

# PENSIONERS' NEWSLETTER

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## News from the North

We are now half way through the year – where does the time go?

We had our AGM/social night in March. It was well attended. Thank you for joining us. There were a couple of changes made to the Committee – a new member has been opted onto the Committee. Welcome to Winnie Pawson. Gerry Sweeney also joins us.

We also made our annual donation of £1,000 to our local Hospice of the Good Shepherd. Mr. David McClenaghan, Chief Executive of the Hospice, received it on behalf of the Fund.

The holiday to the Isle of Wight early in March was yet again a great success. The feedback from participants was that it was very well organised. A big thank you to those responsible. The next one for 2011 is in the pipeline.

Please may I remind all members to fill in payment cards **before** visiting the Booking Room. A telephone number is important and providing a pension number will help speed things up for us.

*Margaret Knoblett*

## News from the South

Following the sad death of Francis Tompkins (announced in the last Newsletter) I would like to announce the following changes within the Executive Committee.

**Sue Kirby and Maureen Clarke** have agreed to take on the role previously covered by Francis, in organising the trips and entertainments side of the VPA activities as well as manning the VPA office.

**Norman McGregor** has taken on a new role of Newsletter Publicity Officer.

We have also been joined by three new Executive Committee members:

**Sylvia Pemberton** who will be representing the 25 Year Club ensuring a stronger liaison between our two groups.

**George Taylor** who comes with a wealth of experience both as a previous chairman of the Welfare Committee and as a past member of the Pensions Board and

**Lou Chadwick** who will join Malcolm Large in organising the VPA Golf days.

As you know all the members of your Executive Committee give up their time to ensure the success of the VPA events and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their hard work throughout the year.

*John Boast*

## Chatham Historical Dockyard and River Medway Cruise – 20<sup>th</sup> April

Thirty VPA members went on this trip to the Chatham Dockyards, the Maritime Museum and various ships that were open to the public. Beautiful weather greatly enhanced the enjoyment of the day. The ships visited were the sloop HMS Gannet, the destroyer HMS Cavalier and the submarine HMS Ocelet. Guides explained the vessels history and how the crews lived at sea. Other tours available included the Lifeboat Museum and a Victorian Ropery Tour showing nautical aspects of rope usage.

The cruise was aboard the Kingswear Castle, a steam driven paddle steamer. Thankfully no sign of Uncle Albert! A special thanks to the staff and costume guides of Chatham who made the day so special. After a pleasant coach journey the group arrived in Luton tired but happy.

Remember for details of future activities please contact the VPA office on the number at the end of the Newsletter.

## Abbey Hill Golf Day – 6<sup>th</sup> May

On an overcast and chilly morning 24 intrepid VPA golfers took part in the first golfing event of the year. Fortified with coffee and bacon rolls they set out in teams of four to play an 18 hole Texas scramble. Course conditions and the sun breaking through resulted in good scores and a close result between all teams.

Eventual winners were a team comprising John Boast, Steve Brooker, Brian Fearon and Mike (did you know I've played the Belfry) King with a nett score of 59.3. Runners up were Fred Burrell, George Chalmers, Peter Johnson and Dick Mumford on 60.1.

The day finished with a meal and a raffle which raised £60 for the Keech Hospice. By general agreement a good time was had by all, so whether you are a low handicapper or a club golfer who enjoys a game with friends and are a VPA member, why not join us at our next event at the Caddington Golf Club on 15th June.

For details please contact the VPA office on the number at the end of the Newsletter.

### **Quiz Night – 18<sup>th</sup> May**

A lower than usual number attended due to personal or holiday reasons. Nevertheless those that attended had a most enjoyable evening. Eventual winners were Maureen Clark and Sue Kirby who beat Norman and Susan McGregor in a tie break. If you know that the tie break question was how many meat pies comprised the weight of a tournament winning snooker player (don't ask) you will perhaps understand that you do not need a degree to join in. We particularly welcome singletons as all people are put into teams. It only costs £1 per person to enter and a fun evening is guaranteed.

Further details can be obtained from the VPA office on the number at the bottom of this Newsletter.

### **Paris and Monet's garden - 21st-24th May**

Travelling by coach and ferry the group arrived at the hotel in Paris for dinner on Friday evening.

On Saturday we visited Monet's garden at Giverny. This was the main reason that people booked this trip and it most certainly did not disappoint. The variety of colours and plants, coupled with a beautiful sunny day, showed the gardens at their best. Equally pleasing was the tour of the house. The day continued with a trip to Rouen, the capital of Upper Normandy, to visit the Gothic cathedral and enjoy a pavement lunch and a long cool drink. In the evening we returned to Paris for a cruise on the Seine and a meal in the Latin Quarter.

Sunday was again a very hot day and we all enjoyed a morning tour of Fontainebleau Palace and a visit to Barbizon, a charming village that was the haunt of many of the Impressionists. We bade Paris farewell in the evening with a tour of Montmartre, taking in the Sacre Coeur before returning to the hotel for one last drink.

On Monday we travelled home, stopping at a supermarket at Calais for essential supplies, and finally arrived in Luton at about 9.00 pm. The weekend, although tiring as it was certainly full of activities, was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks go to Maureen Clark who looked after us all very well and played the role of "miss" to perfection.

For details of our other trips in the near future please see elsewhere in this Newsletter or ring the VPA office.

### **Armed Forces Day - 3rd July**

Luton and District Combined Ex Services Association invite you to join them at Priory Gardens, High Street South, Dunstable on the 3rd July. The event begins at 12 noon and should finish around 5.00 pm. The Vauxhall Male Voice Choir will be singing around 2.40 pm. Please see local press for further and more precise details.

### **Vauxhall 25 Year Club**

The Annual Grand Gala Dinner will be held on Friday 15th October 2010 at the Riverside Suite. Tickets are £30 per person and will be on sale from 1<sup>st</sup> July.

### **Vauxhall Motors Bowling Club**

Were you ever part of the Vauxhall Motors/ Recreation Bowling Club? If so, we want to hear from you! If you have any photos, trophies, uniform, badges or any other memorabilia, then please contact Stephanie Lucas on 01582 427108 or e-mail [Stephanie.lucas@.gm.com](mailto:Stephanie.lucas@.gm.com)

### **Diary of VPA (Luton) Events – 2010**

**Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June – Golfing Event**  
Caddington Golf Club, commencing at 9.00 a.m. The cost is £14.50 for Caddington members and £28.50 for non-Caddington members which also includes a buffet lunch.

**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> June - Brighton**

Yes its candy floss, rock, kiss-me-quick hats and bucket and spade time. For the meagre sum of £8.00 you can visit Brighton by coach. Tickets are selling like hot cakes so book now to avoid being part of the out crowd!

**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> June - Ireland (6 days)**

A 6 day trip to County Clare. Enjoy the green green grass of Ireland (apologies to Tom Jones) for only £360 (single supplement £45).

**Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> July – Speakers Afternoon**

An interesting talk on Collectables will be held in the Trophy Room in the Recreation Club from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Admission and refreshments £1 per person.

**Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July - RHS Garden, Wisley**

The flagship garden of the RHS, Wisley captures the imagination with richly planted borders, luscious rose gardens and the state of the art new Glasshouse. There is the added bonus of probably not seeing Alan Titchmarsh (only joking). Priced at only £15.00 (£7.50 to RHS members) can you really afford to miss this trip?

**Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August - Hampton Court**

Visit the world famous gardens, maze and palace (including Henry VIII Great Hall, Young Henry VIII exhibition and the Chapel Royal). All for the sum of £18.50 per person.

**Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> August - Golfing Event**

Three Locks, Leighton Buzzard – details to be announced.

**Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> September - Mickies Palace**

(Music Hall Show) £21.00 per person  
This is one of our most popular trips and the price of £21.50 per person includes travel, admission and lunch. The entertainment follows a music hall theme and is hugely enjoyable.

Other events for the rest of the year are:

**Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> October - Blackpool (2 days)**

£125 per person

**Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October - Home Fire Safety Talk****Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> October - Golf South Beds****Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October - Quiz Night****Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December - Turkey and Tinsel, Eastbourne (3days)****Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party****Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December - Quiz Night**

Information on all the trips above can be obtained from the VPA office details of which are at the end of this Newsletter.

**St. Mary's Church Hall Monday Club**

Held every Monday, except for Bank Holidays and the annual closure, in the Church Hall at St. Mary's Church, Luton. Proceedings start at 2.00 p.m. and end approximately 4.30 p.m. The cost of 50p. per person covers admission and refreshments. For a further 30p. per card bingo is available. If you are not keen on bingo, then the conversation is lively and do not let coming on your own hold you back, as you will be sure of a warm welcome.

**Afternoon Tea Dances**

Held on the following dates in the Riverside Suite in the Recreation Club. Dancing is between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. with an admission cost of £1. Refreshments can be purchased at the bar. All dates shown fall on a Wednesday:

16 <sup>th</sup> June	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	29 <sup>th</sup> September
14 <sup>th</sup> July	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct
28 <sup>th</sup> July	27 <sup>th</sup> Oct
4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10 <sup>th</sup> Nov
25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	17 <sup>th</sup> Nov
1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec

**Diary of VPA (Ellesmere Port) Events – 2010****Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June - Ironbridge**

This trip is now fully booked

**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July - Bury Market**

Departs at 9.00 a.m. Cost £5.00

**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> August - Shrewsbury**

Departs at 9.00 a.m. Cost £15.00

**Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> October - Blackpool**

Departs at 9.30 a.m. Cost £9.50

We have 2 coaches and require 41 for completion.

**Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November – Heatherlands at Pensby.**

Own transport required. Christmas lunch served at approx. 12.30 p.m. Cost £10.00

**Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Supper**

## In Memoriam – Luton

**Baines**, Cyril, Division 087  
Died 5/5/2010, Aged 86, Retired 1981

**Burgoine**, Frederick Charles, VM Staff  
Died 14/5/2010, Aged 90, Retired 1980

**Carty**, John Alexander, Division 002  
Died 9/4/2010, Aged 82, Retired 1987

**Clarke**, Milton Cecil, VM Staff  
Died 4/5/2010, Aged 90, Retired 1980

**Davis**, Eric, Division 150,  
Died 24/4/2010, Aged 72, Retired 1999

**Dengel**, George William, Division 037  
Died 2/5/2010, Aged 78, Retired 1995

**Elliott**, Gordon, Division 117  
Died 3/5/2010, Aged 82, Retired 1992

**Evans**, Gerald, VM Staff  
Died 30/3/2010, Aged 77, Retired 1988

**Fawsitt**, Queenie, VM Staff  
Died 20/4/2010, Aged 87, Retired 1981

**Frewer**, George Charles Reginald, Div 451  
Died 12/5/2010, Aged 86, Retired 1985

**Gadsden**, Kenneth James, Division 845  
Died 19/4/2010, Aged 92, Retired 1981

**Gibbon**, Thomas, Division 033  
Died 15/4/2010, Aged 91, Retired 1981

**Golding**, Cecil Howard, VM Dunstable  
Died 4/4/2010, Aged 96, Retired 1978

**Hepworth**, Roy, IBC  
Died 3/5/2010, Aged 77, Retired 1998

**Howe**, Clive John, VM Staff  
Died 14/4/2010, Aged 78, Retired 1986

**Leggett**, James Herbert, Division 525  
Died 18/3/2010, Aged 73, Retired 1993

**Ludlow**, Reginald William, Division 342  
Died 5/4/2010, Aged 77, Retired 1990

**Mair**, Alexander (Sandy), Division 006  
Died 14/4/2010, Aged 84, Retired 1981

**McKimm**, William James, Division 053  
Died 9/4/2010, Aged 84, Retired 1991

**McNamara**, John Francis, Division 089  
Died 19/4/2010, Aged 75, Retired 1989

**Minney**, Robert, BCV Staff,  
Died 17/5/2010, Aged 81, Retired 1987

**Morris**, John William, Division 011  
Died 8/4/2010, Aged 88, Retired 1981

**Niblock**, Henry, Division 074  
Died 15/4/2010, Aged 78, Retired 1996

**Oakley**, Melvyn Peter, IBC  
Died 8/5/2010, Aged 62, Retired 2003

**Panepinto**, Giuseppe, Division 051  
Died 30/3/2010, Aged 79, Retired 1989

**Riley**, Frederick Charles, Division 830  
Died 22/4/2010, Aged 88, Retired 1981

**Ross**, Francis, Division 480  
Died 9/5/2010, Aged 87, Retired 1986

**Stelling**, Ivor Clifford, BCV Staff  
Died 6/4/2010, Aged 75 Retired 1988

**Tompkins**, Francis Henrietta, Division 037  
Died 8/4/2010, Aged 70, Retired 1995

**Towell**, Leslie William, Division 228  
Died 20/3/2010, Aged 85 Retired 1981

**Venning**, Robert William Charles, VM Staff  
Died 22/9/2009, Aged 88, Retired 1981

**Vincent**, Harold Francis, Division 033  
Died 31/3/2010, Aged 75, Retired 1997

**Wiseman**, Miss J., Division 475  
Died 30/3/2010, Aged 83, Retired 1986

**Wyatt**, Lawrence Henry, VM Staff  
Died 27/3/2010, Aged 92, Retired 1975

## In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

**Breeze**, Lawrence, Division 625  
Died 12.5.2010, Aged 83, Retired 1986

**Johnson**, Ralph, Division 639  
Died 10.5.2010, Aged 78, Retired 1991

**Kirkham**, William Frederick, Division 678  
Died 13.5.2010, Aged 67, Retired 1992

**Martindale**, Lawrence, Division 628  
Died 25.3.2010, Aged 80, Retired 1994

## Useful Telephone and Contact Information

### VPA South

Cherie Denton, Vauxhall Welfare Officer  
01582 427204  
E-mail [cherie.denton@gm.com](mailto:cherie.denton@gm.com)

Vauxhall Pensions Department 01582 721122  
E-mail [marion.mcdonald@gm.com](mailto:marion.mcdonald@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](mailto:norman.mcgregor@googlemail.com)

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