

Pensioners' Newsletter - February 2024

News from the South

Am I alone in thinking that ever since they started giving names to storms there seems to be many more of them?

Hopefully by the time you read this the evenings will be getting lighter and we can look forward to better weather. However, as I write this the name Michael Fish springs to mind so if the situation worsens you can blame me.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find details of the Southern Plant AGM which takes place on March 19 and our 2024 trips which contain the details that you were promised would be available to you in this issue. They should help to make up your mind as to what you will opt for.

Not much else to add except keep well and stay safe.

Norman McGregor

News from the North

Hi Folks:

Firstly I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and New Year. Unfortunately ours was overshadowed by family sickness, but hopefully we can look forward to a better spring.

We enjoyed a Club social on December 5 after all. We had some festive snacks and were entertained by a gentleman with interesting facts and anecdotes about the history of Christmas traditions.

Our Christmas lunch at the Queens Hotel on December 15 was a very busy affair with welcome coffee and mince pies, followed by a quiz and entertainment and lunch. For those of us with sensitive ears a pair of earplugs may have been useful, but all in all it was a good day.

We did not go to the panto, but it was enjoyed by those who did.

For those going to Bournemouth in April can I please remind you that the balance of your holiday is required by the February social. As I write there is still one vacant room. Could you also please remember that this is a Wednesday to Sunday holiday.

We have also booked a Turkey and Tinsel holiday to Tenby for December 2 and a few rooms are still available, so please pay your deposits of £50.00 pp in February.

May I remind you that our AGM will be held on the afternoon of March 5, starting at 12 noon and will include a hotpot lunch.

There are no day trips until April when we will also revert to our evening socials

A full list of details of day trips can be found on your programme card.

Till next time regards.

Dave Williams

Annual General Meeting – Southern Plants

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th March in the Juniper Suite at Venue 360 commencing 2:15 pm.

Refreshments will be available prior to the meeting.

Retiree Car Scheme Update – January 2024

In August 2023 Employee Fleet communicated that there had been a change in the rules regarding eligibility to operate a Retiree Car Scheme vehicle, whereby employees must now confirm their intention to join the Retiree Car Scheme at the point of leaving the Company.

In recognition of this change to the Retiree Car Scheme, the Company provided transitional arrangements for current retirees who were not operating a Retiree Car Scheme (NCPR) vehicle, with a request for interested parties to register to re-join the scheme and order a vehicle by 31st December 2023.

Individuals who have already applied to re-join the scheme, but not yet been able to order a new vehicle due to lack of availability, will have until 29th February to order a vehicle from the price list. A new price list including a range of models will be available on EMPOLO from week commencing 12th February.

Purchase of NCPR vehicle

In certain circumstances, individuals may wish to purchase their current vehicle for continued personal use rather than returning it. If you wish to retain one of your scheme vehicles, please contact Employee Fleet to request a quote. At this point you will be informed of the final purchase process.

When purchasing a vehicle it will be considered that the individual has left the New Car Plan Retirement Scheme. Individuals can apply to re-join the scheme by writing to the Employee Fleet Department no earlier than 30 months after the date on which the previous vehicle was purchased. There is no automatic right to re-join the Retiree Car Scheme and the decision to grant re-admission to an individual remains at the discretion of the Company.

For those who purchased their NCPR vehicle prior to the change in rules in September 2023, the previous minimum timescale of 12 months before applying to re-join the scheme is still applicable. Again, the decision to grant re-admission to the scheme remains at the discretion of the Company. Any intention to sell a scheme car to a third party in an attempt to make a profit will be seen as acting outside the spirit of the scheme. As a result, you may be excluded from further participation in the scheme.

Electric Models

Although not yet available the Company continues to work on a proposal to introduce electric models onto all of our Company car schemes at an affordable price. Further updates will be provided as they become available.

Further Information

If there are any questions relating to the scheme, or if you experience any difficulties placing an order within EMPOLO (www.empolo.co.uk), please contact employeefleet@stellantis.com

Up-Grading of Telephone Network

In the October edition of the Newsletter we reported that over the next 2 years the UK's landline telephone network was being replaced by digital technology.

It appears that Telecoms giants have been ordered to stop forcing the vulnerable to have digital phone lines as it can stop their emergency alarms from working during power cuts.

BT, Sky, O2, Virgin Media and TalkTalk were told to stop the upgrades until better protections had been put in place.

It came after a series of power and internet outages cut off alarms.

Providers can up-grade from conventional to internet-based lines only once they are sure the devices will still work.

Retiree Fleet Car Servicing

Currently it may well be that because we are keeping our Retiree Car Scheme cars for longer periods it has been necessary to book a service at a Vauxhall approved retailer.

Please note that if, at time of a service, a courtesy car is required, it is not necessary to pay for the loan of a courtesy car or insurance if a loan car is provided.

All costs for servicing are covered under the car scheme and insurance is included under the Employee Fleet policy.

Wednesday, December 6 – Royal Albert Hall
54 members left Luton to visit the Royal Albert Hall to attend the Christmas Carol Concert. We stopped at the Myllet Arms on the way for a carvery lunch which was most enjoyable.



Inside the Royal Albert Hall



Inside the Royal Albert Hall

The Albert Hall, as ever, was a majestic location and our seats were at the very front. In fact we could almost sit with the orchestra. Speaking of the orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic were their usual brilliant self and made for an extremely enjoyable afternoon. The planned tour of the London Christmas lights was scuppered half way through due to road closures and the ensuing chaos that was caused. Nevertheless it did not diminish the brilliance of the concert. As usual thanks to Sylvia, Dave and Andy the driver.

Wednesday, December 13 – Christmas Dinner and Dance

About 60 people attended the event and after dining on a 3-course Christmas feast they were entertained by the music group Deja Vu. This group is a favourite with the VPA and the attendees danced the night away to them. Regarding the meal, the starter was bubble and squeak which is relatively new to the group and was well received. The evening was a super way to start the festive season. Thanks to all who arranged it.

I Remember It Well – Do You?

Two farthings would make a ha'penny
Two ha'pennies a penny for you
Three pennies would come to threepence
Or a threepenny bit as we knew
Six pennies would make up sixpence
Two three penny bits did as well
All were known as a tanner
As any old timer would tell
Twelve pennies were worth one shilling
Four threepenny bits two tanners a bob
Four tanners eight threepence two shillings
All would make a florin job
Two and six or a florin and sixpence
Would then become half a crown
Four half crowns made a ten bob note
Two ten bob notes a pound
A pound note and a shilling into a guinea grew
This is old money pounds shillings and pence
I remember it well, do you?

Definitions – Something to Make You Smile!

Adult – a person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle

Committee – a body that keeps minutes and wastes hours
Egotist – someone who is usually me deep in conversation
Inflation – cutting money in half without damaging the paper
Yawn – an honest opinion openly expressed

February Quiz

This month the topic is 'The 1970s'. Enjoy.

- 1 What free issue to school children did Margaret Thatcher cancel?
- 2 Who was the captain of the Arsenal double winning team?
- 3 Who was the kidnaped daughter of Randolph Hearst?
- 4 What was Mountbatten doing when murdered by the IRA?
- 5 What was Gail's surname before marrying Brian Tilsley?
- 6 What did Brighton Council agree to on a section of the beach?
- 7 Lyn Paul and Eve Graham went solo to break up which group?
- 8 What did Rolls Royce declare in February 1971?
- 9 Who was the Prime Minister during the "winter of discontent"?
- 10 Who did Virginia Wade defeat in the Wimbledon ladies single final?
- 11 Who wrote TV blockbuster Roots?
- 12 Who were Jilly, Kelly and Sabrin?
- 13 What was Saigon renamed by the North Vietnamese?
- 14 Percy Shaw passed away. What was he famous for?
- 15 The first cricket World Cup Final was held where?
- 16 Vanishing MP John Stonehouse was arrested in which country?
- 17 What was Ted Heath's yacht called?
- 18 Where in Ireland did Bloody Sunday occur?
- 19 Which policeman said a final "goodnight all" in 1976?
- 20 Who was Live at Treorchy?

December Quiz answers

- 1 North Yorkshire
- 2 National Gallery
- 3 St Helier, Jersey
- 4 China
- 5 York
- 6 Morecambe
- 7 Taxidermy
- 8 Nine
- 9 Silver Ghost
- 10 Palace Pier
- 11 Colchester
- 12 Liquid clay
- 13 Coin collecting
- 14 Fell walking
- 15 Four

- 16 November
- 17 China
- 18 Calligraphy
- 19 Cambridge
- 20 Name of country

Upcoming Events in the South

To book trips please telephone Sylvia on (01582) 759851 or write to Mrs S Pemberton, 27 Ryecroft Way, Luton, Beds, LU2 7TU.

A stamped addressed envelope is no longer required. If you use email please provide your email address. Our trip prices do not include insurance. For your own peace of mind please make your own arrangements.

In the event of your late cancellation of a booking you will be required to pay for the coach fare and any event ticket that we are unable to re-sell.

Please Note:

Due to circumstances beyond our control the planned April Welsh break has been cancelled. Our apologies to those who expressed an interest.

Thursday, February 8 - Matinee Performance of **The King and I** at the Dominion Theatre.

Starring Helen George of Call the Midwife
Including a carvery lunch - SOLD OUT
Members £65.00 pp/Non-members £70.00 pp

Thursday, March 14 - Springfields Shopping Outlet and Festival Gardens

Grab a bargain at this large shopping outlet at Spalding including M & S, Next, Clarks and many more and a large garden centre and formal gardens
Members £18.00 pp/Non-members £21.00 pp

Thursday, May 9 - Huntingdon Horse Racing

Come and have a flutter and enjoy the spectacle of National Hunt racing. No food included
Members £29.00 pp/Non-members £32.00 pp

Thursday, May 16 - Watercress Line Steam Train, Hants

Enjoy a steam train ride on the Watercress Line through Hampshire countryside. A Ploughman's lunch will be served on board

Members £45.00 pp/Non-members £48.00 pp

Thursday, June 6 - Brighton (coach only)

Day trip to this ever popular seaside resort
Members £16.00 pp/Non-members £19.00 pp

Thursday, July 18 - Norfolk Lavender Fields and Villages Tour

Blue Badge guided tour of Norfolk's lavender fields and pretty villages

Including fish and chips lunch

Members £36.00 pp/Non-members £39.00 pp

Thursday, August 15 - Savill Gardens, Windsor Estate, and Thames Cruise

Visit to these splendid gardens at Windsor where we have lunch before enjoying a 2 hour Thames Cruise with a cream tea

Members £59.00 pp/Non-members £63.00 pp

Thursday, September 19 - Suffolk Punch Centre, Woodbridge

Come and see these magnificent horses in their stables and fields. The trip includes meeting the horses, watching them demonstrate their skill and a horse-drawn hay cart ride. A café is on site selling a variety of food

Members £35.00 pp/Non-members £38.00 pp

Thursday, October 17 - Vineyard Visit at Tenterden, Kent

Sample the fine wines in this renowned winery in Kent and enjoy a tour of the vineyard. We will taste five of their popular wines (soft drink alternatives if preferred). We will stop for lunch en route at a suitable venue where you will be able to buy lunch

Members £36.00 pp/Non-members £39.00 pp

Mon-Fri, November 25-29 - Turkey and Tinsel

A festive 4 night break at the Warners Hotel, Holme Lacey, Herefordshire in the beautiful Wye Valley. The stay will be on half board basis with daily excursions

Members £325.00 pp/Non-members £335.00 pp

Thursday, December 5 - Christmas Cockney Show, followed by a tour of the London lights.

Enjoy the festive fun on board Tereza Joanne at London's Royal Docks.

Includes Christmas turkey dinner with apple pie dessert.

Members £55.00 pp/Non-members £58.00 pp

Wednesday, December 11 - Christmas Dinner and Dance

Come and join us at Venue 360 for this annual festive celebration.

Evening includes a three course festive meal and live music.

Members £35.00 pp/Non-members £38.00 pp

Upcoming Events in the North

Tuesday, March 5 – AGM

Club commencing at 12.00 noon

Hotpot lunch

Monday, December 2 – Turkey and Tinsel, Tenby

£50.00 pp deposit required in February

In Memoriam

Anderson, Jean, Vauxhall

Died 3.11.2023, Aged 86, Retired 1992

Antill, Louis Francis, Vauxhall

Died 27.11.2023, Aged 93, Retired 1995

Baldwin, Albert, Vauxhall

Died 5.12.2023, Aged 82, Retired 1999

Barrett, John David, Vauxhall

Died 27.11.2023, Aged 90, Retired 1991

Bowes, Stanley Robin, IBC

Died 13.12.2023, Aged 71, Retired 2011

Brinklow, Janet Berenice, Vauxhall

Died 24.12.2023, Aged 86, Retired 2002

Briscombe, Gary, IBC

Died 1.1.2024, Aged 66, Retired 2013

Bushell, Peter, Vauxhall

Died 8.12.2023, Aged 84, Retired 2002

Carter, Robin John, Vauxhall

Died 15.11.2023, Aged 87, Retired 1990

Choudhury, Bodar Uddin, IBC

Died 2.12.2023, Aged 84, Retired 2004

Coles, David, Vauxhall

Died 16.11.2023, Aged 85, Retired 2002

Cook, Douglas Ronald, IBC

Died 28.12.2023, Aged 85, Retired 1994

Doyle, William, Vauxhall

Died 21.12.2023, Aged 88, Retired 1999

Dulson, David Norman, IBC

Died 16.11.2023, Aged 67, Retired 2018

Dunne, John Paul, Vauxhall

Died 16.11.2023, Aged 88, Retired 1994

Everitt, Alan, Vauxhall

Died 4.11.2023, Aged 76, Retired 2002

Fenn, Johanne, Vauxhall

Died 5.12.2023, Aged 60, Retired 2020

Fensome, June Elizabeth, Vauxhall

Died 5.12.2023, Aged 88, Retired 1993

Fitzgerald, Yvonne Sandra, Vauxhall

Died 24.11.2023, Aged 72, Retired 2002

Fletcher, Samuel Roy, Vauxhall

Died 14.12.2023, Aged 87, Retired 1999

Fraser, Valerie Sheila, Vauxhall

Died 2.12.2023, Aged 80, Retired 1991

Garbett, David Alan, Vauxhall

Died 31.12.2023, Aged 68, Retired 2010

Gregson, Peter Elliott, Vauxhall

Died 23.12.2023, Aged 96, Retired 1989

Hannon, Michael John, Vauxhall

Died 21.12.2023, Aged 66, Retired 2012

Harrington-Spier, Brian Anselm Robert, VM

Died 24.10.2023, Aged 82, Retired 2003

Hart, Alfred Derek, Vauxhall

Died 3.12.2023, Aged 91, Retired 1997

Hodgson, Thomas Arthur, Vauxhall

Died 19.12.2023, Aged 68, Retired 2006

Holland, Jonathan, Vauxhall

Died 8.11.2023, Aged 66, Retired 2018

Howarth, Frank, IBC

Died 22.11.2023, Aged 82, Retired 2002

Huckle, Paul, Vauxhall

Died 1.10.2023, Aged 64, Retired 2017

Hughes, Kenneth George, Vauxhall

Died 30.9.2023, Aged 85, Retired 2003

Hyde, Dennis Victor, IBC

Died 11.1.2024, Aged 79, Retired 2003

Kinnear, James Colin, Vauxhall

Died 18.11.2023, Aged 85, Retired 1998

Langan, David, Vauxhall

Died 1.12.2023, Aged 81, Retired 1996

Leech, Michael Arthur, Vauxhall

Died 29.12.2023, Aged 69, Retired 2016

Line, Christine, Vauxhall
Died 21.11.2023, Aged 79, Retired 2004

MacManus, William Michael, Vauxhall
Died 11.10.2023, Aged 86, Retired 1990

Maina, Peter Laurence, Vauxhall
Died 5.10.2023, Aged 89, Retired 1988

Mathurin, Patrick, IBC
Died 16.10.2023, Aged 81, Retired 2003

McAllister, Robert M., Vauxhall
Died 27.12.2023, Aged 85, Retired 2001

McGowan, Terence, Vauxhall
Died 17.1.2024, Aged 86, Retired 1992

McKeown, Victor James, IBC
Died 29.9.2023, Aged 82, Retired 2003

Morton, Robin, IBC
Died 5.12.2023, Aged 71, Retired 2015

Nemeth, Tibor, Vauxhall
Died 13.12.2023, Aged 83, Retired 1995

O'Reilly, John Francis, Vauxhall
Died 25.11.2023, Aged 69, Retired 2006

Reid, George, Vauxhall
Died 28.11.2023, Aged 96, Retired 1988

Rosedale, Kenneth, Vauxhall
Died 6.12.2023, Aged 79, Retired 1999

Sanders, Keith George, IBC
Died 14.1.2024, Aged 84, Retired 2004

Sharma, Mastram, IBC
Died 21.6.2023, Aged 92, Retired 1994

Sharp, Peter, Vauxhall
Died 6.12.2023, Aged 90, Retired 1995

Sheridan, Bernard Lucas, Vauxhall
Died 19.11.2023, Aged 89, Retired 1999

Slobom, Robin Henry, Vauxhall
Died 29.12.2023, Aged 72, Retired 2006

Smeaton, Maureen Beatrice, Vauxhall
Died 17.11.2023, Aged 81, Retired 2001

Smith, Michael Anthony, Vauxhall
Died 8.11.2023, Aged 77, Retired 2008

Smith, Rodney Samuel, Vauxhall
Died 1.12.2023, Aged 75, Retired 2009

Southall, Edward Barry, Vauxhall
Died 14.11.2023, Aged 88, Retired 1999

Thanki, Vallabhadas Madhavji, Vauxhall
Died 28.9.2023, Aged 89, Retired 1992

Varga, Pasqualine, Vauxhall
Died 6.10.2023, Aged 85, Retired 1995

Wall, George Charles, Vauxhall
Died 12.11.2023, Aged 83, Retired 1999

Waller, Peter George, Vauxhall
Died 27.10.2023, Aged 92, Retired 1989

Ward, Owen, Vauxhall
Died 18.12.2023, Aged 84, Retired 2002

Williams, Nigel John, Vauxhall
Died 11.1.2024, Aged 71, Retired 2006

Young, Wesley, Vauxhall
Died 7.12.2023, Aged 87, Retired 1993

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.

VPA North

Dave Williams
0151 608 8701

VPA Website – Southern/Northern Plants

<https://www.vauxhallpensioners.org>

Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/VauxhallPensionersAssociation

Pensions Enquiries

Aviva:

Defined Benefit Solutions
PO Box 3331
Norwich NR1 3WH
Telephone: 0800 1584 194
Email: bpainc@aviva.com

Rothesay Life:

Rothesay Life
PO Box 545
Redhill
Surrey
RH1 1YX
Telephone: 0800 916 8090
Email: pensions.helpline@rothesaypolicy.com

Aon:

General Motors (VML) Pension Plan
Aon, PO Box 196, Huddersfield, HD8 1EG
Tele: 0330 808 5226
Email: GMPensions@aon.com

Employee Fleet

0151 350 3250

Email: employeefleet@stellantis.com

Welfare Fund

07460 171565
Email: vauxhallwelfare@vwcharity.com
Website: www.vauxhallwelfarefund.org

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.

