visited the Halloween Spooktacular and took part in the many activities on offer. Despite the wet weather a good day was had by all and they returned to Luton, tired, happy and (in the case of the children) full of chocolate.

Remembrance Sunday Service – 13th Nov
 The Service took place at the Remembrance Memorial in Kimpton Road. In a year when we have read reports of memorials being covered in graffiti and the theft of bronze plaques it is saddening to see the deterioration of this country that so many people gave their lives to protect. Would they have imagined that in the 60 odd years since the Second World War ended we would have lost most of our major industries, bred a culture of work avoidance and benefits, see daily example of corruptness in all walks of life from the humble to the mighty and so on. All of us who attended a Service on the day may have thought of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and "never grew old" nor "age never worried them" and possibly wondered what they would have thought of the way this country has changed.

Upcoming Events in the South

Trips for 2012

At the time of writing we only have details on the first three trips for 2012:

- Feb** Olympic Village Tour/Westfield Shopping Centre – date t.b.c.
 Approx £25 per person
- 3 Apr** Mickies Palace – Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebration – entitled Happy and Glorious (deferred from Feb)
 Approx £24 per person
- Apr** Wembley Stadium Tour (half term week – date t.b.c.)
 Approx £18 per person

The following trips are proposed for the remainder of the year, but dates and prices are to be confirmed:

- May** Mid week break in York
- May** Cotswolds Tour, plus cream tea
- June** Annual seaside trip - Bournemouth
- July** Cambridge
- Aug** Buckingham Palace
- Sept** RHS Wisley Flower Show
- Oct** Bletchley Park
- Nov** Tinsel and Turkey Torquay
- Dec** Christmas Party
- Dec** London Light with fish & chips

Quiz Nights 2012

At this time we are planning to hold Quiz nights in March, May, October and December. More details will be given in future Newsletters.

Tea Dance Schedule - 2012

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

Jan 4 th , 18 th	Feb 1 st , 15 th , 29 th
Mar 14 th , 21 st	Apr 11 th , 25 th
May 2 nd , 16 th	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

Anchor Head Hotel, Weston-Super-Mare 20th to 24th February 2012.

Excursions to Bath, Cheddar Gorge and Wells
 4 nights, dinner, bed and breakfast
 Cost £140.00 per person (sea views extra)

Other events for 2012 are still under consideration and will appear in the next Newsletter.

Pensioner Lottery Results – Luton Drawn 9th November

N. Bastiani	P020816F	£104
S.C. Spillane	P1008428	£104
R.A. Lloyd	P2003599	£ 52
B. Evans	P1005903	£ 52
W. O'Neill	P2002709	£ 52
C.J.R. Dimmock	P021028	£ 26
C.G. Peach	P2007800	£ 26
Z.H. Shaikh	P101118	£ 26
D.J. Kearney	P1007163	£ 26
V.F. Turton	P028608E	£ 26
V. Delucia	P015943J	£ 26
C. Millett	P1000595	£ 26
J. Waller	P2005548	£ 26

Pensioner Lottery Results – Ellesmere Drawn 2nd November

A. Kirkham	P1010109	£374
P.J. Clark	P1006290	£146
I.A. Philip	P1011836	£146
M. Cohen	P1011264	£146
K.M. Bate	P1010010	£146

In Memoriam – Luton

Arnold, Douglas James, Division 515
 Died 14.9.11, Aged 85, Retired 1991

Blaxill, Robnald George, Division 117
 Died 28.9.11, Aged 69, Retired 1999

Buckey, Ronald Benjamin, BCV Hourly
 Died 20.9.11, Aged 82, Retired 1987

Bunker, William John, BCV Hourly
 Died 8.8.11, Aged 80, Retired 1988

Currie, John Alfred, BCV Staff
 Died 18.10.11, Aged 81, Retired 1988

Dacre, Frank, Division 198
 Died 8.8.11, Aged 84, Retired 1992

Gobby, Philip Douglas, VM Staff
 Died 7.10.11, Aged 80, Retired 1989

Green, Peter, VM Staff
 Died 12.10.11, Aged 87, Retired 1984

Griffiths, Leslie, BCV Staff
Died 15.10.11, Aged 80, Retired 1988

Harding, Brian Joseph, BCV Staff
Died 22.5.11, Aged 78, Retired 1988

Heath, Clement James (Jim), VM Staff
Died 29.9.11, Aged 81, Retired 1988

Howe, Robert, BCV Hourly
Died 1.11.11, Aged 81, Retired 1988

Jaeger, Kurt, BCV Hourly
Died 27.9.11, Aged 87, Retired 1987

James, Wilby Mitchison, Division 43
Died 11.5.11, Aged 84, Retired 1980

Jeffreys, Sidney Victor, VM Staff
Died 27.2.11, Aged 92, Retired 1981

Keens, Douglas Charles, BCV Hourly
Died 28.10.11, Aged 89, Retired 1987

Lee, William Antony, Division 533
Died 25.9.11, Aged 79, Retired 1998

Little, Dorothy Hilda, VM Staff
Died 9.1.11, Aged 86, Retired 1974

MacKenzie, Alistair, IBC Hourly
Died 19.9.11, Aged 89, Retired 1987

McCarthy, Peter John, VM Staff
Died 11.10.11, Aged 85, Retired 1983

McLeod, Arthur, Division 856
Died 11.10.11, Aged 76, Retired 1990

Murray, Headley George, Division 55
Died 13.9.11, Aged 83, Retired 1993

Natynchuk, Hryhoryj, Division 11
Died 15.7.11, Aged 87, Retired 1985

Noone, William, VM Hourly
Died 15.9.11, Aged 85, Retired 1984

O'Hare, Gerrard Patrick, BCV Staff
Died 14.7.11, Aged 82, Retired 1987

Palmer, Anthony John, Division 92
Died 8.9.11, Aged 77, Retired 1993

Patel, Suresh Govindbhai, Division 15
Died 22.9.11, Aged 59, Retired 2002

Richardson, Joseph Laws, VM Staff
Died 21.10.11, Aged 82, Retired 1988

Risott, James, Division 150
Died 7.7.11, Aged 72, Retired 1994

Shane, Raymond, BCV Staff
Died 30.9.11, Aged 84, Retired 1988

Sharp, Archie Attwood, BCV Staff
Died 4.10.11, Aged 83, Retired 1984

Shorten, Charles Thomas, Division 32
Died 30.6.11, Aged 70, Retired 1998

Smith, Margaret Mary, VM Staff
Died 7.10.11, Aged 84, Retired 1981

Snowling, Alan Peter, BCV Hourly
Died 22.9.11, Aged 88, Retired 1987

Thomas, James Lincoln, BCV Hourly
Died 13.10.11, Aged 85, Retired 1986

Ward, Wilfred Jack, VM Staff
Died 31.12.10, Aged 90, Retired 1984

Wenglaryk, Joseph William (Joe), BCV Hrly
Died 28.10.11, Aged 82, Retired 1988

Winter, Joseph Henery, VM Staff
Died 27.9.11, Aged 85, Retired 1988

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Davies, Frederick, Division 641
Died 23.10.11, Aged 83, Retired 1988

Gass, David John, Division 664
Died 1.11.11, Aged 90, Retired 1986

Healy, Paul Graham, Division 619
Died 21.10.11, Aged 68, Retired 2008

Henry, Ron, Division 682
Died 1.11.11, Aged 80, Retired 1996

Jones, George Alan, Division 629
Died 6.11.11, Aged 75, Retired 1991

McAleese, William Patrick, Division 629
Died 25.10.11, Aged 94, Retired 1980

Parry, William Malcolm John, Division 610
Died 17.10.11, Aged 71, Retired 1998

Rimmer, Edward, Division 640
Died 13.10.11, Aged 81, Retired 1993

Sailes, Kenneth, Division 625
Died 5.11.11, Aged 86, Retired 1986

Tharme, William Edward, Division 703
Died 11.10.11, Aged 86, Retired 1987

Williams, Gwilym, Division 663
Died 25.9.11, Aged 74, Retired 2001

Youds, William Stephen, Division 663
Died 8.9.11, Aged 88, Retired 1981

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

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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.