

# Pensioners' Newsletter – April 2021

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## News from the South

Hi Everyone:

Well I don't know about you but I am getting more and more positive about the summer. I had my first game of golf recently and the weather was fantastic (pity I can't say the same about my golf), but it was just great to be outside and meet up with a couple of friends in the sunshine. I hope you are all enjoying the opportunity to do what you have missed over the past months and with the Covid figures going down that things will continue to improve as we move into the better weather. Jean and myself have decided that we will not be going abroad this year, but will have a few short trips to places in the UK we haven't visited for a long time and of course go on some of the VPA trips being arranged by Sylvia and Dave (details in this issue). These will of course only go ahead if we are able to run them safely, but we are confident that if things continue to improve we will be running them as planned so hope to see some of you there. Enjoy spring.

*John Boast*

## News from the North

Dear All:

At last there seems to be some light at the end of a very long tunnel - at least there will be if the crowds that have been gathering stop and think. I guess many of you will by now have had your second jab. We are still waiting but hope it won't be too long.

As you will know the Newquay trip was, as we suspected, finally cancelled and the company very promptly returned our deposits. We have, however, booked a Turkey and Tinsel for December 6 to Porthcawl. At present this is fully booked, but if anybody is interested I will get in touch with the company to see if there are any more rooms.

As things stand the Club will re-open on the evening of July 6 with a meal and Tony will be in touch regarding the menu.

We are also happy to announce that some trips will recommence starting on April 29 to Church Stretton and Shropshire, May 20 to Bakewell and Dales. Both of these are full but with a reserve list. A trip to Betws-y-Coed and Llandudno is planned for June 8 and Grassington and Ilkley on June 24. There are a few places on these trips. All trips will leave the club at 9:00 am but if things change regarding travel we will be in touch.

A meal has been arranged for Friday, June 25 at the Woodcote Hotel. Please arrive at 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm.

As our AGM was unable to go ahead earlier in the year it will now be held on June 29 in the Club starting at 2:00 pm so please try and attend.

Other trips will be announced nearer the time when

they have been finalised.

I personally am looking forward to meeting up with old friends. It seems such a long time ago that this was able to happen, so until then stay safe and hopefully it won't be too long now until we have some sort of normality - not least looking better after a trip to the barbers and hairdressers.

Till next time cheerio.

*Dave Williams*

## Former Luton Site Acquired for Redevelopment

The 17 acre site in Osborne Road and one other private company has been acquired by Prologis who intend to develop it into a 300,000 square feet industrial logistics scheme. The site was purchased in a multi-million pounds transaction.

Extensive landscaping work will be undertaken as part of the project, including transforming the overgrown River Lea which bisects the site, into a 'green corridor' with the potential for public access.

The site is in a superb logistical position being only a mile from Luton Airport and in close proximity to Luton train station and the M1 motorway, as well as being only 30 miles from London. Employment plans will centre around the local community.

Ollie Bycroft, a vice president at Prologis UK stated "This is an investment both for Prologis and the local economy: we are pleased to be following in Vauxhall's footsteps and continuing to provide employment opportunities in Luton. Because of the site's location we are very conscious of the need to integrate the development into the local community and alongside jobs we will be ensuring that the scheme provides added sustainability and environmental benefits too".

Jaspal Singh, Real Estate Manager at Vauxhall, added "Our Company has a long history with the borough of Luton and remains connected to the area with our van manufacturing plant and new Headquarters in Toddington".

## Ex-Employee Research Project Request

Ronald Roberts has contacted us and asked that we include the following request in our Newsletter. Only too happy to oblige!

Ronald retired from the Ellesmere Port Plant three years ago, decided to return to university life and is currently undertaking a 3 year PhD course at Queens University Belfast. His current research is looking at apprentice life at the Ellesmere Port Plant from the late 1970s until recent times - a period of significant technical and organisational change. The research will analyse the changes to apprenticeships and apprentice experiences over the years with a big focus on the impact on apprentices of the changes in the early 1990s.

For his research Robert will be conducting an interview of around 40 minutes using Zoom, MS Teams, Skype or FaceTime or simply by phone and will take place in April and May of this year. Each person taking part will receive a £20 Amazon voucher or a donation to the charity of their choice. The research is under the auspices of the Queens University research ethics programme and all participants views are classed as confidential and their names and the name of the plant are totally anonymous.

If you wish to participate please call Ronald on 07933775695 or email him on [rrroberts07@qub.ac.uk](mailto:rrroberts07@qub.ac.uk)

### **50th Anniversary of D Day**

No not the D Day in 1944 but the introduction of decimal currency in place of the traditional pounds, shillings and pence, which occurred in February 1971. We went to bed on February 14 with 12 pennies to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound and woke up on February 15 with a pound that was worth 100 new pennies. More than 3.4 billion new coins were minted for 'Decimal Day' and nowadays there are some 30 billion of them in circulation. Now that is inflation! It seems interesting to look back on what was then and what is now. You can decide what the benefits have been.

Banks closed for four days for preparation and to clear cheques - nowadays they just close! After decimalisation 10% of people polled felt that prices rose when converted to the new currency. The 5p and 10p coins were introduced in 1968 and were followed by the 50p in 1969 with the 1p, 2p and 1/2p coins entering circulation in 1971. The last pre-decimal coin to be withdrawn from circulation was the old 2 shillings or florin which went in 1993.

The Government commissioned Max Bygraves to record a song for the occasion called 'Decimalisation'. The highlight of its lyrics were the lines "They've made it easy for every citizen, cos all we have to do is count to ten". I don't recall it getting to number 1 in the charts.

Some statistics to make you weep! In 1971 a pint of milk cost 5p, a loaf of bread 10p, a pint of beer 15p and a pack of 20 cigarettes 27p. I won't even quote the price of a gallon of petrol as it is sufficient to say, if memory is good, that a gallon then was cheaper than a litre nowadays.

Statistics to really make those tears flow! Nowadays you can pay 43p for a pint of milk, a loaf of bread costs in the region of £1.16, a pint of beer around £3.50 and a packet of 20 cigarettes upwards of £11.

But it is not all bad. In 1971 pubs could legally refuse to serve an unaccompanied woman.

Nowadays that is not the case.

In 1971 the average weekly pay for men was £20, for women it was around £14. Thanks to those lady machinists at Fords Dagenham and their efforts this disparity is no longer the case.

A woman could be sacked for being pregnant in 1971. No longer is this the case, at least legally.

Around 53% of women worked in 1971, the number today is around 72%.

The Bank of England interest rate in 1971 was 7% compared to just above zero today.

The average person spent £2.31 a week on food. Today this figure is £26.12.

Home ownership levels were around 51% in 1971 compared to 63% now. Good for Maggie Thatcher I hear you say!

The average house price was just over four times the annual salary. Nowadays it is nine times.

Car ownership has risen from 52% of households to 76%.

In 1971 men married at an average age of 27.8 years and women at 25.2 years. Nowadays this is 38 for men and 35.7 for women.

The basic state pension in 1971 was £6 a week. Now it is in the region of £130 a week and new pensioners get a flat rate of £175.20.

About 2.9 million people were drawing workplace pensions (mainly in the public sector) and today recent statistics show this figure to have risen to 10.2 million with the majority in the private sector. Not all of these changes are down to the introduction of decimal coinage, but it is interesting to recall the wide changes that have happened in the last 50 years in our lives. It is good to be reminded of things that we may well have forgotten, with perhaps the exception of the Max Bygraves record!

### **April Quiz**

The theme this issue is TV Times:

- 1 On which type of programme would you most likely find Ainsley Harriot?
- 2 Which Carol was the first presenter of Changing Rooms?
- 3 Which washing up liquid did Nanette Newman famously advertise?
- 4 Which programme is usually called Corrie?
- 5 Which Zoe followed Gaby Roslin on Big Breakfast?
- 6 Which impersonator starred in Who Else?
- 7 Who appeared with Richard Madeley on This Morning?
- 8 In which country was Ballykissangel located?
- 9 What was the name of the lady played by Maureen Lipman in the BT ads?
- 10 In which show did David Jason call Nicholas Lyndhurst a plonker?
- 11 Which star of Have I Got News For You is really named Paul Martin?
- 12 Which Helen appeared nude on the cover of Radio Times to mark her 50th birthday?
- 13 Who was taller in the Peter Cook and Dudley Moore partnership?
- 14 Who is Paul O'Grady's blonde alter ego?
- 15 Who is Vic Reeves comedy partner?
- 16 In which show would you see Dorien Green?
- 17 What is the christian name of Prime Suspect writer La Plante?
- 18 What astronomer was born Patrick Caldwell-Moore?
- 19 Who presented The Full Wax?

20 Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen is an expert on what?

### February Quiz Answers

- 1 Butterflies
- 2 Pork pie
- 3 The Sahara
- 4 Horse Racing
- 5 The Wright Brothers
- 6 Medicines
- 7 Fox
- 8 Red and green
- 9 Asp
- 10 Three
- 11 Evita
- 12 Haricot bean
- 13 Flower or shrub
- 14 Tarka was otter
- 15 Balou and Mowgli
- 16 The 1970s
- 17 Italy
- 18 Stamps
- 19 Doves
- 20 Aintree

### Proposed Golf Dates – 2021

**May 20** – Texas Scramble, Abbey Hill

**Please note change of date**

**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**

**Cancelled**

**Thursday, March 18, Tina Turner, The Musical**

**Cancelled**

**Thursday, April 15, Trentham Estate Shopping Village**

**Cancelled**

**Saturday, May 22 – Royal Albert Hall**

**Cancelled**

**Thursday, June 24 – Brighton**

Coach only

**Please note change of date**

**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

**Cancelled due to low response**

**Thursday, August 26 – Nottingham**

Princess Cruise on River Trent + roast beef dinner

**Please note change of date**

**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

**Tuesday, July 6**

**Meal at the Club**

Details to be advised

**Thursday, April 29**

**Church Stretton and Shropshire**

(Fully booked, but reserve list)

**Thursday, May 20**

**Bakewell and Dales**

(Fully booked, but reserve list)

**Tuesday, June 8**

**Betws-y-Coed and Llandudno**

**Thursday, June 24**

**Grassington and Ilkley**

**Friday, June 25**

**Meal at Woodcote Hotel**

7:00 pm for 7:30 pm

**Tuesday, June 29**

**AGM at Club**

Commencing 2:00 pm

**Monday, December 6**

**Turkey and Tinsel**

Porthcawl

(Fully booked, but may be able to secure more rooms)

**Tea Dances** - temporarily on hold

### In Memoriam – Luton

**Bonner, Peter Brian, Staff**

Died 15.2.2021, aged 88, Retired 1990

**Brooker, Arthur, IBC**

Died 15.2.2021, Aged 77, Retired 2003

**Bruce, Michael Robert, Division 117**

Died 14.2.2021, Aged 71, Retired 2002

**Chapman, Anthony Percival, Division 046**

Died 2.2.2021, Aged 91, Retired 1991

**Chaudry, Siddique Mohammed, Division 526**

Died 16.1.2021, Aged 85, Retired 1992

**Childs, Raymond Brian, Division 032**

Died 12.12.2020, Aged 83, Retired 1993

**Dalvi, Majid Rehman, Division 043**

Died 21.1.2021, Aged 67, Retired 2011

**England, Rodston Anthonio, Division 037**

Died 25.2.2021, Aged 82, Retired 1994

**Farrow**, Veronica Greer, Division 106  
Died 7.1.2021, Aged 74, Retired 2000  
**Fensome**, Robert Charles, Division 035  
Died 21.1.2021, Aged 75, Retired 2005  
**Field**, Frank George, Division 041  
Died 7.2.2021, Aged 90, Retired 1992  
**Forde**, Collis Archibald, Division 117  
Died 9.1.2021, Aged 68, Retired 2002  
**Gear**, Michael, Division 151  
Died 15.12.2020, Aged 93, Retired 1992  
**Glasford**, Jacob Analdo, Division 150  
Died 12.1.2021, Aged 81, Retired 2002  
**Lewis**, Talbot Cuthbert, IBC  
Died 2.1.2021, Aged 88, Retired 1988  
**Lewis**, Wellesley Alexander, Division 041  
Died 18.12.2020, Aged 76, Retired 2002  
**Line**, David Edward, Division 150  
Died 23.02.2021, Aged 82, Retired 2000  
**McLaughlin**, Cynthia Adasa, Division 037  
Died 7.1.2021, Aged 85, Retired 1994  
**Mead**, Richard Leslie, Vauxhall  
Died 21.1.2021, Aged 73, Retired 2012  
**Mistry**, Govindbhai Gopalbhai, Division 032  
Died 15.1.2021, Aged 79, Retired 2001  
**Naughton**, Timothy, IBC  
Died 25.1.2021, Aged 85, Retired 1994  
**Palmer**, Philemon, Vauxhall  
Died 12.12.2020, Aged 94, Retired 1982  
**Powell**, Aston, Division 041  
Died 27.2.2021, Aged 84, Retired 1995  
**Runnals**, Danuta, Division 033  
Died 4.2.2021, Aged 78, Retired 2002  
**Russell**, Horace Albert, IBC  
Died 17.1.2021, Aged 89, Retired 1994  
**Shah**, Pravinchand Devchand, Division 152  
Died 12.1.2021, Aged 78, Retired 2002  
**Sinnot**, Maureen, IBC  
Died 29.1.2021, Aged 83, Retired 1989  
**Skelding**, Ernest Christopher, Division 037  
Died 30.1.2021, Aged 90, Retired 1993  
**Smith**, Brian Frederick, Vauxhall  
Died 23.12.2020, Aged 90, Retired 1994  
**St Ville**, Thomas, IBC  
Died 3.3.2021, Aged 84, Retired 1998  
**Williams**, Dennis Alpin, IBC  
Died 26.1.2021, Aged 73, Retired 2003  
**Yarwood**, David Alan, Division 150  
Died 1.1.2021, Aged 73, Retired 2002  
**Zaman**, Mohammad, Division 032  
Died 29.1.2021, Aged 83, Retired 1993

### **In Memoriam – Ellesmere Port**

**Bennett**, John, Division 627  
Died 11.2.2021, Aged 91, Retired 1994  
**Byrne**, Philip, Division 638  
Died 2.2.2021, Aged 80, Retired 1998  
**Dolan**, Peter John, Division 631  
Died 23.2.2021, Aged 83, Retired 1998  
**Edwards**, Barrie Glynn, Division 639  
Died 10.2.2021, Aged 71, Retired 2002  
**Gallagher**, Samuel John, Division 616  
Died 8.2.2021, Aged 86, Retired 1994  
**Gibbons**, Ernest William, Division 640  
Died 18.12.2020, Aged 83, Retired 1998

**Harker**, Joseph Malcolm, Division 627  
Died 17.12.2020, Aged 86, Retired 1999  
**Hunter**, Frederick, Division 640  
Died 2.2.2021, Aged 76, Retired 2004  
**Jeffers**, Terence, Division 616  
Died 26.2.2021, Aged 86, Retired 1995  
**Jones**, Francis, Vauxhall  
Died 26.1.2021, Aged 91, Retired 1989  
**Kettel**, Thomas Henry, Division 618  
Died 11.1.2021, Aged 77, Retired 2008  
**Lavender**, John, Division 618  
Died 12.1.2021, Aged 68, Retired 2006  
**Lawless**, Donald Leslie, Division 617  
Died 14.12.2020, Aged 85, Retired 1999  
**Pass**, Michael Allan, Division 674  
Died 21.1.2021, Aged 86, Retired 1999  
**Price**, John Raymond, Division 638  
Died 10.2.2021, Aged 87, Retired 1991  
**Rafferty**, John P., Vauxhall  
Died 23.12.2020, Aged 93, Retired 1989  
**Redmond**, Anthony Stephen, Division 627  
Died 24.1.2021, Aged 85, Retired 1996  
**Slattery**, Martin Stephen, Division 638  
Died 31.1.2021, Aged 69, Retired 2002  
**Smith**, David, Division 642  
Died 9.1.2021, Aged 78, Retired 1996  
**Turner**, Peter Ernest, Division 670  
Died 14.1.2021, Aged 78, Retired 1994  
**Walsh**, William Michael, Division 616  
Died 3.1.2021, Aged 82, Retired 2003  
**Whitehead**, Derek, Division 670  
Died 17.2.2021, Aged 80, Retired 2003  
**Whitney**, William Simon, Division 642  
Died 23.1.2021, Aged 70, Retired 2012  
**Wise**, Herbert, Vauxhall  
Died 20.2.2021, Aged 92, Retired 1989  
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/VauxhallPensionersAsociation](https://www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAsociation)

### **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.