



Pensioners' Newsletter - June 2024

News from the South

Since the last Newsletter there has been very changeable weather, although it is fair to say that Luton and the surrounding area does not usually suffer from extreme cold or heat. I write this with the name Michael Fish springing to mind. Enough said!

Elsewhere in this Newsletter there is an article covering what the Committee has decided to do to celebrate our 75 years anniversary. In the name of the VPA we are planning to donate £750 to each of 10 selected charities after a democratic vote by your Committee members. We will cover this in a future edition of the Newsletter.

As we are approaching the holiday season may I wish those of you doing so enjoy yourselves wherever you are going. Until the next time stay healthy and lucky.

Norman McGregor

News from the North

Hi folks: This month I must start with some sad news. Many of you will remember Bill and Hilda Dobson - Bill was a long time Committee member who died several years ago. Hilda, although not attending the Club, enjoyed several of our holidays with us, the last one being our Turkey and Tinsel last December when although poorly, looked very well. Sadly she has died and her funeral will be on June 12 at 10:00 am at St Saviours, Great Sutton.

On a happier note I am pleased to report that our trip to Bournemouth was a great success. Despite travelling down through floods the days we were away we were treated to beautiful hot sunny weather. The hotel was superb, good food, entertainment and lovely caring staff. Some of us made full use of the pool and the jacuzzi. We had a lovely day out in Salisbury and Lyndhurst and a second day in Weymouth and Swanage. Our driver, Will, was caring and thoughtful, dropping us off so that those with limited mobility didn't have long distances to walk. Our visit to Swanage was in place of Westbay, which unfortunately had had a cliff slide due to the heavy rain. On our free day some ventured to Poole on the bus, some to Christchurch and some stayed in Bournemouth. The beaches were packed with people enjoying the hot weather. After the beach we returned to the hotel taking a walk through the beautiful gardens. All in all a great time with friendly companionship enjoyed I think by all.

On the subject of holidays we still have a few

rooms left on the Turkey and Tinsel trip to Tenby in December. We hopefully will be looking to book a spring holiday for 2025, so keep a look out in the Newsletter.

April's social was well supported and our singer was very good. Unfortunately the May social was not so busy, but I guess people were away on holiday so they missed a very good female singer. On May 30 46 of us set forth for the Stumble Inn on the Welsh borders at a place I can neither pronounce nor spell. En route we stopped off at Percy Thrower's garden centre near Shrewsbury for coffee and a mooch round. Then it was off to the pub for lunch. It was a roast dinner and the nearest to home cooked I have had. The staff were lovely and it was good to sit and relax and chat with people we don't always have time to chat to at the social. Many of us came away armed with fresh eggs from the hens in the garden and then it was a slow drive home arriving at teatime. Altogether a lovely day out when even the sun obliged.

For all those going on holiday (or not) I hope the beautiful weather last week was not our summer and the rain stops and the sunshine returns. So until next time take care

Dave Williams

George Taylor

George Taylor, who had been a member of the VPA Executive Committee for many years, announced that he would be standing down from the VPA Committee in April.

George had also been a Trustee of the Pension Funds for a number of years. In this role, he had used his considerable negotiating experience to bring forward the changes to the Plans which were covered at the March AGM. This had taken a great deal of personal time and energy and the VPA were very grateful to George for his efforts on behalf of us all.

VPA Office

Most of you will remember that the VPA had an office located in Griffin House, but had to move out when the building was vacated prior to its sale. It was planned to move to an office within the Plant, but this never materialised.

Our Secretary, Dave Linney and Sylvia Pemberton, who organises our trips, have been working from home since leaving Griffin House and are now very happy to continue to do so. Contact details for both of them are shown at the end of this Newsletter.

Employee Fleet Cars Mileage

An email was recently received by Jean Skipp from Employee Fleet stating:

"It appears you have not yet ordered a replacement vehicle for your NCPER vehicle. If you wish to remain on the scheme you are required to make a replacement order without further delay. If it is your intention to leave the NCPER scheme and return or purchase your current vehicle, please advise so we can make the necessary arrangements"

I was surprised and got in touch with them to ask if they still sent out reminders to order vehicles. I was told that I was supposed to log into EMPOLO regularly where I would see a red and green 'traffic light' and where I was supposed to record my mileage on a monthly basis.

I did not know anything about this. The young lady I spoke to said I would have been told this when I picked up my current vehicle on 31st March 2023, which I was not and I have not seen anything in writing since. EMPOLO did not exist when I collected my current car.

Apparently this information is in the Handbook which can be found on EMPOLO under the HELP section which holds information regarding the requirements for re-ordering.

Sharing this with our readers just in case others are not aware that you now have to send in your mileage each month.

Pensioners Rules of Living

Do not hold back from talking to yourself - sometimes you need expert advice.

Our in style clothes are those that fit.

We do not need anger management classes. We only require that people stop irritating us.

We do not need to write anything down because we always remember everything!

Our general people skills are fine, but we do need to work on our tolerance of idiots.

On time is usually when we arrive.

We wish we could put ourselves in the drier and come out wrinkle free and three times smaller.

We think that people of the same age look older than we do.

The process of growing old should have taken longer.

Ageing has slowed us down, but not shut us up. We still need to learn to act our age.

"One for the road" now means having a pee before going on a journey.

Seniors Blue Book

Getting older is an inevitable part of life. It's something that we all must face, and although it has its challenges, it also has its perks. Here are some interesting facts about getting older:

Age is just a number. While it's true that your body may not be able to do everything it once could, getting older is not a reflection of your ability to enjoy life to the fullest.

Your brain is getting sharper. Contrary to popular belief, your ability to learn, process information, and think critically actually improves with age.

You're more resilient than you think. Studies have shown that older people are often more adept at dealing with stress and handling challenge.

You're less likely to indulge in risky behaviours. As you get older, you become less likely to engage in risky behaviours like drinking too much alcohol, smoking, or driving too fast.

You become more financially stable. Many people find that as they get older, their financial situation becomes more stable, allowing them to enjoy their retirement years.

Your taste buds change. Your taste buds become less sensitive as you age, which can actually make certain foods taste better.

You may have more health problems. Unfortunately, as you get older, you are more likely to develop chronic health conditions like arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, and other conditions. You have more time for hobbies and interests. As you retire or work less, you will likely have more time to pursue hobbies and interests that you may not have had time for earlier in life.

You may need less sleep. As you age, you may find that you need less sleep to feel rested, which can free up more time for other activities.

You're wiser. With age comes wisdom, which can help you navigate life's ups and downs with greater ease.

Overall, getting older can be a mixed bag of experiences, but there are certainly many advantages to growing older. You should cherish the years you have and make the most of them.

Thursday, May 9 - Huntingdon Horse Racing

A smaller than usual group (27 people only) spent a glorious afternoon enjoying the sunny weather and fine horse racing at Huntingdon. As is always the case some people backed winners and others could only find losers. The only sure fire certainty was that the bookies went home in profit!

Nevertheless a good day was had by all, so usual thanks go to Sylvia, Dave and Andy the coach driver.

Thursday, May 16 -Watercress Line Steam Train, Hants

An almost full coach left Luton at 10:00 am in overcast weather and arrived at our destination at around 12:30 pm. We stopped at Winchester Services for a comfort and coffee break, by which time the weather had improved significantly. Our train left Alresford (Hampshire) on schedule at 1:00 pm (clearly a heritage line and not British Rail), reaching Alton where we stopped for lunch. The meal comprised of a ploughman's lunch which included, by common consensus, the biggest wedge of cheese most had ever seen. It was very tasty however. Dessert was a slice of lemon tart followed by tea or coffee.



Michelle and Chris

Leaving Alton we returned to Alresford arriving on schedule at 3:40 pm again on schedule. We re-joined the coach and after enduring the car park that is known as the M25 arrived back in Luton at 6:00 pm. A really good day out and thanks to the usual crew for making it happen.

Thursday, May 16 - Golf – Texas Scramble

As is tradition the first VPA golf event of the year was the Texas Scramble event which was played at the tricky, well-maintained Abbey Hill Golf Club in Milton Keynes. Although the weather was rather dull the golf was anything but, as the competition was extremely close. There were less than two golf shots between the first, second and third placed teams. The winners of the coveted Steve Brooker Cup with an excellent 61.1 score were short handicapper Paul Davies with Chris Cleary, Roger Deane and the effervescent Lou Chadwick. The second team with another very close and creditable score of 61.3 was Alan Everitt, Jim Heaney, Martin Redmond and Alan Smith. The third placed team was John Bailey, Peter Johnson, Alan Currington and George Chalmers who attained a score of 63.0. The nearest to the pin prizes for the short and tricky 8th and 17th par 3 holes were respectively won by the recently re-incarnated Alan Everett and the ex-IBC employee Martin Redmond.



Mike Roberts, Lou Chadwick, Chris Cleary, Paul Davies, Jim Heaney, Roger Deane

As normal the general standard of golf for the 24 veteran golfers was extremely high with all of the four-man teams managing to get round in gross par for the course, or several strokes under.

After the highly competitive game the VPA golfers adjourned to the nineteenth hole to seek shelter and participate in a lively 'josh and two course nosh' session prior to departing from the golf complex with 'prizes galore', or licking their wounds and with many thoughts of 'what could have been!'

For those golfers who have a life given over to unadulterated recreation and leisure the next VPA golf day is for the Singles Championship which

will be held at the Stockwood Park Golf Club on Tuesday, June 25. The other 2024 VPA golf days are scheduled for Thursday, August 5 at Harpenden Common for a team event and Tuesday, September 17 for the Pairs Competition at the Aylesbury Vale Golf Club.

All registered players will be sent entry forms by email and should any other VPA Club golfer wish to join in these events the contact is Mike Roberts mikerobertsverulam@msn.com

June Quiz

The theme this issue is Celebrities.

- 1 Which pop group did Geri Halliwell leave in Spring 1998?
 - 2 Which London store did Mohammed Al-Fayed buy in 1985?
 - 3 Who was engaged to Michael Hutchence at the time of his death?
 - 4 Who heads up the Virgin group?
 - 5 Which Tory politician did Ffion Jenkins marry?
 - 6 Which rockstar did Jerry Hall marry in 1990?
 - 7 Ulrika Jonsson was born in which country?
 - 8 Who founded the London nightclub Stringfellows?
 - 9 Which royal was Lord Snowdon married to?
 - 10 What held Liz Hurley's dress together?
 - 11 Which cook is associated with Norwich City football club?
 - 12 Which cosmetics shop chain did Anita Roddick establish?
 - 13 What sport did the then husband of Jemima Khan play?
 - 14 What was the christian name of politician and author Lord Archer?
 - 15 What nightclub was named after Lady Annabel Goldsmith?
 - 16 What does John Galliano design?
 - 17 Who was the husband of Cherie Booth QC?
 - 18 What is the show business persona of the late Caroline Aherne?
 - 19 Who left husband Peter Powell for Grant Bovet in 1998?
 - 20 Which radio DJ had his own company, Ginger Productions?
- All the best and enjoy.

April Quiz answers

- 1 Humbugs
- 2 Gobstoppers
- 3 Murray Mints
- 4 Love Hearts
- 5 Jelly Babies
- 6 Smarties
- 7 Fruit Pastilles
- 8 Pear Drops
- 9 Mintoes
- 10 Sherbert Lemons
- 11 Jelly Beans
- 12 Mint Balls
- 13 Lollipops
- 14 Mint Imperials

15 Peppermints
16 Everton Mints
17 Trebor Mints
18 Acid Drops
19 Fondants
20 Chocolate Limes
21 Marshmallows
22 Polo Mints

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.

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 + August 22 - 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

Thursday, June 20 – Black Country Museum

Leave Club 9:00 am £20 pp

Thursday, July 25 – Snowdonia Tour

Leave Club 9:00 am £15 pp

Thursday, August 22 – Bridgnorth and Down Inn for lunch

Leave Club 9:00 am £20 pp

Friday, September 6 – Nantwich Food Festival and Bridgemere Gardens

Leave Club 9:00 am £15 pp

Thursday, October 24 – Leeds Trip

Leave Club 9:00 am £15 pp

Monday, December 2 – Turkey and Tinsel,

Cliffe Norton Hotel, Tenby

Rooms still available

In Memoriam

Adams, Patricia Jean, Vauxhall

Died 24.03.2024, Aged 80, Retired 1993

Allport, Richard John, Vauxhall

Died 6.4.2024, Aged 89, Retired 1992

Appleby, Robert Kenneth, IBC

Died 31.3.2024, Aged 77, Retired 1997

Bicknell, Eric Edward, IBC

Died 16.4.2024, Aged 88, Retired 1998

Bousted, Graham, Vauxhall

Died 22.2.2024, Aged 71, Retired 2002

Bradshaw, Norman Anthony, Vauxhall

Died 9.5.2024, Aged 87, Retired 1998

Chiazza, Vincenzo, Vauxhall

Died 1.5.2024, Aged 91, Retired 1997

Crawford, James Joseph, Vauxhall

Died 11.4.2024, Aged 74, Retired 2006

Desai, Bahnumati, Vauxhall

Died 8.3.2024, Aged 74, Retired 2002

Franse, Hubertus Johann, Vauxhall

Died 14.3.2024, Aged 79, Retired 2003

George, Brian, Vauxhall

Died 2.4.2024, Aged 74, Retired 2002

Gordon, Cleaveland, Vauxhall

Died 31.3.2024, Aged 80, Retired 2001

Hardy, Richard David, Vauxhall

Died 27.3.2024, Aged 77, Retired 2010

Heseltine, Edward George, Vauxhall

Died 21.2.2024, Aged 88, Retired 1999

Hussain, Ijaz, IBC

Died 25.3.2024, Aged 83, Retired 2003

Jago, David Arthur, Vauxhall
Died 19.5.2024, Aged 76, Retired 2004

Jasper, Alan William David, Vauxhall
Died 29.3.2024, Aged 77, Retired 2011

Jennings, Ian Frank, Vauxhall
Died 25.11.2023, Aged 78, Retired 2001

Johnson, Stewart Malcolm, Vauxhall
Died 26.4.2024, Aged 78, Retired 2002

Johnston, Patricia, Vauxhall
Died 30.3.2024, Aged 57, Retired 2020

Katechia, Babu, Vauxhall
Died 15.3.2024, Aged 73, Retired 2002

Kilby, Alan James, IBC
Died 23.3.2024, Aged 76, Retired 2010

Knowles, Denis James, Vauxhall
Died 19.4.2024, Aged 71, Retired 2010

Large, William, Vauxhall
Died 25.3.2024, Aged 83, Retired 2002

Latchford, Leslie D., Vauxhall
Died 17.3.2024, Aged 72, Retired 2002

Lavis, Benjamin William, Vauxhall
Died 30.3.2024, Aged 85, Retired 1989

Lewis, William Edward, Vauxhall
Died 19.3.2024, Aged 85, Retired 2000

Liverpool, Perdita Carmita, Vauxhall
Died 27.12.2022, Aged 86, Retired 1994

Lowe, David John, Vauxhall
Died 11.4.2024, Aged 77, Retired 2004

May, Thomas, Vauxhall
Died 23.4.2024, Aged 86, Retired 1999

Mills, Roy George, Vauxhall
Died 30.3.2024, Aged 92, Retired 1988

Monaghan, Luke Patrick, IBC
Died 14.3.2024, Aged 93, Retired 1994

Moran, Kenneth, Vauxhall
Died 5.5.2024, Aged 73, Retired 2003

Moss, Peter Eric, IBC
Died 9.5.2024, Aged 76, Retired 2006

O'Neill, Leslie George, Vauxhall
Died 3.4.2024, Aged 91, Retired 1993

Patel, Kanubhai, IBC
Died 26.3.2024, Aged 80, Retired 1995

Peck, John Peter, Vauxhall
Died 22.2.2024, Aged 80, Retired 2008

Phoenix, Donald Arthur, Vauxhall
Died 7.4.2024, Aged 94, Retired 1994

Platt, David Keith, Millbrook
Died 14.3.2024, Aged 89, Retired 1999

Pulham, Morris John, Vauxhall
Died 2.5.2024, Aged 89, Retired 1993

Rowe, Herbert Walter, Vauxhall
Died 23.2.2024, Aged 91, Retired 1990

Scrace, Donald, Millbrook
Died 13.5.2024, Aged 85, Retired 2003

Sherman, George Raymond, Vauxhall
Died 13.4.2024, Aged 83, Retired 2000

Smith, Margaret Ann, Vauxhall
Died 30.1.2024, Aged 79, Retired 2003

Smith, Ian Kingsford, Vauxhall
Died 27.3.2024, Aged 79, Retired 1998

Stewart, Ilse, Vauxhall,
Died 15.5.2024, Aged 72, Retired 2014

Taylor, Arthur James, Vauxhall
Died 31.3.2024, Aged 85, Retired 1999

Thomas, Gwynn Edward, Vauxhall
Died 30.4.2024, Aged 88, Retired 1996

Truby, David Allen, Vauxhall
Died 5.1.2024, Aged 75, Retired 2002

Warby, Joan, Vauxhall
Died 3.4.2024, Aged 61, Retired 2018

Westlake, George, Vauxhall
Died 8.4.2024, Aged 90, Retired 1992

Williams, Cyril Roger, Vauxhall
Died 6.4.2024, Aged 94, Retired 1993

Wilson, Stuart Vaughan, Vauxhall
Died 25.4.2024, Aged 77, Retired 2006

Contact Information

VPA South

Dave Linney email d.linney@btinternet.com
Sylvia Pemberton (for trips only)
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.help@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: employee@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.