

The Link



Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Retirement Club



July Newsletter
2024

www.barcpen.org.uk

WELCOME!

Such great news that we have now extended the membership criteria and are having so many wishing to join! If you know anyone who did not see the Barclaycard Past and Present Facebook page there is a membership application on the last page, please feel free to pass this on to any of your friends who were colleagues.

Please let us know what kind of events you would like to see going forward. We have several things happening, look inside for more details. You may want to attend an event back in Barclaycard "The Campus" or go on a trip with us, go to see the Cobblers, or more?

The plan is to move the club along to cater for a wider audience and we want you to all be active members, so let us have your thoughts and ideas. The Mecure Hotel, Northampton (formerly the Park Inn) is our venue for the lunches and coffee mornings, it's a great place, very smart and has delicious food, get booked up and join us soon.

We have dropped the Pensioners label in favour of Retirement though these days not everyone can retire at 60 unfortunately. Either way lets meet up soon.

Christine Graham
Editor

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Well it's good to see some good weather after a long and wet Spring. I trust you're all finding time to enjoy the sun and let's hope that it continues over the next few weeks.

Since the last edition of The Link we have had our AGM which was an enjoyable and important event. Important given the Committee were seeking your approval for a change in our Constitution which would enable us to make some changes to our Membership criteria. I have mentioned the issues we face as a club given the changes in Barclays' pension arrangements over the past 20 years or so which are likely to impact our ability to take on new members. Without the flow of new members, we will struggle to provide you with the range of events that are currently on offer. That is not what we want and I'm sure not what you expect. Your support at the AGM to allow us to proceed with a new Constitution was much appreciated - thank you all.

The team have worked diligently and quickly to add a new class of Associate Membership, the full details of all our Membership categories are shown on the last page in this Link. We announced the news that we are now open to new members recently through the Facebook page and have had an excellent response. Our internet site will also be amended soon to provide the relevant details for others who might want to join but the key way to get our message out to interested colleagues is through word of mouth. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining now, please ask them to contact one of the Committee members.

The new class of Membership will not be eligible for the Grant we receive from the Bank. We use that Grant to subsidise most of our events such as the lunches, trips and sports' tickets. Consequently, you will see from future application forms for events that the cost to Associate members will reflect the lack of a subsidy. Our research has shown that this is not seen as a deterrent for potential Associate members who understand and empathise with the decision.

If you have any questions on these changes please don't hesitate to get in touch with myself, Sandra or Christine. Details are shown later in this Link.

On another important subject, I am pleased to say we had a great response from Members following our request for volunteers to join the Committee. I'll give an update on this in the next edition of The Link.

My best wishes to you all for a lovely summer.

Roger Alexander

COFFEE MORNINGS



Coffee Mornings at the Mercure Hotel (formerly Park Inn)

Thursday July 18th Jane Clarke

Jane is a semi-retired children's author and poet. She has written over 100 books for children, comprising award winning picture books, reading scheme books, and several series for the under 9s. She will bring a few books with her in case anyone would like to buy on the day @ £5 each, cash.

Jane also ghost writes under several names - and as Rex Stone, wrote one of World Book Day 2024 voucher books.

Wednesday Sept 18th Douglas Goddard

Douglas will talk on "The Life and Art of Postcard Artist, Donald McGill." This talk has been recommended by one of our own members, so I'm sure it will be a good one.

The room we will use is the Hertford Suite 1 which is open to us from 9.45am with tea, coffee and biscuits. Please help yourselves to refills. The talk will commence at 10.30am 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

TRIP INVITE: Salisbury (Coach only) Tuesday 24th September 2024
£15 for Members in categories 1 – 4 and £18.00 for category 5 Associate Members

A Cathedral City of ageless beauty. Home to all your favourite stores, also independent shops offering products designed and crafted locally, as well as the Tuesday Charter Market.

Google 'Salisbury' for much more information. A bus to Stonehenge runs every hour from Salisbury - £2 each way.

The coach will leave Christchurch Road (Abington Park end) at **8.30am** and Sixfields (road in front of Bella Italia car park) at **8.45am** **Please be aware of parking restrictions at Sixfields** Return - leaving Salisbury 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 **Friday 13th September**, 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

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

SALISBURY – TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Please reserveplaces as listed below: **£15 or £18 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 1-4 £15 PENSIONER MEMBER NAME:
£15 GUEST NAME:
Cat 5 £18 ASSOCIATE MEMBER NAME:
£18 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.

BARCLAYS CAMPUS (BARCLAYCARD) BRACKMILLS

Some of you will remember the Christmas Lunch and Carols last December.

Our contacts on the Campus have invited us to more up and coming events at Barclaycard since the Christmas one was so successful. See below for the schedule and dates.

Notable dates currently confirmed:

28th August 2024: Colleague Dog Show Time TBC - if you have a dog and want to show it let me know, if you just want to go and watch the fun then you will be most welcome, you might want to be a judge!!

24th, 25th & 26th September 2024: Macmillan fundraising: bake sale and cake competition between colleagues, you can help sell the cakes and be part of this great cause!

23rd October 2024: Northampton shire Day - Come and celebrate with our local food and craft traders and come meet representatives from the Saints and Cobblers

7th November 2024: Remembrance Service at 11am - Guests arrive at 10.30 - Remembrance service to be held on the patio, seating provided for those not able to stand. For this occasion, members can bring a guest as the ceremony will be held outside.

14th November 2024: Pillar awards - Late afternoon event to celebrate the amazing work undertaken by colleagues in the fields of Career development, Engagement, Wellbeing, DEI etc, Pillar awards are for staff who have shown to be helping others in the workplace.

There are frequent craft style days too where we have been invited to join in the fun, things such as 2nd July 10.00 to 14.00 ceramic painting with Potz, 11th July 10.00 to 14.00 sweet treat decoration workshop and 10th July Wimbledon Moss Ball making. Just examples of what kind of thing we can attend during the coming months.

FOR ANY OF THESE EVENTS PLEASE LET ME HAVE YOUR DETAILS AND WHAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN: SEE BELOW ON HOW TO CONTACT ME THEN ONCE I HAVE FULL DETAILS I WILL CONTACT YOU TO FINALISE, GIVE ME CAR REG TOO!

(it is all free and all you need to do is, once registered, just turn up on the day)

Look forward to seeing you!

CONTACT ME: Email me or text to the following:

Pauline Hodgson email pollyhh2@gmail.com : text 07854 531592

June Lunch 2024



Our lunch coincided with the launch of the refurbished Northampton Town Centre Hotel, which is now known as the 4* Mercure.

On arrival at the hotel we were met with staff and workmen finishing the launch decorations in the reception area, by the time we left all decorations were in place. The hotel has been refurbished from top to bottom. The reception area and two bars are very up to date, much brighter and very fashionable.

Before lunch Simon Smith, the hotel manager, chatted about the history of the hotel and the hopes for a successful future. The hotel is now offering afternoon tea at a cost of £24.95. Every attendee at the lunch was given a voucher with a discount of 20% for afternoon tea, though it is not necessary to present this to gain the discount which is due to run for a while yet.

Simon said how much the hotel management and staff enjoy welcoming Barclaycard club members to the lunches and to coffee mornings.

117 members and guests attended the lunch, everyone said how much they enjoyed their meal, saying the chicken was the best they have ever tasted! Afterwards I was told there is a new chef who has experience in the UK and abroad. If the quality of the food and the excellent service experienced this time continues, we can look forward to future lunches. We hope this encourages club members, especially those who have not attended a lunch before, to join colleagues and friends not only for lunch but to one of the coffee mornings held 5 times a year. As usual there was a good raffle with lovely prizes, and a surprise as the hotel donated a complimentary afternoon tea for 4 people. We look forward to meeting up with members and guests again in October. The change of hotel ownership is a positive move and definitely an improvement so come and see for yourselves!



Some of the ladies from the committee joined other guests at the Mecure in the evening for their relaunch party where they enjoyed cocktails!

Thursday 19th September 2024

OCTOBER LUNCH – THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 2024

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 **£15 for members in categories 1-4 and £25 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

Slow Cooked Feather Blade of Beef Duchess Potatoes, roast carrots, leeks and green beans with a thyme reduction

Vegetarian Option

Vegetable and mixed bean wellington with a tomato and thyme sauce

Dessert

Vanilla cheesecake with a crunchy biscuit base and a berry compote and vanilla cream sauce

Coffee or Tea with Mints

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

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

PENSIONER MEMBERS

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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.



Lunch – The Mecure Hotel, Thursday 17th October 2024

Name of Member (please print) _____

Name of Guest (please print) _____

Categories 1-4 - I enclose cheque for £_____ (£30 for myself/guest, £15 for myself only).

Category 5 - I enclose cheque for £_____ (£50 for myself/guest, £25 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: _____

Celebrations and Congratulations

At the AGM and Lunch in April two very special occasions were marked, the first was for Margaret & Terry Partridge who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. They were presented with a large bunch of flowers by Chris Graham.



The second was a celebration of Pam (McMahon) and Mick Corkrum's Wedding, they also received beautiful flowers presented by Leona.

Shirley Emery has stepped down from organising the Theatre Draw after many years and the committee thanked her for all she had done managing the draw for so long. The draw will now be managed by Janet Holt who started a new draw in April.

Many of you will all remember Gwen Verden who organised our trips for 20yrs without the aid of a computer! Gwen celebrated her 90th birthday in May, she is doing well!

Winners of Theatre Tickets

April - Roger Alexander and Sue Cunnew

May - Glenys Billingham and Denise Alderson

June: - Karen Gardner and Marilyn Sharp

Each month two names are drawn for a voucher worth £50

to use towards tickets for the Royal and Derngate

New members can join the draw till the end of the year.



NORTHAMPTON TOWN FOOTBALL TICKETS 2024/2025

If you wish to be considered for a pair of tickets for any home match during the current season, please place a tick by your choices and return by 31st July 2024. If any match is oversubscribed, I will hold a draw to allocate the tickets.

Graham Wheeler, 40 Equestrian Way, Weedon, Northampton, NN7 4NZ
Mobile 07487 416316

Name_____ Membership No_____

Address_____

Tel no: _____ email:_____

Date		Against	Kick Off	Tickets Allocated
17 th August	Saturday	Exeter City	3.00	
31 st August	Saturday	Burton Albion	3.00	
14 th September	Saturday	Wycombe Wanderers	3.00	
28 th September	Saturday	Mansfield Town	3.00	
1 st October	Tuesday	Bolton Wanderers	7.45	
19 th October	Saturday	Leyton Orient	3.00	
26 th October	Saturday	Crawley Town	3.00	
23 rd November	Saturday	Cambridge United	3.00	
7 th December	Saturday	Peterborough United	3.00	
21 st December	Saturday	Charlton Athletic	3.00	
1 st January 2025	Wednesday	Stevenage Town	3.00	
11 th January	Saturday	Barnsley	3.00	
18 th January	Saturday	Lincoln City	3.00	
1 st February	Saturday	Huddersfield Town	3.00	
15 th February	Saturday	Wrexham	3.00	
22 nd February	Saturday	Bristol Rovers	3.00	
4 th March	Tuesday	Stockport County	7.45	
15 th March	Saturday	Birmingham City	3.00	
22 nd March	Saturday	Blackpool	3.00	
1 st April	Tuesday	Rotherham United	7.45	
12 th April	Saturday	Reading	3.00	
21 st April	Monday	Shrewsbury Town	3.00	
3 rd May	Saturday	Wigan Athletic	3.00	

NEW MEMBERS



New members to report this time, a warm welcome to you all.

Joanna Dickinson, John Kent, Simon Malin and Caroline Law

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!



OBITUARIES

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

Our condolences go to their family and friends

Marion Mann died on the first of April this year

Linda Neal sadly passed away 30th April

Jean Murphy passed away on the 14th March 2024

Margaret Valentine sadly passed on the 6th May 2024

Joan King We were advised by Carol, the daughter of Joan, that her dear mother passed away on the 15th June. Now reunited with her beloved husband Roy. Joan often attended the lunches, her close friends including Edna will miss her greatly. Others will remember Joan from her time working in Reception in days gone by.

Gwyneth Donovan passed away recently, unfortunately we have no further details

CHANGE OF ADDRESS EMAIL OR PHONE NUMBERS



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

Bank Workers Charity

A Bank Workers Charity representative Sam will be attending the October Lunch. She will be available to speak to anyone who wishes to seek support or advice on any matters arising from financial or personal issues.

Sam who will ensure privacy and discretion. There are so many areas of help available so please speak to her if you have chance.

Alternatively, you can call the organisation. The charity is funded by all Banks including Barclays.

Helpline – 0800 0234 834

Website bwcharity.org.uk

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 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
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
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. A spouse or partner of a Pensioner Member
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).