

Pensioners' Newsletter – June 2011

News from the North

Hi All,
Firstly, we welcome a new member to our Committee – Ernie Jones. Most of you know Ernie, the man who runs our afternoon tea dances at the Shell Club on Tuesday afternoons.

Our sincere sympathy goes to the family of Winnie Pawson, one of our Committee members, on her sudden passing. Winnie will be remembered for her helpfulness whatever she was asked to do. RIP.

The feedback from the trip to North Wales was excellent. The weather was wall to wall sunshine with plenty of time to do whatever took your fancy. This was a new venue for us, so keep your recommendations coming – you know by now that we look at all suggestions we receive.

The Hotpot Supper May Social Night was once again enjoyed by all.

We all enjoyed Swan Lake on Ice at the Liverpool Empire. Just how fit are those skaters – choreography at its best!!!

The Spring holiday to Tenby was an outstanding success and feedback from attendees say it was the best holiday ever. Plans are already in the pipeline for 2012. Bye for now – more next time

Margaret Knoblett

News from the South

Hi Everyone,
This month's news from the south is all about people. First I am sorry to report that two of our Executive Committee Members have been taken ill during the past few weeks. Both Ted Reid and Malcolm Large were confined to hospital beds for a few days, but I am very pleased to say that both of them are now back at home. However, as neither of them are allowed to drive yet, their wives may not be as pleased as I am!! On behalf of all the VPA Committee I would like to wish both of them a speedy recovery to full health.

I was also privileged to attend a very special birthday party for a special person this month. Tom Davies, one of our pensioners who worked in Maintenance, was 100 years old. You will find out by reading the article on Tom in the Torque magazine what a

remarkable man he is and how he is still living life to the full, walking around the park every day, playing snooker and even taking himself off to Luton when he feels like it. Tom you are a real inspiration and on behalf of the VPA I wish you many more happy years.

John Boast

Introducing Your Committee

Dave Linney is the VPA Secretary as well as helping out at the Monday Club and assisting with arrangements, etc. for our trips. He worked for Vauxhall for 38 years in the Finance Department, starting out in F Block and finishing his career in Griffin House, via King Street and K Block. Now we know who to blame for all those years of no profit sharing!

Dave is married to Jane and they are parents to Grant and Emma. He is a huge Shirley Bassey fan and is happy with most easy listening music. He has been a keen Luton Town fan for 58 years which, in his own words, explains his lack of hair and need for a stiff drink most Saturday evenings. His favourite numbers are 8 and 8, from the good old days of unlimited overtime.

On a more serious note Dave is Chairman of the Dunstable Fundraising Group for Macmillan Cancer Support and he and his team are dedicated to raising as much funding as they can for this vital charity.

His aim as a member of the VPA is to see more pensioners take advantage of the varied and excellent outings that are offered by the Association. On a personal level his desire is to see Luton Town in the Premiership.

New Committee Members

We are currently a couple of Committee members short of our ideal number. The only commitment is to attend one meeting a month, held at the Recreation Club in the afternoon, between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. If you are interested, please phone the number at the end of this Newsletter.

A Well Deserved "Thank You"

It is appropriate to put into print our thanks to the team who organise the trips that I write about in each issue. So many thanks to Maureen Clark, Sue Kirby and Dave Linney from all VPA members.

Veteran's Day

This year's Veterans and Armed Forces Celebration is taking place at St Georges Square, Luton on Saturday, 25th June.

The event commences at 12 noon and ends around 4.45 pm. This is a good way to show your support for not only those who fought for our freedom in the past, but those who are involved in conflict today. A good few VPA members will be involved in the parade.

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:

matthew.east@vauxhall.co.uk

This Is Your Newsletter!

If you have a subject that you would like to have put into the Newsletter, please contact the office or e-mail:

norman.mcgregor@googlemail.com

Wembley Stadium Tour – 12th April

A full coach of VPA members made the pilgrimage to Wembley Stadium, the home of English football. The weather was dry although a cold wind was in evidence thus explaining why the statue of Bobby Moore looked miserable and the national team find such difficulty in passing to each other. Although now they are sponsored by Vauxhall it is expected that things will improve! On arrival the party visited the Wembley Store which they entered with a smile on their faces and exited with a pain in their wallets. They were then welcomed by their guides for the stadium tour, who were friendly and knowledgeable. The tour took in the Trophy Room, the chance to sit in Capello's chair (you could leave your name to be considered for the next England manager), sit and limber up in the England dressing room before moving to the treatment room (a necessary visit after all that limbering up!), moving on to the royal reception area and press room before going pitchside. Here the group split into two teams and walked up the 100+ steps to have photographs taken with a replica FA cup. The consensus was that the tour was over far too soon with those who had taken their boots disappointed that they were not able to enjoy a kick-about. On the way home the group stopped at a carvery in Borehamwood. With Vauxhall sponsorship we were able to get tickets at a discounted price which offered the

opportunity to drink more beer. Well this was a football outing!

VPA Golf Competition - 5th May

May 5th saw the first golf day of 2011, under sunny conditions at the Abbey Hill Golf Club, Milton Keynes. 32 golfers gathered to play a 4 man Texas Scramble (?) to compete for the Steve Brooker Cup. Play commenced at 9 am following the customary bacon roll and coffee. Favourable conditions led to competitive scorecards being returned.

Winners were Messrs Fearon, Mills, Brown and Burrell with a net score of 57.3. In second place were Messrs Fountain, Goymer, Currington and Thomson with a net score of 57.4.

Christine Brooker presented the cup to the winning team along with various other prizes to round off a most enjoyable day.

Quiz Night – 10th May

A higher than usual number of members attended the latest Quiz Night in the Acorn Room at the Recreation Club. The winning team of Dick and Trish Kendall and Mike Smith triumphed after a keenly fought contest. As usual thanks to Graham and Pauline Walton for both setting and asking the questions and, most importantly, keeping the teams in order! Please join us for the next Quiz on 18th October at 7.00 pm in the Acorn Room.

Stratford on Avon – 12th May

Three Star Coaches delivered 42 members to the historic birthplace of William Shakespeare for a day of culture and cuisine (well in some cases fish and chips!)

Stratford is a town of contrasts, varying between the house where Shakespeare was born (tours were available), a busy and varied shopping centre, a multitude of differing eating establishments (McDonalds to fine dining), a look at the Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre and for those preferring a more gentle time a deckchair by the River Avon or a boat ride on it.

Some members took advantage of the open top bus tour which strays as far as Anne Hathaway's cottage and a stop off at Mary Arden House, a farm and countryside museum which portrayed the skills and crafts in the daily life of a tudor farm. The group arrived back in Luton at around 7 p.m. on a gloriously sunny evening.

Upcoming Events in the South

VPA Golf Section - June 14th

A VPA Golf Club singles tournament will be held at the Caddington Golf Club on Tuesday, 14th June. Further details can be obtained from the office.

London Eye and River Thames Cruise – 23rd June

Some places are still available at a cost of £38.00 per person. Contact details of the VPA office are shown at the end of this Newsletter should you wish to join us for this trip.

Windsor - 16th July

Visit the historic and royal town of Windsor for a (coach only) cost of £8.50 per person. To avail yourself of this opportunity please book through the office.

Hyde Hall – 18th August

Cost for non RHS members for is trip is £17.00 per person and includes entry into the beautiful gardens of Hyde Hall. For RHS members the cost is £10.00. If you wish to go, please book through the office.

Future Quiz Night Dates

18th October
6th December

Tea Dance Schedule - 2011

The dates for Ted's Tango Teaching Sessions are as follows. Each date is on a Wednesday.
June 15th and 22nd.
July 6th and 20th.
August 3rd and 10th.
September 7th, 14th and 28th.
October 5th and 26th.
November 9th and 30th.
December 7th

Upcoming Events in the North

Cheshire Show – 22nd June

Depart 9.00 a.m. Return 6.00 p.m.
Cost £11.00

Botanical Gardens, Churchtown, Southport 27th July

Depart 9.00 a.m. Cost £5.00

Shrewsbury Flower Show – 12th August

Depart 9.00 a.m. Cost £17.00

Skipton Market and Scarecrow Festival – Kettlewell – 17th August

Depart 9.00 a.m. Cost £5.00

Tea Dances

Tea dances in June are 14th, 21st and 28th at the Whitby Sports and Social Club from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Your host will be Ernie Jones.

In Memoriam – Luton

Armstrong, Ivan, Division 435
Died 21.3.11, Aged 86, Retired 1981
Ashby, Frederick, Division 005
Died 14.4.11, Aged 89, Retired 1982
Benson, Ralph Harry, Division 228
Died 3.4.11, Aged 92, Retired 1981
Berry, Joel Glenroy, Division 032
Died 27.3.11, Aged 76, Retired 1994
Betts, Albert Frederick, Division 838
Died 27.3.11, Aged 82, Retired 1986
Boyle, Conal, Division 007
Died 9.3.11, Aged 87, Retired 1986
Brooker, Frederick Frank John, Division 430
Died 18.2.11, Aged 94, Retired 1981
Calvey, Robert Walter, Division 223
Died 11.4.11, Aged 88, Retired 1983
Carr, Kenneth Cyril Baden, Division 527
Died 1.4.11, Aged 79, Retired 1993
Catchlove, Philip Harold, Division 848
Died 6.3.11, Aged 89, Retired 1981
Chauhan, Narotam, Division 015
Died 16.3.11, Aged 68, Retired 2002
Cieslak, Stafan, Division 049
Died 2.8.10, Aged 90, Retired 1981
Cooke, Leslie Thomas, Division 109
Died 22.3.11, Aged 76, Retired 1989
Corin, Stanley William, BCV Staff
Died 30.4.11, Aged 81, Retired 1985
Derbyshire, Beryl Rose, VM Staff
Died 5.4.11, Aged 75, Retired 1986
Dunn, Ronald David, BCV Staff
Died 21.4.11, Aged 81, Retired 1985
Dwyer, Roslyn, Division 818
Died 26.3.11, Aged 68, Retired 1987
Element, James, Division 485
Died 5.4.11, Aged 88, Retired 1986
Fleckney, Rowland James, Division 527
Died 13.3.11, Aged 76, Retired 1998
George, Robert William, VM Staff
Died 24.4.11, Aged 90, Retired 1981
Gillmore, Anthony John, Division 032
Died 7.4.11, Aged 83, Retired 1989
Gohel, Parwatibem, Division 037
Died 29.4.11, Aged 68, Retired 1995
Goraj, Edward, Division 893
Died 26.4.11, Aged 91, Retired 1981
Greer, Thomas, Division 523
Died 3.4.11, Aged 78, Retired 1992

Harris, Charles William, Division 015
Died 23.4.11, Aged 80, Retired 1995
Hay, Edwin, Division 033
Died 10.4.11, Aged 70, Retired 1998
Hogan, Thomas John, Division 838
Died 22.2.11, Aged 86, Retired 1981
Ingram, Violet, Division 002
Died 19.1.11, Aged 81, Retired 1987
Ismail, Mohammed, Division 049
Died 30.3.11, Aged 84, Retired 1991
Jones, Frederick, VM Staff
Died 31.3.11, Aged 83, Retired 1985
Joy, Betty Christine, VM Staff
Died 3.2.11, Aged 85, Retired 1980
Kavanagh, James (Jim), Division 485
Died 25.3.11, Aged 70, Retired 1987
McMenamin, William Patrick, Division 135
Died 24.3.11, Aged 82, Retired 1989
Munden, Anthony David, Division 051
Died 26.3.11, Aged 65, Retired 2002
Munn, James William, Division 006
Died 15.3.11, Aged 80, Retired 1986
O'Neill, Robert, Division 017
Died 16.2.11, Aged 72, Retired 1987
Poole, Mary Francis (Molly), BCV Staff
Died 19.3.11, Aged 84, Retired 1986
Richardson, Gerald Arthur, BCV Staff
Died 19.3.11, Aged 83, Retired 1987
Sharpe, James Alexander, Division 073
Died 10.5.11, Aged 87, Retired 1981
Smith, Frederick Arthur, VM Staff
Died 27.10.10, Aged 90, Retired 1975
Smith, Kenneth, Division 838
Died 13.10.10, Aged 86, Retired 1981
Stafford, Leonard, IBC Staff
Died 24.3.11, Aged 76, Retired 2000
Steele, Edward, IBC Staff
Died 12.4.11, Aged 75, Retired 1994
Stevens, Douglas Louis, Division 431
Died 11.4.11, Aged 84, Retired 1986
Valentine, Peter Ivory, VM Staff
Died 10.3.11, Aged 86, Retired 1988
Whalley, George Henry (Harry), Div 042
Died 20.3.11, Aged 89, Retired 1985
Winter, Lilly Ann, Division 999
Died 24.3.11, Aged 85, Retired 1981
Yates, Joseph Thomas, Division 844
Died 15.3.11, Aged 85, Retired 1981

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Bean, David Charles, Division 703
Died 13.3.11, Aged 84, Retired 1987
Beckett, Anthony, Division 640
Died 5.5.11, Aged 73, Retired 2002
Bowker, Thomas William, Division 640
Died 27.3.11, Aged 74, Retired 1997

Brown, Colin Wetton, Division 703
Died 5.5.11, Aged 85, Retired 1987
Cuthell, Sydney Greenfield, Division 616
Died 23.4.11, Aged 82, Retired 1994
Doggett, James, Division 682
Died 19.3.11, Aged 86, Retired 1987
Hazeldine, Peter David, Division 641
Died 26.4.11, Aged 73, Retired 1998
Jones, Peter Wilmort, Division 610
Died 24.3.11, Aged 67, Retired 2004
Schroeder, Otto, Division 617
Died 10.4.11, Aged 84, Retired 1989
Thornton, Harry, Division 625
Died 1.5.11, Aged, 88, Retired 1986
Waring, Donald George, Division 616
Died 4.5.11, Aged 61, Retired 2001
Warren, Bernard William, Division 628
Died 28.3.11, Aged 97, Retired 1975
Whittaker, Lawrence, Division 691
Died 17.3.11, Aged 76, Retired 1998

How To Access the Newsletter on the Internet

www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner_pages

Useful Telephone and Contact Information

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E-mail marion.mcdonald@uk.gm.com
VPA Office 01582 427921
Office is manned Monday, Tuesday and Friday
between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.

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 norman.mcgregor@googlemail.com

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Company.