

The Link



barclaycard
Retirement Club

Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Retirement Club



Summer Newsletter 2026

www.barcpen.org.uk

*Visit our website
for more
information*

Editors Note

We apologise for the hiccup of the last emailing of our newsletter, please be aware this was due to Microsoft issue beyond our control which was later rectified. We have had no problems since with our email distribution. At any time please contact us if you have a problem receiving the Link.

Remember to let us know if you have moved or changed your contact details.

There is lots to sign up to in this newsletter, we look forward to seeing you soon.

Christine Graham

Editor

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Quite amazing to accept that 25% of the year has flown by already and it's great to see the Bluebells flourishing in our local Wood. With Easter been and gone, it's time to dream about another good summer. Alternatively, perhaps to take the opportunity of a continental holiday in the sun. Meantime, the committee have been working hard to develop a mixed programme of events which, I hope, will appeal to you all. Information about some of those events are included in the following pages and we hope to see many of you on these throughout the year.

Many of you will have attended the AGM and lunch earlier this month and I thank you for your participation. It's an important date in the calendar and I can't let it go by without thanking the committee for all their hard work and diligence in developing our social programme. We can't please all the people, all of the time but we do our best by asking you for your ideas. Please keep them flowing; find a committee member at the next event you attend and chat about your ideas of future activities. Of course, you can provide feedback (good and bad!) by email if you would like to. Once again to any of the committee members.

Finally, my best wishes to you all and your active participation in the Club is much appreciated.

Roger Alexander



Please return the form below together with your cheque to: Leona Johnson, 3 Well Yard, Northampton, NN2 6QX **no later than Thursday 21st May 2026**

JUNE LUNCH – THURSDAY 18TH JUNE 2026

The lunch will be held at the Mercure Northampton, Silver Street, Northampton NN1 2TA. The bar will be open at 11.45 for lunch at 12.40pm. The cost will be **£16.00 for members in categories 1-4 and £28.50 for category 5 members** (see below for categories). Members may nominate ONE person or couple they wish to sit near to. It must be stressed that this cannot be guaranteed. Members' requests will be noted as far as possible and all seats will be allocated. A table seating plan will be available in the foyer before the lunch. A member can take ONE guest. **NB:** No acknowledgements will be sent out. If you are unable to attend the lunch once booked, no refund will be available.

Menu

Main

Grilled Chicken Breast, Herb New Potatoes & Buttered Greens, Red Wine & Thyme Jus

Vegetarian Option

Creamed Mushroom & Asparagus in Crisp Puff Pastry, Herbed New Potatoes & Buttered Greens, Pesto Cream

Dessert

Chocolate Tart & Chantilly Cream & Fruit Coulis
Coffee or Tea with Mints

Any special requests such as vegetarian, gluten free, allergies etc. can be catered for if ordered at the time of making the application.



Lunch – Mecure Hotel, Thursday 18th June 2026

Name of Member (please print) _____

Name of Guest (please print) _____

Categories 1-4 - I enclose cheque for £_____ (£32 for myself/guest, £16.00 for myself only).

Category 5 - I enclose cheque for £_____ (£57 for myself/guest, £28.50 for myself only).

Please make cheques payable to Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Pensioners Club. NB Cheques will be presented at least 3 weeks before the lunch

If this is your first attendance at a club function, please tick _____

I wish to be seated next to: _____

Any Dietary Requirements: _____

Any Allergies: _____

Coffee morning at the Mercure Hotel

Our next coffee morning will be on Thursday May 21st



The talk from Roy Smart will be about Wallis Simpson and the crisis in the Royal Family. The room we use is the Hertford Suite 1 which will be open to us from 9.45 with tea, coffee and biscuits. Please help yourselves to refills. The talk will be from commence at 10.30 followed by the raffle. There is no charge, and members are welcome to bring a guest with them. If you come by car, please remember to key in your car registration number to avoid receiving a fine.

Our last coffee morning on March 18th was a talk from Alan Marchant about the Bletchley Park Codebreakers. It was a most interesting talk and Alan has kindly provided a summary of it, as follows:

The story of Bletchley Park (BP) covers the five years of World War Two when it was the home of the Government Code and Cipher School (GC&CS). After the war GC&CS was renamed GCHQ and it moved to Cheltenham.

The origins of GC&CS were in Room 40 of the Admiralty where Dilly Knox, Nigel de Grey and Alistair Denniston made Britain the world leader in Signals Intelligence (SIGINT). Knox decoded the Zimmerman Telegram which changed the course of World War One. He would be the father codebreaker at BP, 20 years later.

In the 1920s the Enigma enciphering machine was invented by German electrical engineer Arthur Scherbius. Only a machine would be capable of deciphering messages produced by Enigma with its 106 sextillion possible Key Settings. It was first broken by Polish mathematician Rejewski. He and his colleagues at the Polish Cipher Bureau invented a machine, they called a Bombe, to attack the new German military version of Enigma.

In September 1938, with war brewing, GC&CS re-located to Bletchley Park under the cover of Captain Ridley's Shooting Party. The following year would be spent recruiting a new breed of codebreakers. Eventually there would be over 9,000 people at BP, the vast majority being young women who dedicated their time to the world's first Intelligence Factory.

There were several women codebreakers, Joan Clarke, Margaret Rock, Jane Fawcett and Mavis Batey (nee Lever) all made vital decrypts of Enigma messages which led to military victories.

Gordon Welchman was the master-mind and architect of this integrated industrial scale codebreaking operation, He was a pioneer in the use and deployment of metadata. His command of Traffic Analysis produced the Ultra intelligence, which would help win the war.

Y Stations were finding and intercepting Enigma's morse coded messages on the increasingly crowded airwaves. Women dispatch riders took the de-morsed messages to BP for processing. Over 3000 messages a day were delivered to BP.

Traffic Analysis was giving BP much vital intelligence but it was the Welchman-Turing Bombe (based on the Polish prototype) which developed the necessary efficiency to attack Enigma.

The men and women in the growing number of Huts were helped by the technical weaknesses of Enigma, but more significantly, by the human errors of the German operators.

Alan Turing, already a mathematician of world renown, thrived at BP. Its 'Silicon Valley' working philosophy allowed his mind to roam and create. Turing knew machines could eventually 'imitate' humans.

The Japanese School, an educational masterpiece, set up by John Tiltman in Bedford was yet another example of the ingenuity and dedication displayed by the men and women of BP.

When a letter was sent to Churchill in late 1941 requesting greater resources, his famous reply was 'Action This Day'. From then on, numerous large brick-built blocks replaced the makeshift huts as the centre of operations. In the Summer of 1941 the Y Stations had begun hearing strange new sounds on the busy airwaves. It was the Lorenz cipher, which BP called Tunny. The messages it produced was called Fish. Fish traffic was at German High Command level and its messages were longer, more detailed and carried strategic intelligence of utmost importance.

The Newmanry Department at BP was tasked with devising the automated means to produce Ultra from Fish following the staggering achievement of Bill Tutte in uncovering its complexities. He understood the inner workings of Tunny without ever having seen the machine.

BP's decrypts led to the sinking of the Bismarck and victory at El-Alamein. By early 1943, BP was on the way to achieving complete information dominance.

Eric Jones, Head of Hut 3, a brilliant modern manager of people and systems, was the spider at the centre of the complex information web. The Western Front Committee mapped the Order of Battle of all of Hitler's 58 Panzer Divisions in Western Europe. This was where D Day was planned. BP knew as much about the Nazi military machine as Berlin High Command.

The Heath Robinsons were replaced by GPO's Tommy Flowers designed Colossus, the world's first programmable, electronic, digital computer. Colossus Mark 1 arrived in January and Mark II was delivered just in time for the D Day invasion - Operation Overlord. BP was now at the heart of even wider intelligence gathering.

The fusion of SIGINT with Human Intelligence (HUMINT) saw BP inventing modern intelligence gathering.

Operation Fortitude was to mislead the enemy about the timing, location and scale of the invasion. BP's Tunny and Enigma decrypts would confirm to SHAEF (led by Eisenhower) that Hitler had been entirely deceived.

On the morning of the invasion BP could confirm that the Germans did no idea at all that Normandy was about to be besieged. The protection that BP afforded the invading fleet was key to D Day's success.

Intelligence did not win the campaign. Soldiers still had to fight, of course, but BP gave them their best chance of winning.

Thank you Barclaycard members for your support and for your questions. It was a pleasure to share this great story with you. Alan.

I look forward to seeing you soon

Pat Smith

Winners of Theatre Tickets

The winners for February were:

Martin Rice, Bryan Sharp and Agnese Rucco

The winners for March were:

Margaret Partridge, Colin Rands, Joanna Dickenson and Isabel Lawson

Each month names are drawn for a voucher worth £50 to use towards tickets for the Royal & Derngate and Northampton Filmhouse



TRIP INVITE: CAMDEN MARKET

DATE: Monday 15th June

£20 for Members in categories 1 – 3

£23 for categories 4 - 5 Associate Members

Driver’s tip included.

Details of trip: Collection of markets in North London with street food, independent shops, vintage clothing and crafts. Near Regents Canal. (Please note that there will be a comfort break en-route)

The coach will leave Christchurch Road (Abington Park end) at **8.30am** and Sixfields (road in front of Bella Italia car park) at **9.00am** Please indicate at which pick up point you will be waiting. Return : **4.00pm**

For parking at Sixfields please visit www.yourparkingspace.co.uk

NB: No acknowledgements will be sent out. Once booked, if you are unable to make the trip, no refund can be given. If you are interested, please complete the response slip below and return it to me by Wednesday 3rd June, together with your cheque, made payable to: **Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Pensioners’ Club.**

Pauline Hodgson

5 Aviemore Gardens

West Hunsbury, Northampton NN4 9XJ

Mobile (for use on the day) 07854 531592

PLEASE KEEP THIS PART FOR YOUR REFERENCE

CUT.....

TRIP: CAMDEN MARKET - MONDAY 15TH JUNE

Please reserveplaces as listed below: **£20 or £23 dependent on the category of each person attending.**

Please make cheques payable to **Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Pensioners’ Club**

PLEASE PRINT IN CAPITALS NAME OF MEMBER OR GUEST

Cat 1-3 £20 PENSIONER MEMBER NAME:

£20 GUEST NAME:

Cat 4-5 £23 ASSOCIATE MEMBER NAME:

£23 GUEST NAME:

Important: MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER: (in case contact needed on the day)

Barclaycard Pensioner Cricket Ticket Allocations 2026 T20 Matches

Hello all,

The allocation of tickets for this season is now complete with details of member's names and the matches allocated shown below. I will ensure that the individual paper tickets from NCCC for the T20 matches are posted to everyone listed below so that these are received in plenty of time for the first game, you may even have them by the time you read this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the Cricket and we get to watch some exciting matches.

Best wishes

Aileen

Date	Match	2026 T20 Cricket Ticket Allocation			
22 nd May	Glamorgan	Stephen Bashford	Janet Selling	Chris Selling	Jennie Marriott
		Marilyn Sharp	Bryan Sharp	Aileen Breay	Dipesh Ghelani
29 th May	Gloucestershire	Glenys Billingham	Malcolm Ward	Janet Selling	Chris Selling
		Jeanette Caspall	Peter Arthur	Dipesh Ghelani	Mike Lambert
9 th June	Worcestershire	Malcolm Ward	Denise Alderson	Richard Miller	Rosa Miller
		Jennie Marriott	Maureen Clack	Aileen Breay	Tanya Lambert
26 th June	Essex	Glenys Billingham	John Higginbottom	Malcolm Ward	Jeanette Caspall
		Marilyn Sharp	Bryan Sharp	Marina Arthur	Mike Lambert
5 th July	Somerset	Stephen Bashford	John Higginbottom	Joyce Dennis	Maureen Clack
		Bob Maryan	Marina Arthur	Nuala Hutton	Tanya Lambert
12 th July	Warwickshire Bears	John Higginbottom	Joyce Dennis	Denise Alderson	Richard Miller
		Rosa Miller	Bob Maryan	Peter Arthur	Nuala Hutton

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

PENSIONER MEMBERS

- 1 Those in receipt of a Barclays UKRF pension, which was taken either at retirement from active service with Barclays; or Flexible Retirement; or on the grounds of ill health.
- 2 Former Barclays staff aged 50 or over, with a minimum of 15 years' service, who are in receipt of a Barclays UKRF deferred pension.
- 3 Those in receipt of a widow's, widower's or partner's pension from the UKRF in respect of a pensioner who qualified for Club membership under 1 or 2 above.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- 4 A Spouse or partner of a Pensioner Member.
- 5 Former Barclays Colleagues and their spouses or partners, who are not Pensioner Members.



We are pleased to welcome new members:
Martin Lomasney and Roger Morton it's so great to have you join us!

On our website is the Membership application if you know anyone else who wants to join: www.barcpen.org.uk also on the back page to pass to a friend!

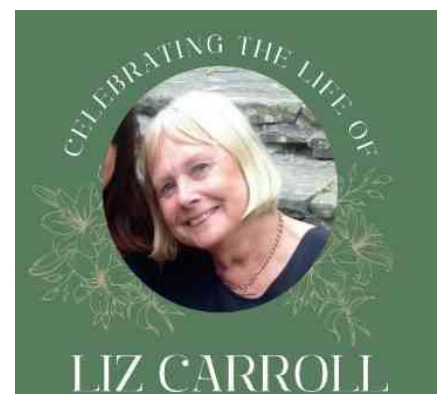


OBITUARIES

We are very sorry to report the deaths of the following members

Our condolences go to their family and friends

Liz Carroll died on 12th March after a long illness, her partner Andrew had lovingly cared for her tirelessly. The funeral was attended by many of those who worked with Liz in the years past where she worked in Authorisation on shifts and Rems. She is remembered by many as having a great character and a brilliant sense of humour.



Margaret Walker sadly died on 23rd February fond memories of her singing in Musicals with the Kettering Operatic Society. She was a great character full of fun and very cheeky. Margaret had been poorly for a few years. She worked in HR and Chief Office Services and Triumph

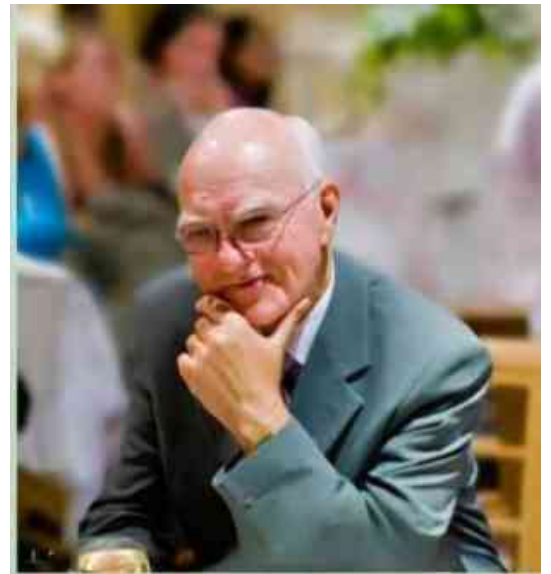


Shirley Shortland passed away on 3rd April suddenly, she was 90yrs old. Last year she had gone to live in Wales with very close friends who were her family. Shirley was well known as a kind and caring lady who loved animals always fundraising for a donkey sanctuary in Devon or rehoming cats and kittens. Working in Authorisation in the early years then moving into CS Tels / Lost and Stolen, showing support, understanding and kindness throughout the years she worked with us all. A very sweet lady.

Norman Tyler passed away 27th March.

Norman was one of the originals - just about! He moved from a branch in east London to Barclaycard back in 1966, started in the Eastern Sales Office based in Southend but quickly rose to senior management levels. Over time he was National Sales Manager, Head of Fraud, Head of Publicity. The International Team etc. He was seconded to head other areas of the Bank and, at times worked overseas.

The funeral will take place 24th April 2.30pm at Milton Crematorium followed by a thanksgiving for the life of Norman at Abington Ave United Reform Church, Abington Avenue Northampton at 3.30pm



Yvonne Bradley passed away 16th January, she was 93 and had been in the care of The Avenue Care Home Rushden

Margaret White - passed away 31st January she had been poorly for some time. Also Margaret had worked with many of us in Authorisation

Sadly, we have no more details for these members who were listed on the Willis Towers Watson website:

William Ledbetter from Stockton on Tees

Helen Kean - 30th December 2025 from Portsmouth

Betty Kirk 31st January from Leeds

Tony Glover passed away 26th January

CHANGE OF DETAILS - HAVE YOU MOVED?

Please remember to advise us when you move to ensure that you receive the Club newsletter and other information, in particular we would need your email address and phone number so we can be sure you receive speedy updates.

When checking details of many of members we find the telephone number is no longer valid or continually rings out. Should you know of any members who may have details that need to be updated please ask them or a family member to contact me or any one of the committee so we can change our information.

Many thanks, Christine Graham, 07753118005

Bank Workers Charity is funded by all banks including Barclays and is for the benefit of current and ex staff, if you need help or advice regarding personal or family problems contact them for discreet and reliable help and advice.

Helpline - 0800 0234 834

Website www.bwcharity.org.uk

Willis Towers Watson deal with all Barclays pension enquiries visit their website or call them:

Email barclaysteam@wtwco.com

Phone 01737 227 567

Post: The Barclays Bank UK Retirement Fund, Sunderland, SR43 4JU

CONTACT INFORMATION

Roger K Alexander <i>Chairman</i> chair@barcpn.org.uk	Sandra Russell <i>Secretary</i> Phone 01327-843295 secy@barcpn.org.uk	Christine Graham <i>Editor of 'The Link'</i> thelink@barcpn.org.uk 07753118005
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BARCLAYCARD RETIREMENT CLUB APPLICATION

Mrs. S. Russell, Secretary
7 Ashmore, Long Buckby, Northampton, NN6 7RT
Tel. 01327 843295. E mail: s.russell338@btinternet.com

NAME:

Mr/Mrs/Miss (Please Print) _____

Full Post address (Please print) _____

_____ Post Code _____

E Mail Address _____ Home Tel. No. _____

Mobile Tel. No. _____

As required under the Data Protection Act, I hereby consent to the Club holding personal information for the express purpose of furthering the social and welfare aims of the Club.

An **eligible** member – **please tick one of the following**

1. Those in receipt of a Barclays UKRF pension, which was taken either at retirement from active service with the Bank, on flexible retirement or on the grounds of ill health OR
2. Former staff of the Bank aged fifty (50) or over, with a minimum of fifteen (15) years' service, who are in receipt of a Barclays UKRF deferred pension OR
3. Those in receipt of a widow's, widower's or partner's pension from the UKRF in respect of a pensioner who qualified for Club Membership under either of the above criteria
4. **Associate Member** can be the spouse or partner of an existing Pensioner Member or
5. **Associate Member** - Former Bank Colleagues, aged fifty (50) or over, and their spouses or partners who do not qualify for membership under the above criteria. (Associate Members are not entitled to any subsidies for some Club events).

If there is any doubt as to the eligibility for membership of any individual or group of individuals the Committee's decision in the matter shall be final.

Signature _____

Please return this form to the address at the top of the letter with your cheque for your Membership Fee of £10.00. payable to Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Pensioners' Club **OR** alternatively you can pay £10. by bank transfer, the details are: Barclays Bank, sort code 20-61-51, a/c no. 00076414 (please insert your name in the reference field).