

The Link



Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Retirement Club



Christmas Newsletter 2024

www.barcpen.org.uk

*Visit our
website for
more
information*

WELCOME!

Myself and all the committee would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. As a member's club we are here for you our club members, we hold events all year round and look forward to welcoming members old and new joining us in 2025.

Christine Graham
Editor

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Well, I didn't expect to wake this morning to quite a significant covering of snow. It reminded me that winter will shortly be upon us, a time to keep warm and stay safe. This year seems to have flown by and I hope many of you will have enjoyed participating in at least one of the Club's functions. Of course the best may be yet to come with our Christmas Lunch celebration in December. We have a bumper turn out expected and I hope you'll be able to relax and enjoy the company of new and old friends in a convivial atmosphere. We have a couple of surprises for you as well 😊.

I recently read a brief article which I thought would be of interest to you, especially those who spent time working for the acquiring side of Barclaycard. I don't know how you feel but personally I believe we were privileged to work for Barclaycard when we did. It was a well-run business which became very successful and created a global brand of which we were very proud. Perhaps more fundamentally the environment was one of honesty and transparency which allowed us to work hard and play hard.

I had mixed feelings when I read the following:

"Barclays Bank is understood to be in discussions with Brookfield Asset Management about giving up 80% of its merchant acquiring arm. Barclays said in February that it was exploring a sale or partnership for the merchant acquiring division, which has struggled to remain competitive in the face of increasing competition from the likes of Stripe, Adyen and Dojo. Discussions with Brookfield are at an early stage, reports Sky News, but it is thought the UK lender is prepared to give away 80% of the business, while retaining a 20% stake."

Valuation has been a sticking point for Barclays, with potential investors baulking about paying good money after bad. In December, the bank wrote down its valuation of the business by £300 million. A potential deal has also been complicated by the takeover of Barclays partner Takepayments by Global Payments, which could reduce revenues. While not paying a consideration for the takeover, Brookfield will have to invest substantially in upgrading products and replacing ageing payment systems. The Canadian asset manager has garnered experience in merchant acquiring following last year's acquisition of Network International."

I look forward to meeting many of you in December at the Lunch. If you have any thoughts on the Club (good or bad!) please find a member of the Committee and have a chat. We are open to new ideas and able to take constructive criticism.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a relaxing Christmas.

Stay safe and warm

Roger Alexander

2025 Coffee Mornings and Lunches at the Mercure Hotel, Northampton

Future coffee mornings

March 20th Jean Ridley - Guide Dogs
May 15th Rob Kendall - Rennie Mackintosh & 78 Derngate
July 17th Alaric Neville - Phipps Brewery
Sept 11th Doug Goddard - Northampton Through Time
Nov 20th To be advised

Future Lunches

17th April, 19th June 16th October and 18th December

This years Christmas Lunch December 19th

We are looking forward to welcoming over 200 members and guests for lunch on December 19th

The Christmas lunch is always special but no doubt this year's lunch will put us all in the festive spirit. The biggest and best raffle will help with the fun.

We try to make sure everyone can sit with their friends but occasionally this is not possible. However, every effort has been made to comply with the seating requests made on the application.

The hotel said no other events are planned for the 19th, so it should be easier to park, but there is always a chance there could be a last-minute event booked. We hope not!

At the October lunch a bouquet of flowers were given to Pamela and Peter Pettit who celebrated their Diamond wedding, and to Pam Corkrum and her husband Michael who had recently celebrated their wedding

Colin Rands received a gift card for his Golden wedding celebrations

We continue to make donations to chosen charities when our members pass away, recently we have sent a donation to Willen Hospice, Macmillan and British Heart foundation in memory of our late colleagues.

TRIP INVITE: SPRINGFIELDS SHOPPING OUTLET**Wednesday 12th February 2025****£12 for Members in categories 1 – 3 and £15 for categories 4 - 5 Associate Members**

Springfields, Spalding, Lincolnshire – 55 Outlet stores, including M&S, Next and other big brand stores.
 7 Restaurants, Blue Diamond Home and Garden Centre and 25 acres of free entry Festival Gardens.
 Something for everyone. **Get your forms in early.**

The coach will leave Christchurch Road (Abington Park end) at **8.30am** and Sixfields (road in front of Bella Italia car park) at **8.55am** **Please indicate at which pick up point you will be waiting.**

Return – leaving Springfields at **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 will be given. If you are interested, please complete the attached response slip and return it to me by

Friday 31st January, together with your cheque, made payable to:

Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Pensioners' Club.

Cindy Antel

Mobile (for use on the day) 07759 909 823

Cindy Antel, 95 Yelvertoft Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2 7TQ

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SPRINGFIELDS – WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2025

Please reserveplaces as listed below: **£12 or £15 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 £12 PENSIONER MEMBER NAME:
£12 GUEST NAME:
Cat 4-5 £15 ASSOCIATE MEMBER NAME:
£15 GUEST NAME:

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

PICK UP POINT: (Please tick) **Christchurch Road**.....**Sixfields**.....

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.

Winners of Theatre Tickets



October – Jean Davidson and Val Cannell

November – Eileen Guiden and Sandra Russell

December will be drawn at the Christmas Lunch

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

NEW MEMBERS

We are so very pleased to continue welcoming new members to our club, recently joined are:

Diane Ward, Sandra Collins, Joanne Labrum, Maureen Hall, Pat Going, Maria Thompson, Helen Forster, Susan Smith, Anne Matthews, Beverley Furniss, Susan Harazdiuk, Sharon Rasmussen, Malcolm Seal, Julia Toledo, Lorraine Flavin and Terry Brandon

If you know someone who would like to join our retirement club please contact our Secretary Sandra Russell (secy@barcpn.org.uk) or anyone of the committee!



You can visit our website www.barcpen.org.uk to find out more information about our club including the membership application form.

There you can find all past issues of The Link, contact details regarding your pension and much more.

CRICKET TICKET APPLICATION 2025

I have ordered the same mix of 1day and 4day tickets for the new season, which starts as early as April. Let's hope we can see some exciting cricket again this year. (Aileen Breay)

NAME (Block Capitals)..... Tel No.

ADDRESS:

Email:.....

Return to: Aileen Breay, 88 Station Road, Cogenhoe, NN7 1LU

Date	Visitors	Comp	Tick
4 th /7 th April	Kent	CC	
26 th April	Gloucestershire	MB50 (W)	
3 rd May	Middlesex	MB50 (W)	
9 th /12 th May	Lancashire	CC	
15 th May	Worcestershire Rapids	MB50 (W)	
23 rd /26 th May	Gloucestershire	CC	
1 st June	Leicestershire Foxes	T20 (DH)	
11 th June	Birmingham Bears	T20	
13 th June	Durham	T20	
15 th June	Derby	T20 (W)	
20 th June	Notts Outlaws	T20	
22 nd / 25 th June	Middlesex	CC	
29 th June	Yorkshire	T20 (W)	
4 th July	Lancashire Lightning	T20	
6 th July	Worcester Rapids	T20 (DH)	
11 th July	Derbyshire Falcons	T20	
29 th July/ 1 st Aug	Derbyshire	CC	
8 th August	Yorkshire	MB50	
16 th August	Sussex	MB50 (W)	
17 th August	Sussex	MB50	
21 st August	Kent	MB50	
24 th August	Middlesex	MB50	
25 th August	Yorkshire	MB50 (W)	
8 th /11 th September	Glamorgan	CC	
24 th /27 th September	Leicestershire	CC	

***Key to codes:**

CC = Rothesay County Championship 4 Day matches.

MB50 = Metro Bank 50 overs ONE day match, (W) = Women's League Two Fixture

T20 Blast = 20 overs ONE day match, (DH) Double Header = Men's & Women's, (W) = Women's

SEE BOOKING INFORMATION ON NEXT PAGE

CRICKET 2025 - BOOKING INFORMATION

Please place a tick against the match you would like to attend, this gives you ONE ticket so I can spread the allocation to as many members as possible.

If any match is oversubscribed I will hold a draw to allocate the tickets.

Note: This year the Womens T20 Vitality Blast and Metro Bank One Day Cup Women's League Two Fixtures are also included on the form above.

Tickets are open to all members, however full members will be given priority. Associate members will be charged £12.50 per ticket for any tickets allocated to them.

Once all application forms have been received and tickets allocated, I shall contact successful Associate members to advise them of which game/tickets they have been allocated and request a cheque, prior to publishing the full ticket allocation and sending out the tickets.

- ALL completed forms must be returned to me **by the 31st January 2025**

BARCLAYS CAMPUS (BARCLAYCARD) BRACKMILLS

On the 7th November 2024 a Remembrance Service was held with some of our members attending

See photo below of the excellent service with the local Northampton Fire Service and Police Service. The EMAS Army Cadets gave a march, alongside many dignitaries from our Armed Forces personnel and Church representatives who gave speeches and readings then laid wreaths.

The Last Post and Reveille were played which created a poignant air of memory and respect for the fallen of past wars. Later we were treated to a fabulous lunch with chance to meet other guests. All this leant to a very special occasion which we felt privileged to attend.





OBITUARIES

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

Our condolences go to their family and friends

Phil Jefferis passed away in May of this year.

Michael Boulton died on October 10th he was 82 years old



Charles Hampton passed away 25th October after a long illness. Charles was very well known in Northampton for his huge contribution to the social side of things in the glory days of the 70s and 80s. He was the chair of the Sports and Social club, organised carnival floats, set up the amazing discos at Cinderella's, his efforts were endless and fondly remembered by many.

Charles was a true gentleman, greatly respected.

Sheila Hasdell advised us that her mother Aileen Hasdell passed away in May, she was aged 103. Some of our older members may remember Aileen and her late husband Eric a messenger in Aquila Hse.

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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