

# ***Pensioners' Newsletter – June 2020***

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## **News from the South**

Hi Everyone

First of all I hope you are all keeping well and have avoided catching this dreadful virus. Who would have thought the whole world could change so much in just a few weeks? It really has had a devastating effect on us all and I guess will continue to have in the future as the world tries to get back into some kind of normality. I hope you have been able to get out for some exercise or, if you are lucky enough to have a garden, spend some time out in the fresh air. At least the weather has been kind. My wife Jean reluctantly learnt how to use Facebook a couple of years ago and is now very happy she did as she is able to keep in touch with our family and friends and can even see them when she can get the video to work (where we live broadband is slow).

It is with sadness that I have to inform you of the passing of John Barber. John was Quality Manager at Ellesmere Port before being promoted to Plant Director at Luton. He also served as a Vice President of the Vauxhall Pensioners Association for many years. Our condolences go to his wife, Peggy, and his family.

As you know we have been forced to cancel all VPA trips until the end of October, but we will review the remainder in August and you never know we may be able to get back on the road by then.

In the meantime please follow the advice from the Government and keep safe.

*John Boast*

## **News from the North**

Hi All:

I do hope you are all keeping well and getting used to being at home. I am sure you are as fed up as I am. At least I have the allotment to keep me out of mischief. Hopefully it won't last too long and we have been very lucky with the weather as it would have been much worse with rain and cold.

I personally have never found a huge use for technology, but am now embracing all aspects of it as I am sure you are. At least we can keep in touch with people and the world at large. FaceTime has been a godsend as we have been able to see and talk to our family in Canada. We have a new baby due very soon and we are very sad that we will not be able to go any time soon, but at least we will be able to see him even if we can't cuddle him.

As for Vauxhall news I have very little to report. I have no idea when the Club will reopen or when the trips will restart. The June holiday has now been cancelled, but fingers are crossed the November one will go ahead. Alfa were very good over the cancelled April holiday and full refunds have now been received. The same holiday is in the

brochure for next year and they have kindly pencilled us in for the same dates. Of course nothing can be booked until the Club reopens and we can meet and the company understands that. I know people have requested that we rebook and that is fine by me and the company will hold the dates until their office reopens and we can speak to people.

I know a lot of you will have had holidays cancelled as we have and that is a huge disappointment, but it is better to be safe until we have got rid of the virus and there is always next year. At least we have not lost jobs and our pensions are still being paid.

Well maybe by the time I write again things will have changed and I may have better news so until then take care and stay safe. Bye for now

*Dave Williams*

## **Coronavirus and Trips**

Owing to the on-going situation regarding Covid 19 and the Government's advice regarding social distancing we have decided to cancel all our planned trips for the rest of this year except for the following:

Turkey and Tinsel

London Lights

Christmas Party

We are in the process of returning deposits for the cancelled trips to all members who have previously booked places and apologise for any disappointment caused by this unfortunate situation. We will review the three remaining outings in August in order to make a final decision about whether we can run these or not. If you wish to book places on these three remaining trips please do so in the usual way as this will help us decide if these will be financially viable, but given the circumstances we will not require you to send deposits when booking. Again I would like to apologise for these cancellations but your safety must be our prime concern.

We all hope to see you again in the near future and in the meantime please stay home and stay safe.

## **Coronavirus Scams**

A number of scams have come to light which use the coronavirus pandemic in their messages. The pandemic has understandably caused some concerns and the fraudsters are using it to take advantage of their victims. Members need to be vigilant and watch out for any unsolicited messages from unknown sources asking for personal details. Victims have purchased masks or other products which have never been delivered. There have been malicious attachments and links claiming to be from the World Health Organisation, NHS or other health organisations which refer to lists of infected individuals in the victim's area and prompts them

to click on a link or open an attachment to access this information and finally fraudsters have set up fake charities claiming to raise money for people affected by the pandemic.

To minimise your chances of becoming a victim:

- do not click on any links sent by an unknown organisation or person and do not open any suspicious email attachment
- only use trusted sources like Government websites for up-dates and information
- never reveal your personal or financial information in an email, text or over the phone
- check the legitimacy of charities on the Government register
- if you are making purchases online do a thorough research of the seller and when making payment use a credit card as most major providers insure online purchases.

If you have concerns about any suspicious messages or have been targeted by a fraudster report it to Action Fraud or report it to your local police by calling 101.

#### TV Licensing Scam

We are aware of a scam involving the TV License Department, following an email sent to Jean Skipp recently and of which you should be aware.

A very unprofessional email states "we are sorry to let you know that the TV license could not be automatically renewed on (date).

As we couldn't take the latest payment from your bank account this amount will also need to be paid when you set up your new Direct Debit.

Remember, if you don't keep up with your payment we may be forced to cancel your license or pass your details to a debt collection agency.

To change your payment method have a look at all your options. All you need to do is make sure there's enough money in your account. Or, if you prefer to pay the missed amount now, you can sign in online and pay using your debit or credit card. While you're signed in, please make sure we have your correct bank details".

This is yet another scam, so if you receive an email like this one, please report to Action Fraud.

#### June Quiz

- 1 Stamp duty is normally paid on the sale of what?
- 2 Where is the Ceremony of the Keys held each evening?
- 3 What does a BACS system transfer?
- 4 Who wears a chasuble?
- 5 Who or what is your doppelganger?
- 6 Emphysema affects which area of your body?
- 7 Which term for school or university is from the Latin meaning "bounteous mother"?
- 8 Which salts are more commonly known as hydrated magnesium sulphate?
- 9 What is the UK equivalent of the US Bureau of Consumer Protection?
- 10 What did Plaid Cymru add to its name in 1998?
- 11 What UK punctuation mark do the Americans call a period?
- 12 Where did the Elgin Marbles originate from?

13 What song starts "Friday night and the lights are low"?

14 According to legend what will happen to Gibraltar's ape population if the British leave?

15 What is notable about the staff and patients of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital?

16 How many valves does a bugle have?

17 What is a Blenheim Orange?

18 What childhood disease is also known as varicella?

19 What anatomy part shares its name with a punctuation mark?

20 What do citronella candles smell of?

#### April Quiz Answers

1 Wrestling	11 February 14
2 Stirrups	12 Victoria
3 9	13 4
4 The President of the USA	14 Moses
5 Perception	15 Teeth
6 1	16 Arms
7 He was bald	17 Worms
8 Reservoir	18 4
9 Spider	19 Jade
10 The 1812 overture	20 Sixpence

#### Update on Development at Luton Vauxhall Site

In our August 2019 Newsletter we published photographs of the building works being carried out along Kimpton Road, Luton.

Jean Skipp has been out with her camera again on an almost deserted Kimpton Road to bring you more information on the developments.

You can zoom in on the photos for a closer look.



*This is the entrance to the now completed and inhabited Redrow development which was the entrance to 'W' Block*



*A view along Kimpton Road which was taken from opposite the shops which includes Plumbs Hardware shop*



*This is the beginning of the Strawberry Star development and which was 'P' Block*



*This is the next phase of the development. It was taken from outside of 'F' Block and the hoarding states New Public Piazza and Retail Boulevard Shops, Restaurants, Cafes*



*More of the Strawberry Star development which was once the Main Canteen. This illustrates the height of the construction in comparison to our War Memorial which is still in one piece!*



*This is a view taken from outside of what was 'M' Block and Medical Centre looking along Kimpton Road towards the town centre*



*This is for those readers who were not sharp eyed enough to pick up the writing on the hoarding on the previous photo. It is not a sales pitch for Strawberry Star – 2 bedroomed apartment selling from £210,000!!*

## Upcoming Events in the South – 2020

The following will be reviewed later in the year:

### **Thurs November 12 - London Lights and Lunch**

Afternoon visit to London for Carvery Club lunch before a Blue Badge guide tour of Christmas lights. Members £42 pp/Non-members £46 pp.

### **Monday November 30 – December 4**

Festive break at Warners Hotel, Alvaston Hall, Cheshire. Half board with excursions. Members £290 pp/Non-members £300 pp.

### **Wed December 9 - Christmas Dinner Party**

Members £24 pp/Non-members £28 pp.

**Day trip bookings will only be confirmed on receipt of a non-refundable £10.00 deposit pp. For the longer event in December this deposit rises to £30.00 pp.**

To book for a trips please ring Sylvia on 01582 759851. As usual VPA members may bring a maximum of one non-VPA member per trip. Note the higher price for non-members. We do require your pension number and a contact number on application and also a **stamped addressed envelope** for each trip. Please also note that any member/non-member who cancels a booking 4 weeks or less before the date of the trip may also be requested to pay for the cost of any event tickets purchased by the VPA. Finally, travel insurance is not included in the price of any of our trips. We strongly advise that you make your own arrangements to give peace of mind.

## 2020 Golf Events

As was reported in the April Newsletter the events planned for May and June were postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. When restrictions are lifted Mike Roberts will be trying to arrange a tournament before the end of the year.

If successful he will email details to all members of the VPA golf society as well as arranging for inclusion on Facebook and in the Newsletter. It is hoped that some sort of programme can be arranged for the remainder of the year.

## Upcoming Events in the North – 2020

The following will be reviewed later in the year:

### **Friday August 28 – Nantwich Food Festival and Arley Hall**

Coach leaves Club at 9.00 am. Cost tba.

### **Thurs September 24 – Staleybridge Canal Trip**

Either afternoon tea or hot pot supper on the boat.  
Limited to 40 places.

Coach leaves Club at 9.00 am. Cost tba.

### **Wednesday October 14 – Blackpool**

Coach leaves Club at 10.00 am. Cost £10 pp.

### **Thursday November 26 – Chatsworth House**

Coach leaves Club at 9.00 am. Cost tba.

**Tea Dances** will hopefully resume in the autumn.

### **In Memoriam – Luton**

**Ahmed**, Ghulam, Division 527

Died 15.3.2020, Aged 84, Retired 2001

**Amir**, Ali, BCV

Died 22.3.2020, Aged 69, Retired 2003

**Archbold**, Edward Venatious Columba, Div 534

Died 21.3.2020, Aged 91, Retired 1993

**Bishenden**, Esther Alice, Division 037

Died 4.4.2020, Aged 87, Retired 1991

**Catlin**, Roy Frederick, BCV

Died 21.2.2020, Aged 78, Retired 2006

**Collins**, Brian, BCV

Died 6.4.2020, Aged 88, Retired 1989

**Coyle**, Gerard, BCV

Died 2.3.2020, Aged 80, Retired 2003

**Dawson**, John James, Division 150

Died 30.3.2020, Aged 88, Retired 1995

**Dunne**, Anthony James, Division 527

Died 8.4.2020, Aged 71, Retired 2009

**Goodwin**, Peter John, Division 106

Died 26.4.2020, Aged 82, Retired 1994

**Gorey**, Patrick Francis, Staff

Died 21.4.2020, Aged 88, Retired 1994

**Lamont**, Elizabeth Anderson Milligan, Vauxhall

Died 8.3.2020, Aged 83, Retired 1989

**Lloyd**, David, Division 316

Died 2.3.2020, Aged 82, Retired 2001

**Millin**, Bryan W., Division 341

Died 24.4.2020, Aged 81, Retired 2003

**Nagy**, Istvan, Division 150

Died 8.4.2020, Aged 82, Retired 1997

**Oakes**, John Raymond, Division 527

Died 15.4.2020, Aged 85, Retired 1990

**Pearce**, George Edward, Division 199

Died 3.4.2020, Aged 85, Retired 1990

**Penman**, Leslie Jack, Division 051

Died 21.4.2020, Aged 85, Retired 1996

**Phillips**, Isaac Edmond, Division 046

Died 7.4.2020, Aged 89, Retired 1993

**Reid**, Dudley Leopold, Division 033

Died 24.3.2020, Aged 84, Retired 1998

**Richardson**, David, Division 043

Died 19.4.2020, Aged 64, Retired 2013

**Roper**, Cyril, Division 046

Died 16.3.2020, Aged 80, Retired 2002

**Savage**, Donald Bertie, Staff

Died 9.4.2020, Aged 89, Retired 1990

**Wilson**, Greta Jean, Vauxhall

Died 25.4.2020, Aged 90, Retired 1989

### **In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port**

**Bell**, James, Division 642

Died 3.4.2020, Aged 90, Retired 1994

**Costall**, Ronald, Division 642

Died 10.4.2020, Aged 82, Retired 1999

**Crawford**, Ronald, Division 640

Died 22.2.2020, Aged 86, Retired 1989

**Davies**, Eric, Division 628

Died 14.3.2020, Aged 89, Retired 1995

**Henley**, John William, Division 628

Died 7.3.2020, Aged 91, Retired 1993

**Hughes**, Thomas Malcolm, Division 663

Died 27.4.2020, Aged 78, Retired 2002

**Jewell**, Stephen William, Division 641

Died 3.3.2020, Aged 57, Retired 2018

**McGuinness**, Thomas, Division 674

Died 6.4.2020, Aged 80, Retired 1994

**Prytherch**, Arthur Wyn, Division 670

Died 29.3.2020, Aged 81, Retired 1994

**Rogers**, John Keith, Division 628

Died 14.4.2020, Aged 83, Retired 1998

**Saunders**, Harold Sidney, Division 629

Died 23.4.2020, Aged 89, Retired 1994

**Seymour**, Nigel John, Division 642

Died 27.2.2020, Aged 67, Retired 2018

**Sim**, Douglas, Division 691

Died 21.4.2020, Aged 85, Retired 1997

**Thomas**, Merfyn Jenkins, Division 663

Died 8.4.2020, Aged 86, Retired 1994

All information on deceased pensioners is provided by the Pensions Department.

### **How to Access the Newsletter and 2019 AGM Minutes on the Internet**

[www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner\\_pages](http://www.thepensiondepartment.co.uk/vpp/pensioner_pages)

#### **Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAssociation)

### **Useful Telephone and Contact Information VPA South**

**All contact details for the new VPA office will be announced when these are known. In the meantime please phone 01582 759851.**

**Vauxhall Pensions Department** 01582 282956

Email [marion.mcdonald@gm.com](mailto:marion.mcdonald@gm.com)

**Welfare Fund** 07460 171565

Email [welfarefund@vm.co.uk](mailto:welfarefund@vm.co.uk)

Website [www.vauxhallwelfarefund.org](http://www.vauxhallwelfarefund.org)

### **VPA North**

Dave Williams 0151 6088701

If you have a story you would like to tell, then please get in touch with Norman McGregor email [normanmcgregor3@gmail.com](mailto:normanmcgregor3@gmail.com)

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

