

Pensioners' Newsletter – February 2011

News from the North

Our Christmas dinner was well supported and was a very enjoyable evening, although the weather was very bad. The January Social Evening was cancelled due to the extreme weather conditions – first time this has happened in 20 years.

The first holiday in 2011 in Tenby is fully booked. I would welcome any feed-back from attendees.

Our AGM is on Tuesday, 1st March at the start of the Social night. It is an important night for us all and we would like as many members to be there as possible. Questions can be asked and answers will be given, so please be brief to give everyone a chance. A cheque will be presented to our local hospice at the end of the evening.

We have new venues this year – please book up early to save disappointment. Bookings take place on Social Nights between 7 pm and 8 pm. Please fill in payment cards before booking. Non-refundable deposits are required.

Margaret Knoblett

News from the South

Happy New Year everyone. Well, that's Christmas over for another year. The decorations are back in their boxes, along with yet another set of tree lights, **because yet again I couldn't get the old ones to work!** The turkey has finally been put to rest, although it did put up a valiant defence. And hopefully the snow and ice has gone away. I hope all of you remained safe and warm during the bad weather. But let's look forward to the warmer, sunnier days that come with Spring and Summer.

You will find later in the Newsletter a list of the events planned for the coming year and I do hope that you will be able to take advantage of these. We subsidise the cost for VPA members making them very good value, but don't forget you can bring a friend along. An important date for your diary is 15th March, when we will be holding our AGM in the Riverside Suite at the Recreation Club. Representatives from the Company will be there to present the latest situation regarding your pensions and you have the opportunity to ask any questions of the people with the answers. I hope to see you there and throughout the year.

John Boast

Introducing Your Committee

Due to shortage of space, this item is held over until our next issue.

Lord Kitchener Wore A Truss

Now that we have your attention (and both of the above are linked to support), the Committee are appealing for increased support for our activities in 2011. We know that money is tighter than has been the case recently and we have tried to recognise this by offering a number of coach only activities. We believe they all offer very good value for money, but if not supported, the VPA will lose money on them, thus reducing our reserves. Please try at least one more trip than you had planned. You will be guaranteed a good time with like-minded people who all want the same thing - pleasure and to win the lottery.

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 pm and 4.00 pm. If you are interested, please ring the number at the end of this Newsletter.

Mickies Palace – 18th November

A party of VPA members went by coach to Wood Green to Mickies Palace for a Christmas meal and show. As this is our third trip to this location in 2010 you will gather how popular it is (or someone on the Committee is taking backhanders!) Editors note: last comment put in purely for comedic effect and is not true). The meal, as usual, was excellent and a raffle was held with the proceeds going to a childrens' charity supported by Dame Vera Lynn and a charity supporting the Armed Forces in Afghanistan

Turkey and Tinsel – 3rd December

A group of valiant VPA members braved the wintry conditions and headed for a festive weekend in Eastbourne (no - that is not a contradiction in terms!). Evenings were spent singing, dancing and taking part in quizzes. As the weather in the locality was pretty good all of the planned daytime activities took place. Meals were to the usual high standard including a sumptuous Christmas dinner. The hotel staff could not have done more for their

guests and, to quote Brenda Potter, a brilliant time was had by all.

Christmas Party – 9th December

A good sized crowd attended the annual party come dinner/dance and after a most enjoyable meal either took advantage of the music and songs of the Danny Glass band or more leisurely engaged in conversation with ex-colleagues and friends. The raffle was well supported and raised an appreciable sum towards VPA coffers. Thanks to Dick Mumford, Dave Linney, Maureen Clark and Sue Kirby for organising the evening and to Les Potter for getting the raffle prizes.

Quiz Night – 14th December

A higher than average attendance enjoyed the final VPA activity of the year.

Holiday on Ice – 8th January 2011

17 members set off on a sunny morning and after a pleasant coach journey arrived at the Birmingham Bullring at 1.00 pm just in time for lunch (hurrah) and shopping (boo). It was not too cold to visit the outdoor market and many in the party returned laden with goodies and fruit. A quick trip over to the NEC Arena in plenty of time for the start of the Holiday on Ice show. Costumes and lighting of the planet were superb depicting the elements, travel and animals in the different countries of planet earth. The skating was excellent and all the better for being live with some breathtaking routines being performed. No Anne Widdicombe, Ashley from Corrie, or that woman from Loose Women in sight - thank goodness! The group arrived back in Luton at 11.00 pm only to find ice of a less pleasant kind - all over car windows!

Upcoming Events in the South

Mickies Palace – 23rd February

Radio Times Show and lunch. Tickets are £22 per person. For further details please ring the office on the number at the end of this Newsletter.

VPA Annual General Meeting – 15th March

The AGM will be held on Tuesday, 15th March in the Riverside Suite at the Recreation Club starting at 2.15 pm. Refreshments will be served from 1.45 pm. **Company personnel will be on hand to talk about the state of our pensions and it really does give you the opportunity to ask your question.** If anyone, for whatever reason, wants to submit a

question by e-mail please send it to norman.mcgregor@googlemail.com. All sent will be treated in confidence.

RAF Hendon Air Museum – 22nd March

For £10 per person you will travel to Hendon where over 100 aircraft are on display, ranging from early fighting planes to the most modern military jets. There are several audio/visual shows, including the Battle of Britain Experience. Book now for what promises to be a highly interesting outing.

Quiz Night – 22nd March

The first Quiz night of the year takes place at 7.00 pm at the Recreation Club. The exact location is yet to be determined. Future Quiz nights are on 10th May, 18th October and 6th December.

Wembley Stadium Tour – 12th April

We may not have a very good football team, but by heck they play in one superb stadium. Come out of the tunnel onto the pitch, walk up the steps to have your picture taken collecting the FA cup, go into the dressing rooms, see where the Queen goes to at half time and take advantage of the opportunity to have a really good nose around. Bring your camera with you, but probably best you leave your boots at home. The price of £17.50 per person includes coach, stadium entrance and guide. On the way home we shall stop at a pub for optional meal, etc. and in true football supporters style trash the place!

Stratford on Avon – 12th May

Coach only and costing £12.50 per person this is the ideal way to visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare and walk round the 16th century house where he and his family lived. This is an optional extra as are boat trips on the river and (if open) a tour of the Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre.

Portsmouth and Southsea – 4th June

In line with many requests we have changed our annual summer outing venue this year so please do come along and support us. At Portsmouth you can visit HMS Victory at the Dockyard, walk around the Mary Rose museum and take a boat trip round the harbour. All of these are optional extras. Southsea is a lovely seaside resort with good shopping so the ladies can walk round the shops and the men a road test a deckchair. Cost of coach only is £9 per person.

Tea Dance Schedule - 2011

The dates for Ted's Tango Teaching Sessions are as follows. Each date is on a Wednesday.
February 9th and 16th.
March 9th, 16th and 30th.
April 6th and 20th.
May 4th and 18th.
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

Speaker Events

As the Trophy Room is no longer in use and unless the Recreation Club can offer (unlikely) a similar size room, we have taken the decision to discontinue these events.

Upcoming Events in the North

Tuesday, 3rd May

Free Hot Pot Supper – Social Night

Staffordshire National Memorial

Arboretum – 25th May

Depart 9.00 am Cost £5.00

Cheshire Show – June (date tba)

Depart 9.00 am Cost £11.00

Shrewsbury Flower Show – 22nd July

Cost £19.50

Botanic Gardens, Churchtown and Leisure

Time in Southport – 27th July

Depart 9.00 am. Cost £5.00

More to come later in the year. Please no telephone bookings. We have had lots of splendid acts recommended by you – please keep them coming!!!

In Memoriam – Luton

Adams, Philip John, Division 032
Died 12.10.10, Aged 58, Retired 2002
Allen, Pauline Edith, Division 523
Died 8.11.10, Aged 78, Retired 1987
Bailey, Karl Kenneth, Division 042
Died 23.12.10, Aged 86, Retired 1981
Barker, Trevor, VM Staff
Died 19.11.10, Aged 89, Retired 1981
Buggs, Leonard Harry, VM Staff
Died 28.11.10, Aged 85, Retired 1981
Butcher, Brian, Division 114
Died 1.11.10, Aged 83, Retired 1983
Buxton, Horace George, VM Staff
Died 20.11.10, Aged 90, Retired 1975
Bygrave, Richard Henry, VM Staff
Died 7.11.10, Aged 98, Retired 1974
Cook, James Kelly, VM Staff
Died 13.12.10, Aged 92, Retired 1975

Craft, Jeffrey Charles, Division 033
Died 10.12.10, Aged 62, Retired 2002
Cunningham, Hugh Miller, BCV
Died 21.11.10, Aged 87, Retired 1986
Cunningham, Sylvia Grace, VM Staff
Died 26.12.10, Aged 81, Retired 1980
Dennis, Kenneth William, Division 033
Died 6.1.11, Aged 68, Retired 1998
Dudley, Brian Charles, Division 150
Died 28.12.10, Aged 71, Retired 2002
Edwin, Theresa, Division 041,
Died 3.11.10, Aged 66, Retired 1988
Errington, Frank, Division 527
Died 3.1.11, Aged 77, Retired 1988
Finn, Patrick, Division 033
Died 15.12.10, Aged 75, Retired 1998
Fitzpatrick, James Gerard, Division 306
Died 2.1.11, Aged 77, Retired 1989
Francis, Albert Edward, Division 132
Died 10.11.10, Aged 82, Retired 1986
Gough, Peter Raymond, Division 433
Died 20.11.10, Aged 77, Retired 1987
Harding, Joan Winifred, Division 818,
Died 19.11.10, Aged 82, Retired 1986
Horne, Eileen Annie, Division 528,
Died 2.1.09, Aged 79, Retired 1984
Hubbocks, Vernest Walter (Bernard) VM Staff
Died 08.06.10, Aged 105, Retired 1970
Ilori, Ezekiel Kolapo, IBC Staff
Died 6.10.10, Aged 70, Retired 2003
Innes, Michael Hughes, BCV Staff
Died 9.12.10, Aged 78, Retired 1986
Isaie, Sylverius, IBC Staff
Died 30.11.10, Aged 72, Retired 1994
Jones, William, VM Staff
Died 10.11.10, Aged 88, Retired 1991
Kelly, Christopher Patrick, Division 192
Died 26.11.10, Aged 88, Retired 1977
Kight, Peter John, Division 074
Died 15.12.10, Aged 78, Retired 1997
Kilby, Peter, Division 049
Died 24.11.10, Aged 78, Retired 1987
Lawson, Thomas John, Division 846
Died 6.11.10, Aged 94, Retired 1979
Line, Dennis Alan, Division 150
Died 31.12.10, Aged 73, Retired 2000
MacBeth, James Thomas, Division 824,
Died 25.12.10, Aged 90, Retired 1980
Malcolm, Maud, Division 198
Died 9.12.10, Aged 81, Retired 1981
Martin, Stanley George, VM Staff
Died 30.10.10, Aged 91, Retired 1982
Matthews, John Clement, Division 527
Died 13.11.10, Aged 78, Retired 1997
McCarthy, Gerry, Division 022
Died 7.12.10, Aged 84, Retired 1981
McGovern, Eamon, IBC Staff
Died 15.10.10, Aged 75, Retired 1994
McMillan, Dennis Jack, Division 870
Died 11.11.10, Aged 79, Retired 1987

Mennell, John William, Division 135
Died 13.11.10, Aged 66, Retired 2000
Messingham, John, Division 200
Died 23.11.10, Aged 79, Retired 1988
Mingay, Maurice Cowley, Division 223,
Died 17.12.10, Aged 85, Retired 1986
Peters, Colin George, BCV Staff
Died 5.11.10, Aged 77, Retired 1988
Puddephat, Alan Thomas, Division 049
Died 23.10.10, Aged 68, Retired 2006
Robertson, Gordon Malcolm, BCV Staff
Died 28.11.10, Aged 82, Retired 1986
Ryan, Peter Paul, Division 022
Died 6.11.10, Aged 87, Retired 1981
Scott, Henry, Division 845
Died 28.11.10, Aged 85, Retired 1981
Scott, Robert, Division 043
Died 2.12.10, Aged 77, Retired 1987
Sharpe, Phyllis May, VM Staff
Died 20.11.10, Aged 96, Retired 1974
Smith, Charles, Division 435
Died 17.10.10, Aged 90, Retired 1981
Stoten, Eric, Division 092
Died 2.11.10, Aged 88, Retired 1981
Todd, John, Division 150,
Died 14.12.10, Aged 80, Retired 1990
Wachholz, Erwin Johann, Division 431
Died 14.12.10, Aged 86, Retired 1986
Williams, Frank Thomas Glyn, BCV Staff
Died 3.12.10, Aged 83, Retired 1985
Wiseman, John Edward George, Div 43
Died 28.12.10, Aged 74, Retired 1987

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Bailey, Brian Harry, Division 650
Died 15.12.10, Aged 74, Retired 1993
Barker, George Edward, Division 675
Died 28.11.10, Aged 82, Retired 1985
Bickerton, Eric Alexander, Division 703
Died 3.1.11, Aged 88, Retired 1986
Brown, Frederick Edward, Division 615
Died 9.10.10, Aged 89, Retired 1986
Cosgrove, Les, Division 624,
Died, 11.12.10, Aged 80, Retired 1981
Dziekciarow, Antoni, Division 625
Died 13.12.10, Aged 85, Retired 1986
Enfalt, Alois, Division 642
Died 8.12.10, Aged 86, Retired 1986
Georgeson, William George, Division 670
Died 6.1.11, Aged 74, Retired 2001
Hayman, James, Division 670
Died 9.11.10, Aged 89, Retired 1983
Jones, Dave, Division 618
Died 11.1.11, Aged 63, Retired 2006
Kostalek, Josef, Division 615
Died 27.12.10, Aged 85, Retired 1986
Lavin, James, Division 638
Died 24.12.10, Aged 74, Retired 1997
Leadbetter, Cyril, Division 628
Died 25.10.10, Aged 82, Retired 1993

Lloyd, Trevor Charles, Division 625
Died 7.12.10, Aged 85, Retired 1981
Monaghan, Robert, Division 635
Died 13.11.10, Aged 74, Retired 1990
Morgan, Cyril, Division 625
Died 19.1.11, Aged 82, Retired 1987
Nield, Gordon, Division 628
Died 18.12.10, Aged 74, Retired 1997
Northwood, John (Jack), Division 633
Died 14.12.10, Aged 89, Retired 1980
O'Brien, Michael Patrick, Division 641
Died 26.12.10, Aged 78, Retired 1993
Owen, Selwyn David, Division 650
Died 18.12.10, Aged 79, Retired 1987
Pasquali, Mario Cirillo, Division 670
Died 2.12.10, Aged 87, Retired 1981
Preece, Ronald Thomas, Division 642
Died 30.12.10, Aged 72, Retired 1993
Pressland, Roy Kenneth, Division 627
Died 5.1.11, Aged 80, Retired 1986
Roberts, Neville George, Division 642
Died 24.12.10, Aged 69, Retired 2002
Sayle, Donald Gurney, Division 616
Died 22.12.10, Aged 76, Retired 1994
Staniford, William Ernest, Division 641
Died 14.11.10, Aged 66, Retired 2003
Thompson, Samuel George, Division 621
Died 3.12.10, Aged 78, Retired 1980

How To Access the Newsletter on the Internet

www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner_pages

If you do not have a computer, find someone who has and ask them to print it off for you or ask at your local library for their help. We hope to expand the Pensioners Page to include all manner of details about the VPA although this will take time.

Useful Telephone and Contact Information

VPA South

Cherie Denton, Vauxhall Welfare Officer
01582 427204

E-mail cherie.denton@uk.gm.com

Vauxhall Pensions Department 01582 721122

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.