



Pensioners' Newsletter – December 2020

News from the South

Hi Everyone:

I hope you are all keeping safe and sane during these strange times. My wife, Jean, is a great help to me as she is keeping me busy finding all the jobs I should have already done before lockdown! It seems that as soon as I finish one she has found five more. I really appreciate her efforts.

Seriously, I guess we will all have to put up with the situation a little longer, but the news about the various vaccines is encouraging so let's hope next year brings a better future. Someone told me that they are definitely staying up on New Year's Eve this year, not to see the New Year in but to make sure this one goes.

As you can see in this Newsletter and on our Facebook page the VPA Committee are remaining positive and Sylvia and Dave have put together a list of trips for 2021. At this stage we are unable to provide costings or indeed to confirm that each trip will take place as this depends on Government guidelines at the time. More information on the trips and our proposals are covered later in this Newsletter. We do intend to provide more information in New Year and are keeping our fingers crossed that we can go ahead with a normal programme.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and please stay safe.

John Boast

News from the North

Dear All

Another month another Newsletter and still not much news. I can't believe it's nearly Christmas and we don't seem to be any nearer normality. Let's hope the promised vaccine comes soon. One advantage I suppose of being the 'older generation' is that we may be near the front of the queue for it. I am still hopeful that the April holiday will be going ahead, but we will have to wait and see how things progress. However, the payment balance is due in February so we will be contacting those concerned after Christmas with outstanding costs. I don't think any trips for next year have as yet been planned as I think the Committee are waiting to see how things progress. I also don't know at this time whether the Christmas meal will be able to go ahead, but Tony will contact you all in good time. Christmas is going to look very different this year, but if we stay safe we can always look forward to the next one. I know only too well how difficult it has been not being able to see loved ones. We are desperate to get to Canada to visit our family and meet face to face our (now not so new) grandson. Still I am thankful that due to technology we feel a

little closer to him.

There is nothing else to add except please look after yourselves, stay safe and enjoy Christmas as best as you can. Till the New Year

Dave Williams

Remembrance Sunday at Vauxhall

The service this year at the Vauxhall War Memorial on Kimpton Road was, of course, totally different from those held previously. Covid-19 restrictions meant that attendance was limited to David Alexander, the Vauxhall Chaplain and the vicar of St Thomas's Church Stopsley, Jessica Rowlands of Luton Chaplaincy, who read out the names of some of those who died in the wars, and Allan Norman who, as is customary, played the Last Post. Those of us that have regularly attended this service over the years were able to stream it on our computers at home which at least allowed us to feel part of the occasion. For this I thank David and the team for arranging it. Shown below is a picture of the Memorial bedecked with four garlands, one from the workforce, one from the Trade Unions, one from the management and, of course, one from the VPA.



Remembrance Sunday 2020

VPA Trips - 2021

The trips detailed under 'Upcoming Events in the South' towards the end of this Newsletter are the currently proposed VPA outings for 2021 subject of course to whatever Covid-19 restrictions will allow. You will see that no prices are shown as the pandemic and the uncertainty it brings means it is not possible to give an accurate price, for example, whatever social distancing restrictions are in place will have a direct effect on per person costs for coaches, theatres etc.

However, as we know that many of you like to book your trips for the year in total, or at least for some months ahead, we will use the following system. If you want to register an interest please ring Sylvia Pemberton on 01582 759851 or write to her at 27 Ryecroft Way, Luton, Beds, LU2 7TU. In registering an interest you will be put on a list. Please note that this list will be compiled on a date order basis (first come first served) and first

priority will be given to VPA members. At this point in time no deposit will be taken as we want to avoid any unnecessary refunding should we not be able to go ahead with trips. To this end please make sure that you give Sylvia your telephone number when you ring or write so we can get in touch with you when we need to. In a similar vein if you do register an interest and then, for whatever reason, change your mind please let Sylvia know as soon as possible.

We know that this is a change from the usual process but we do ask for your compliance as both Sylvia and Dave Linney have worked tirelessly to get these trips sorted out and we should all please try to make their lives as easy as possible.

Meanwhile if you are able to please keep your eye on the VPA Facebook page as this is a more immediate means of telling you what is happening regarding the trips.

Beds Fire & Rescue Service - Safe and Well Scheme

About 9 years ago we ran an article in the Newsletter highlighting support that is available to help people recognise and deal with potential hazards in the home.

They currently offer a **free** Home Fire Safety Assessment to help you recognise and deal with identified hazards. This service known as the 'Safe and Well' scheme forms part of the Fire and Rescue Service's plan to continue the successful progress already made in reducing fires and educating people in how to be safer in their homes. A Safe and Well home visit provides safety advice to those most at risk. It not only covers fire safety information, but also offers additional guidance on health, wellbeing and crime prevention. They can give advice on safe cooking practices, how to make your way to safety in the event of a fire and will refer you to other organisations who can help you live and move about safely in your home.

They will check any existing smoke or carbon monoxide detector alarms that are already in the property and if necessary will fit and replace these **free of charge** to keep you safe at home. If during these Covid-19 times you are unsure about having a home visit you can ring 0800 043 5042 (this is a voicemail facility only) and leave your name, address and telephone number so you can be contacted to arrange a visit. Alternatively you can register for a visit by using the following links to take you to the online registration page

<https://www.bedsfirealert.co.uk/CEAC08D9-E73A-4881-944A-4A31741F7B89/QuickRegister>.

For safety information please search their website www.bedsfire.gov.uk

For other areas not covered by the Beds Fire Service you might get information by ringing your local fire station. I hope you are successful and if so please write in with details so we can publish them in the Newsletter.

Protecting Your Passwords

We know there is an abundance of information available around how best to protect yourself online. We also know the dangers of hacking,

online scams and identity thefts. However, there are certain steps you can take to ensure it does not happen to you.

Your personal email account contains lots of important information about you and is the gateway to many of your other online accounts, including banking, social media and online shopping. This is because if your email account is hacked other passwords can be reset, so use a strong password that is different to all your other passwords.

For lots more information on this and other security issues sign into www.ourwatch.org.uk and follow the menu to look at the variety of articles and tips that will enhance your online protection.

December Quiz

The quiz this issue as you might expect is about Christmas.

1 Three of Santa's reindeer's names began with the letter D. Can you name them?

2 Which real life store is the film Miracle on 34th Street based on?

3 In Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol' what was the christian name of Scrooge?

4 Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?

5 What did Frosty the Snowman do when a magic hat was put on his head?

6 What did my true love give me on the eighth day of Christmas?

7 What is the best-selling Christmas song ever?

8 What did the narrator see mummy doing under the Christmas tree?

9 The red and white costume of Father Christmas was allegedly introduced by whom?

10 What is the skin that hangs from the neck of a turkey called?

11 What drink is also known as milk punch?

12 What is Buche de Noel commonly eaten in France?

13 According to Italian tradition who delivers gifts to good children on the eve of Epiphany?

14 Every elf has what on the end of their shoe?

15 What colour are mistletoe berries?

16 How many points on a snowflake?

17 What phrase is almost always on a Christmas gift tag?

18 How many candles are lit during Advent?

19 What kind of sleigh is mentioned in the carol Jingle Bells?

20 Which was Eartha Kitt's biggest selling record? Have fun and Merry Christmas from Jean and myself.

October Quiz Answers

1 Drinking

2 The 1940s

3 Box

4 Everton

5 Mark Twain

6 220

7 Dent

8 Conservatives

9 Greece

10 Six

11 Sweden

12 Football

13 San Francisco

14 Chicory

15 Ford

16 1800

17 Chuck Berry

18 Yellow

19 India

20 Sly

Christmas Jokes

Yet another issue of the Newsletter with a fun packed article that is guaranteed to tickle your ribs. This Covid-19 sure has a lot to answer for!

What did Adam say to his wife on the day before Christmas?
"It's Christmas, Eve".

What would be the perfect Christmas gift for a train station master?
Platform shoes.

What is a good Christmas tip?
Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until all the birds have migrated for the winter.

What is the best thing you can put into the Christmas cake?
Your teeth.

How did Good King Wenceslas like his pizza?
Deep pan, crisp and even.

A man bought his wife a beautiful diamond ring for Christmas.
After hearing about this extravagant gift, his friend said "I thought she wanted a luxury four wheel drive vehicle".
"She did" he replied "but where was I going to get a fake Jeep?"

What do you call someone who doesn't believe in Santa?
A rebel without a Claus.

What do you call an elf wearing ear muffs?
Anything you want as he can't hear you.

What is every parents favourite Christmas carol?
Silent night.

What do you call Santa when he takes a break?
Santa Pause.

What would you call an elf that has just won the lottery?
Welfy.

What would you get if you ate all the Christmas tree decorations?
Tinselitis.

What do you call an old snowman?
Water.

What is the most popular wine at Christmas?
I don't like brussel sprouts.

John asked his friend Richard if he had bought his wife anything for Christmas. "Yes" he replied "I bought her a belt and a bag".
"That was very kind of you" said John. "I hope she appreciated the thought".
"So do I" said Richard" and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now".

The Santa in the store was quite surprised when he saw Martha, a woman in her mid-thirties, ask to sit on his lap. She did so and he asked her what she wanted for Christmas. "Something for my mother" she replied.
"Something for your mother? That's very loving and thoughtful of you" said Santa.
"And what would you like to get for her?"
"A son in law" replied Martha.

Three men die in a car accident on Christmas Eve. They all found themselves at the pearly gates waiting to enter heaven. St Peter told them that they must each present something relating to or

associated with Christmas in order to gain admittance.

The first man searches his pockets and finds some mistletoe, so he is allowed in. The second man presents a cracker and is also allowed in. The third man pulls out a pair of nylon stockings.

Confused St Peter asks "how do these represent Christmas?"

The third man answered "they're Carol's".

Proposed Golf Dates – 2021

May 14 – Texas Scramble, Abbey Hill

June 18 – Singles Competition, Redbourn

Sept 29 – Pairs Competition, Aylesbury Vale

Upcoming Events in the South – 2021

Subject to Covid-19 restrictions:

Thursday, March 4, Cadburys World

Thursday, March 18, Tina Turner, The Musical

Matinee performance, including carvery meal

Thursday, April 15, Trentham Estate Shopping

Village – shops, cafes, restaurants, large garden

centre all set in charming timber lodge, plus

outdoor ceramics and crafts

Saturday, May 22 – Royal Albert Hall

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra perform your

favourite film music, including fish and chips lunch

Saturday, June 5 – Brighton

Coach only

Wednesday, June 16 – Nottingham

Princess Cruise on River Trent + roast beef dinner

Thursday, July 15 – Bletchley Park

Home of the code breakers during World War Two

Thursday, August 12 – Wye Valley/Royal Forest

of Deal – drive into the forest, which is full of

myth, legend and tradition, for morning

refreshments. Lunch in Monmouth, birthplace of

Henry V followed by a cruise looking out for

various wildlife, including cream tea

Thursday, August 26 – Quainton

A day in this lovely village, including visits to the

steam railway and the mill

Thursday, September 16 – Countryfile Adam

Hanson's Farm

Tour the Cotswolds and a visit to the TV famous

farm, including carvery lunch

Thursday, October 7 – Gloucester

Warwickshire Steam Railway

Fish and chips lunch while rolling through the

countryside being drawn by a vintage steam

locomotive

Thursday, October 21 – Mystery Tour

including carvery lunch

Thursday, November 18 – London – Carvery

Lunch/Christmas Lights

Afternoon visit to London for Carvery Club lunch

before a coach tour of the Christmas lights, with

Blue Badge guide

Monday, November 29 – Friday, December 3

Turkey and Tinsel – 4 night half board festive

break at Warners Hotel, Alvaston Hall, Cheshire

with daily excursions

Wednesday, December 8

Christmas Dinner and Party in the Riverside

Suite

Upcoming Events in the North - 2021

Monday, April 5 2021 – Eliot Hotel, Newquay

5 day holiday. Departure time and car parking details to follow. Visiting the Eden Project, Bodmin and Padstow. Approximately £200 pp.

Tea Dances - temporarily on hold

In Memoriam – Luton

Allen, Thomas Henry, Division 033

Died 6.9.2020, Aged 85, Retired 1993

Barnby, Sophia, Staff

Died 21.8.20, Aged 95, Retired 1985

Canning, James, Vauxhall

Died 4.10.20, Aged 66, Retired 2010

Chauhan, Harkisan Govind, Division 015

Died 26.8.2020, Aged 75, Retired 1999

Fletcher, Colin Ernest, Division 518

Died 24.9.2020, Aged 74, Retired 1997

Gray, Pamela, Division 117

Died 26.9.2020, Aged 87, Retired 1991

Grey, Donald Edward, Division 074

Died 19.10.2020, Aged 86, Retired 1990

Hector, Ableta, Division 032

Died 17.10.2020, Aged 79, Retired 1994

Henderson, Thomas Joseph Division 046

Died 17.10.2020, Aged 80, Retired 2001

Husain, Mirza Shamshad, Division 032

Died 1.5.2020, Aged 79, Retired 2002

Johnson, John, Division 330

Died 20.9.2020, Aged 70, Retired 2002

Jones, Philip Tulley, Division 513

Died 14.10.2020, Aged 84, Retired 1994

Kumar, Krishan, Division 527

Died 1.9.2020, Aged 71, Retired 2009

Lerario, Leonardo, IBC

Died 24.9.2020, Aged 86, Retired 1999

Long, John Thomas, IBC

Died 22.10.2020, Aged 86, Retired 1996

Maguire, Anthony, IBC

Died 31.10.2020, Aged 75, Retired 2006

Maynard, Joseph, IBC

Died 15.9.2020, Aged 79, Retired 2003

Moorhouse, Bertram Stanley, IBC

Died 12.10.2020, Aged 84, Retired 1998

Norman, Eric George, IBC

Died 14.10.2020, Aged 85, Retired 1998

Scholes, Leslie Charles, Division 527

Died 6.10.2020, Aged 78, Retired 2007

Singh, Didar, Division 046

Died 16.2.2020, Aged 90, Retired 1995

Smith, Roger Alen, Division 330

Died 31.10.2020, Aged 78, Retired 2002

Thompson, Sylvena, Vauxhall

Died 13.10.2020, Aged 89, Retired 1988

Wells, Cyril, Division 089

Died 9.9.2020, Aged 84, Retired 1995

In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port

Britten, Clifford Reginald, Division 619

Died 2.9.2020, Aged 68, Retired 2006

Brooks, Ronald Stanley, Division 670

Died 28.8.2020, Aged 86, Retired 1997

Crompton, Peter, Division 663

Died 15.9.2020, Aged 69, Retired 2002

Gibson, Robert Wyllie, Division 616

Died 30.9.2020, Aged 88, Retired 1997

Hinton, Gerald Gordon, Division 642

Died 28.9.2020, Aged 82, Retired 1998

Holland, John, Division 600

Died 7.9.2020, Aged 88, Retired 1997

Hyde, Christopher Patrick, Division 630

Died 27.10.2020 Aged 84, Retired 1990

Knapman, Frederick Richard, Division 638

Died 14.10.2020, Aged 88, Retired 1997

Littler, John Ronald, Division 670

Died 14.9.2020, Aged 87, Retired 1995

McKeown, William, Division 663

Died 15.10.2020, Aged 88, Retired 1997

Morris, George, Division 642

Died 23.10.2020, Aged 92, Retired 1993

Moss, Alan, Division 629

Died 11.9.2020, Aged 83, Retired 1997

Neves, Brian, Division 670

Died 23.10.2020, Aged 82, Retired 1998

Poland, Brian Michael, Division 640

Died 26.10.2020, Aged 81, Retired 1998

Pratt, Douglas Frederick, Division 628

Died 18.10.2020, Aged 86, Retired 1998

Riding, John, Division 663

Died 18.10.2020, Aged 89, Retired 1993

Webster, Brian Norman, Division 627

Died 13.8.2020, Aged 80, Retired 1999

West, Arthur Fredrick, Division 639

Died 25.10.2020, Aged 73, Retired 2002

Wilshaw, Peter, Division 691

Died 5.9.2020, Aged 78, Retired 2002

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

Facebook

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

Welfare Fund 07460 171565

Email welfarefund@vm.co.uk

Website 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

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

