

The Link



February Newsletter 2024

www.barcpen.org.uk



EDITORS NOTE

The snowy picture made me think of the winters we had as children, these days we rarely see snow now. Apologies to our friends in the North or East if you may have been the exception!

This edition of your newsletter has a lot to offer and plenty to have a read of. Most importantly we want to grow our team and really hope to get some of you joining us in the year ahead.

I am often asked about the criteria for becoming a member, this has not been easy as frequently we realise the transferring of pension funds changes the position. Please be assured no comments have gone unnoticed, we are looking for a solution and hope to make it happen soon!

Christine Graham
Editor

CHAIRMANS MESSAGE

I was pleased with the attendance at the Christmas Lunch in December when we had well over 200 enjoying the lunch, camaraderie and general atmosphere. I hope you'll agree it was an excellent event.

We're well into 2024 now and suffering a typical British winter with some really cold spells, lots of rain and gale force winds. There is light at the end of the tunnel though with a full range of social functions available to you from the Pensioners' Club and I hope that more members will take up the opportunity to attend one or more events this year. We currently have around 950 members of which 251 participated in at least one event last year. Our main objective, as a Committee, is to increase the number of active members this year and to see some new faces renewing their friendship with old colleagues. You will see a number of events advertised in this edition of The Link and, of course, others will appear in later editions. If you haven't experienced a coffee morning, lunch or one of our trips do consider doing so this year. If there are other events that would appeal to you, please let one of the Committee know and we'll review those ideas. We understand we don't have a monopoly on ideas.

Another subject which I need to address again is the membership of our Committee. We have a great team who work hard on your behalf but it's clear that we need some fresh blood to shadow key roles and bring a different perspective to the way in which we operate. Come and try us out by attending one of our Committee Meetings to meet the team and consider how you could bring value to the proceedings. You'd be very welcome! Later in this edition you'll see an impactful advertisement on this subject; yes, we do need you!

A quick reminder that we have the AGM following the lunch at the Northampton Town Centre Hotel (aka Park Inn) on Thursday April 18th. Get that date in your diaries and I look forward to seeing many of you at that event which is not like those boring old AGMs that many of us experienced in our working days!

Stay safe

Roger Alexander

See pages 12/15 for ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FORMS

Please send in your votes for existing members or nominate a new committee member, do you know someone you would like to join the committee? Now is the time to put names forward!

Lunches Update

The attendance for the lunches in 2023 was back to pre-Covid levels but Christmas was exceptional with 204 members and guests enjoying their Christmas lunch. The change in ownership from the Park Inn to Northampton Town Centre Hotel was always going to be scrutinized but the standard of hospitality could not have been better. The food and service were excellent, making the overall atmosphere very festive and of course, not to forget the bigger than ever raffle with 73 prizes.

Instead of paying for raffle tickets it was decided everyone would be given one free strip, the idea being to give everyone an equal chance to win a prize. There was mixed feedback but overall most people thought it was a good idea and would like to see the same next Christmas.

6 new members joined us for the first time for Christmas lunch, we hope to see you back again for lunch during 2024.

Any member who has not joined us previously for lunch are very welcome to join us in 2024, it's a chance to catch up with ex colleagues and friends while enjoying a good lunch.

Last year the committee was able to hold the cost but unfortunately with a further price increase for 2024 the price of the lunch will be increased to £15.00 per person. This also applies to the Christmas lunch. We are sorry for this increase but feel the lunch is still very good value, so hope to see you there



Some of our Happy Christmas Lunch ladies

LUNCHES

LUNCH THURSDAY 18th APRIL 2024

A lunch will be held at the Northampton Town Centre Hotel (prev know as Park Inn), Silver Street, Northampton on the above date. The bar will be open at 11.45 for lunch at 12.45pm. The cost will be £15. Places will be allocated and members may nominate ONE person or couple they wish to sit near. 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.

MENU

Main

Slow cooked Pressed Belly of Pork, garlic and sage roasted baby potatoes, honey roast carrots, braised red cabbage and cider jus

Vegetarian Option

Leek and Ricotta strudels with a fresh basil cream sauce

Dessert

Rhubarb, Apple and Ginger Crumble Tart

Coffee or Tea with Mints

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

Please return the form below together with your remittance to: L Johnson, 3 Well Yard, Northampton, NN2 6QX **no later** than **Thursday 21st March 2024**.

NB: No acknowledgements will be sent out. If you are unable to attend the lunch once booked, no refund will be available.

Leona Johnson Social Committee Tel 01604 718181 or Bob Hancox Social Committee 01604 752421

Lunch - Park Inn, Thursday 18th April 2024

Name of Member (please print) _____

Name of Guest (please print) _____

I enclose cheque for £_____ (£30 for myself and guest or £15 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 _____

Special Request _____

COFFEE MORNINGS



**Coffee Morning at the Northampton Town Centre Hotel
(formerly Park Inn)**

Thursday March 21st Dave Askew from Northants Walks

Northamptonshire Walks organises walks throughout the county and beyond. Dave Askew will talk to us about some of the walks they do. I have asked him to include walks suitable for retirees.

The room we will use is the Hertford Suite 1 which is open to us from 9.45 with tea, coffee and biscuits. Please help yourselves to refills. The talks will 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.

I look forward to seeing you.
Pat Smith

AbilityNet Free Technology Support and Information <https://abilitynet.org.uk/>

A recent article in Connections magazine outlined a FREE service available to any of our members who would like to increase their ability in the use of any electronic device. The service really is free without any catches as they have over 500 volunteers throughout the country all willing to go out and visit those who are in need of some assistance. This can include remote help, so even if they are in a distant place, help is available by telephone or internet connection. We cover all types of devices including telephones, tablets, laptops, PC's and even TV remote controls, basically anything electronic for which someone may need some help. Please take a moment to look at our website : <https://abilitynet.org.uk/free-tech-support-and-info/request-free-it-support-home#>

Please check the website for more information or call 0300 180 0028 during office hours
AbilityNet are also on the lookout for more volunteers to help, if you think you have some skills you could use to assist others, please contact AbilityNet who would be delighted to explain how the system works. Volunteers can choose how much time they are able to offer and what devices they feel able to help people with.

TRIP INVITE: STAMFORD Friday 26TH April 2024 £10.00 per person

Market day in this Lincolnshire gem, one of the finest stone towns in England. Over 600 listed buildings and monuments. A variety of shops, restaurants and pubs. **Coach only** - Optional, complimentary **90 minute, blue badge guided walking tour of the town** - I need to know how many would wish to do it as there is a minimum/maximum number and a charge to the club for each person on the walk. Please indicate on the form below if you wish to partake.

The coach will leave Christchurch Road at **9.15am** and Sixfields (road in front of Bella Italia car park -) at **9.30am**. (Please be aware of the parking restrictions at Sixfields)

Return - leaving Stamford at **4.30pm**.

Please indicate at which pick up point you will be waiting.

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 the **15th April** together with your cheque, made payable to:

Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Pensioners' Club.

Janet Holt

01604 756093

Mobile (for use on the day) **07762 701 985** janholt2010@hotmail.com

To: Janet Holt, 3 Hall Close, Duston, Northampton, NN5 6EU

STAMFORD - FRIDAY 26th April 2024

Please reserveplaces at £10.00 per person

YES / NO (Please indicate your choice) for the **90 minute guided walking tour**

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

PLEASE PRINT IN CAPITAL - CLEARLY INICATE NAME OF MEMBER OR GUEST

MEMBER NAME:

GUEST NAME:

MEMBER NAME:

GUEST NAME:

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (**Mobile if Possible**).....

(in case contact is needed on the day)

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

Sixfields.....

Carol Service at Barclays Campus with Lunch



Nearly 40 members attended the Carol Service in December at Barclaycard, they were treated to a lovely lunch while listening to Christmas carols sang by "Northampton Upbeats", a choir set up at the Campus. It was a great day with time after to shop in the Street while bumping into past colleagues. We hope to be in a position to offer more events like this in the year ahead.

So please watch this space for more events coming your way. You could join the choir if you wanted to! Contact the editor Christine Graham for more details should you be interested in having a good old sing along with the choir!



See the Chairman's message regarding our committee needing more volunteers! Are you interested in joining us and giving us a hand in taking us through another year? Assisting with events and social meetings, we could all benefit from a bit of extra help with the various tasks our team deal with. Do you think you would like to join us and give us the benefit of your skills, knowledge and experience? Talk to us, we are waiting for you!

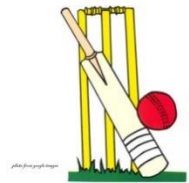
[Contact any one of the team if you have their details or](#)

[See the last page for contact details of the Chairman, Secretary and Editor](#)

Barclaycard Pensioner Cricket Tickets 2024

We have purchased the same mix of 4day & 1day tickets for this season and I'm pleased to see the Applications (Apps) have been rolling in, but in case you have forgot, I'm extending the deadline to the **18th FEB 2024**

I'm missing a few of my regulars and of course new Apps are always welcome, so please complete yours & send it now.



I have decided that this will be my last season of organising the tickets (after 10years), so we are looking for someone to take over. I'm happy to show you what I do and have a proper handover.

Please contact Chris Graham 07753 118005 or myself 07804 443918 if you are interested, if we can't find someone then sadly the club will no longer have Cricket tickets in the future.

In the meantime, many thanks and keep those Apps coming in.

Best wishes, Colin Rands

CRICKET TICKET APPLICATION 2024

I have ordered the same mix of 1day and 4day tickets for the new season, which starts on the 12th April. After a struggle last year, we are back in Division Two, but hopefully we can look forward to some entertaining Cricket. (Colin Rands.)

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

Address:-

Return to : Mr C.Rands, 6 Chadstone Avenue, Northampton NN2 8PG

Date	Visitors	Comp	Tick
12/15 th April	Middlesex	CC	
19/22 nd April	Glamorgan	CC	
10/13 th May	Gloucestershire	CC	
24/27 th May	Yorkshire	CC	
30 th May	Derbyshire Falcons	T20	
2 nd June	Yorkshire Vikings	T20	
7 th June	Worcester Rapids	T20	
21 st June	Leicester Foxes	T20	
30 th June/3 rd July	Sussex	CC	
5 th July	Lancashire Lightning	T20	
7 th July	Durham	T20	
18 th July	Birmingham Bears	T20	
24 th July	Derbyshire	MB50	
4 th August	Worcester Rapids	MB50	
7 th August	Somerset	MB50	
11 th August	Lancashire	MB50	
9/12 th Sept	Derbyshire	CC	
17/20 th Sept	Leicestershire	CC	

Key to codes

CC = 4 day County Championship

MB50 = Metro Bank 1 day 50 overs

T20 = Vitality Blast 1 Day 20 overs

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 tickets.

ALL completed Forms must be returned to me **by the 18th February 2024.**



OBITUARIES

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

Our condolences go to their family and friends

Maureen Hammond sadly passed away 13th November 2023, she was 85.

Greg Dobrowolski passed away 1st January 2024

Lynette Judd suddenly passed away on New Year's Day 2024, her family are left devastated. Lynette was known and liked by many for her kind and lovely nature. She worked in Authorisation then later in Chargebacks before moving into Marketing before retiring.



Joyce Hickling passed away after a short illness on 23rd December 2023, she was 90yrs old. A memorable lady working in the early days of Authorisation in Northampton. A kind and good hearted lady always willing to listen.



Keith Stanlake passed away on the 7th December 2023. He left his devoted wife Elaine and two loving daughters Natalie and Georgina. So many will remember Keith for his wit and dry sense of humour, always finding an anecdote to tell and make people laugh. A very kind and caring man giving you time to chat and ask how you were. Keith worked for Barclays most of his working life. His career started off in branches in Cornwall on leaving school and ended at Northampton in Merchant Risk as a Fraud Investigator, all the time making lifelong friends along the way.

Winners of Theatre Tickets

December : Maureen Bland, Lorraine Hastings, Eileen Guiden, Susan Chamberlain, Denise Hutchins and Sandra Russell

January : Pam McMahon, Jean Salem, Margaret Baker, Jean Davidson, Jenny Turner and Terry Partridge

A voucher worth £50 is given to each winner for use at The Royal and Derngate, Northampton.

THEATRE DRAW

The current list for the theatre draw is coming to it's end. If you wish to be included in the new list for the chance to win, in the monthly draw, a £50 voucher for use at the Royal/Derngate theatres or the Northampton Filmhouse please fill out the form below and send to:- Janet Holt, 3 Hall Close, Duston, Northampton, NN5 6EU

07762 701 985

.....
Please include me in the monthly draw for a theatre/cinema voucher

PLEASE PRINT IN CAPITALS
MEMBER NAME:
MEMBERSHIP NUMBER:
TELEPHONE NUMBER:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:

NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome:

Yvonne Tomkins and Rashmikanth Chauhan
– it's so great to have you join us!



Contact our secretary for a Membership Application Form, Sandra Russell at secy@barcpn.org.uk or phone as detailed in the contacts on last page.

BARCLAYS BANK (BARCLAYCARD) PENSIONERS' CLUB

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the FORTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of members of Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Pensioners' Club will be held at the Northampton Town Centre Hotel (Park Inn), Silver Street, Northampton on the afternoon of Thursday 18th April 2024 immediately following the lunch notified separately. The time of the start of the meeting should be approximately 2.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the thirty-ninth Annual General Meeting of Members held on 20th April 2023. (Copies available at the meeting or by request)
2. Chairman's report
3. Adoption of the Accounts
4. To elect Marc Pettican, President of Barclays Payments, as President
5. To elect the following Officials

Chairman	Roger Alexander
Secretary	Sandra Russell
Treasurer	Richard Miller
Auditor	Pete Capon

And to elect the following Committee Members

Cindy Antell
Carol Bell
Chris Graham
Bob Hancox
Janet Holt
Leona Johnson
Pat Smith
Derek Vance
Graham Wheeler

Nominations duly proposed and seconded, to appoint a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor and twelve Committee Members ARE REQUIRED TO REACH THE SECRETARY BY 28th March 2024 to allow for proxy voting.

Sandra Russell
Honorary Secretary

BARCLAYS BANK (BARCLAYCARD PENSIONERS' CLUB

PROXY VOTING FORM

I being a member of the Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Pensioners' Club, hereby appoint the Chairman of the Annual General Meeting of the Club held on Thursday 18th April 2024, and at any adjournment thereof, as my proxy to vote for me and on my behalf in respect of the Resolutions referred to in the Notice of Meeting. I wish my proxy to vote as indicated.

RESOLUTION	For	Against
1. To receive the minutes of the 2023 AGM, Chairman's report and adopt the Accounts	☐	☐
2. To elect as President Mr Marc Pettican	☐	☐
3. To elect the following Officials: Mr Roger Alexander – Chairman	☐	☐
Mrs Sandra Russell - Secretary	☐	☐
Mr Richard Miller - Treasurer	☐	☐
Mr Pete Capon - Auditor	☐	☐
4. To elect up to nine Committee members Mrs Cindy Antell	☐	☐
M/s Carol Bell	☐	☐
Mrs Christine Graham	☐	☐
Mr Bob Hancox	☐	☐
Mrs Janet Holt	☐	☐
Miss Leona Johnson	☐	☐
Miss Pat Smith	☐	☐
Mr Derek Vance	☐	☐

THIS FORM MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE SECRETARY BY 28TH MARCH 2024

Members are reminded that the Constitution as it stands at present requires a quorum of 25 members at the AGM and 10% of the members are required to vote either in person or by proxy on any resolution. Please attend if you possibly can but, if you cannot, PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO MRS S.K. RUSSELL, SECRETARY, BARCLAYS BANK (BARCLAYCARD) PENSIONERS' CLUB. 7 ASHMORE, LONG BUCKBY, NORTHAMPTON, NN6 7RT.

SIGNATURE: _____ MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: _____ (quoted on your membership card and on the envelope in which these documents were sent to you)

PLEASE DO NOT SEND BACK THIS FORM IF YOU ARE GOING TO THE AGM.

BARCLAYS BANK (BARCLAYCARD) PENSIONERS' CLUB
ELECTION OF OFFICERS – NOMINATION FORM

To reach the Secretary at the address given below by 28th March 2024

NOMINEE NAME IN BLOCK CAPITALS _____

I am willing to offer myself for election to the position of: _____

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE: _____

PROPOSER NAME IN BLOCK
CAPITALS: _____

SIGNATURE OF PROPOSER: _____

SECONDER NAME IN BLOCK
CAPITALS: _____

SIGNATURE OF SECONDER: _____

BARCLAYS BANK (BARCLAYCARD) PENSIONERS' CLUB
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SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE: _____

PROPOSER NAME IN BLOCK
CAPITALS: _____

SIGNATURE OF PROPOSER: _____

SECONDER NAME IN BLOCK
CAPITALS: _____

SIGNATURE OF SECONDER: _____

MRS S. K. RUSSELL, SECRETARY, BARCLAYS BANK (BARCLAYCARD) PENSIONERS' CLUB, 7
ASHMORE, LONG BUCKBY, NORTHAMPTON, NN6 7RT.

BARCLAYCARD PENSIONERS' CLUB

MINUTES OF THE 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 20TH APRIL 2023 AT THE PARK INN, NORTHAMPTON AT 1.50 PM

PRESENT: Roger Alexander in the Chair plus 123 Members.

APOLOGIES: Richard Miller and Christine Graham.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST APRIL 2022:

These were taken as read, unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chair said that we had had a very good year after recovering from Covid. We had held Coffee Mornings, Lunches and Trips. The Chair thanked the Committee for all their hard work. The Chair introduced Shirley Emery who was not standing for re-election. Shirley had just done over thirty years of service. A lovely large bunch of flowers was presented to Shirley. Shirley thanked everyone. The Chair said that we shall miss Shirley.

ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS:

The Accounts had been audited. We get a grant from the Bank and for every Member who supports our activities an extra £10.00 is received. We will probably lose about 10% of our Members and we need more Members. We would like you to join and keep this Club going at a difficult time.

TO ELECT MARC PETTICAN, PRESIDENT: Marc was President of Barclays Payments but has now received further promotion. He sent his apologies. Marc was duly elected unanimously.

TO ELECT ROGER ALEXANDER AS CHAIRMAN: Pat Smith took over this procedure and Roger was elected unanimously.

TO ELECT THE SECRETARY, SANDRA RUSSELL: Sandra was elected unanimously.

TO ELECT THE TREASURER, RICHARD MILLER: Richard was elected unanimously.

TO ELECT THE AUDITOR, PETE CAPON: Pete is happy to continue. Elected unanimously

TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEMBERS EN BLOC: Cindy Antel, Carol Bell, Chris Graham, Bob Hancox, Janet Holt, Leona Johnson, Pat Smith, Graham Wheeler and Derek Vance. Unanimously elected. Colin Rands is not a Committee Member but will be co-opted to do the Cricket tickets.

ANY QUESTIONS: A Member asked if a copy of The Link is sent out to both the wife and husband at the same address. It was confirmed that this is so.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the lunch and AGM. He hoped everyone had enjoyed themselves.

The AGM closed at 2.05 pm.

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

EMAIL OR PHONE NUMBERS



USEFUL NUMBERS AND DETAILS FOR YOUR REFERENCE

Our website www.barcpen.org.uk

If you have any queries about your pension you can contact either by phone or email. Towers Watson have a dedicated helpline 01737 273149, email barclayswelfare@willistowerswatson.com

BEWARE OF SCAMS! If it sounds too good to be true, then it usually is!

Never speak to anyone attempting to gain personal information from you.

Report online fraud to www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040

CONTACT INFORMATION

Roger K Alexander <i>Chairman</i> chair@barcpen.org.uk	Sandra Russell <i>Secretary</i> Phone 01327-843295 secy@barcpen.org.uk	Christine Graham <i>Editor of 'The Link'</i> thelink@barcpen.org.uk Phone 07753 118005
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