



Winter Newsletter 2025

www.barcpen.org.uk

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website for
more
information*

Editors Note

The weather may be cooling down but we are still working up a sweat to get the best events organised for you!

See inside for the updates on all the planned events coming your way over the coming months.

Read a "Special Interest" story on page 8 about the history of a Barclaycard from 1968!

Don't forget if you would like us to hear your stories or have a desire to go somewhere for a day trip let us know and we will do our best for you.

All the best, enjoy the read.

Christine Graham

Editor

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It's amazing how quickly we seem to have left the wonderful summer for the Autumn and its very noticeable that the evenings are already closing in. Along with this though we can see signs of the wonder of nature with gardens beginning to look green again and the Autumn colours starting to show.

Anyway irrespective of the weather the Club continues to offer a number of events prior to the end of the year and I hope that many of you will enjoy a trip or coffee morning or, of course, the Christmas lunch. You will also have an opportunity again this year of joining in the festivities at the Brackmills Hub in the lead up to Christmas. You can find more details later in this edition of The Link.

I am particularly looking forward to the Christmas lunch this year and hope to see as many of you as possible enjoying the food, drinks and camaraderie. Book quickly!

Meantime take care and keep warm.

Take care.

Roger Alexander

CHRISTMAS LUNCH



The lunches are very popular especially the Christmas lunch which is usually attended by over 200 members and guests.

With this in mind please make sure you get your application in as quick as possible to avoid disappointment.

We may not be able to accept late applications, so post early please.

XMAS LUNCH – THURSDAY 18th DECEMBER 2025

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 £26.50 for category 5 members** (see back page 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

Roasted Root Vegetable Soup with Herb Croutons

Roasted Turkey Breast, Sage & Onion Stuffing, Honey Glazed Pigs in Blankets, Carrots, Parsnips & Brussel Sprouts, Roasted Potatoes, Red Wine Sauce

Vegetarian Option

Portobello Mushroom, Beetroot & Chickpea Wellington Marmite Roasted Potatoes, Maple Glazed Carrots & Parsnips, Brussel Sprouts, Red Wine & Rosemary Sauce

Traditional Christmas pudding accompanied by brandy Sauce or Fresh Fruit Salad

Coffee or Tea with Mints

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

Contact: Leona Johnson Tel 01604 718181 or Bob Hancox 07850763983



Lunch – Northampton Town Centre Hotel, Thursday 18th December 2025

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 £_____ (£53 for myself/guest, £26.50 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: _____

COFFEE MORNING



Nov 20th Coffee Morning at the Mercure Hotel

Scott Hirons - Northants Fire & Rescue Service

Scott Hirons is the Station Commander of Mereway, Towcester and Brackley Fire Stations which provide Fire & Rescue Services in Northants. He will talk to us about safety in the home.

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 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.

The hotel car park was exceptionally busy on the September coffee morning. This was due to a large conference being held that day. I know that many of us had to park elsewhere. Hopefully this will not happen again.

I look forward to seeing you.

Pat Smith

Winners of Theatre Tickets

July: Cindy Antell, Pauline Hodgson and Sandi Joshi

August: Janet Holt, Eileen Phillips and Rosa Oppido

Sept: Leona Johnson, Maureen Caldecourt and Carol Muddiman

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



TRIP INVITE TO LONDON

THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

**£20.00 for Members in Categories 1-3 and £22.00 for Categories 4-5 Associate Members
inc Drivers tip Category listings on back page**

This Trip to London is for lots of Christmas shopping and sightseeing, then to end the day seeing the Christmas Lights in Regent Street before heading home at 4.30.

The coach will leave Christchurch Road at 8.30am (Abington Park end) and 9.00am at Sixfields
Please indicate at which pick up point you will be waiting
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.
If you are interested, please complete the response slip below and return to me by Friday the 14th November
Together with a cheque, made Payable to: Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Pensioners Club

Cindy Antell
Only contact me on my Mobile as I no longer have a land line Mobile number 07759909823
95 Yelvertoft Road
Kingsthorpe
Northampton
NN2 7TQ

PLEASE KEEP THIS PART FOR YOUR REFERENCE

CUT.....CUT

Shopping trip to London Thursday 27th November 2025

Please reserveplaces as listed below: **£20 or £22 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 £22 ASSOCIATE MEMBER NAME:
£22 GUEST NAME:

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

PICK UP POINT: (Please tick)

Christchurch Road.....Sixfields.....

NORTHAMPTON CHRONICLES TRIP AUGUST 2025

We assembled at Victoria Street to meet our vintage transport on a slightly cooler day than the day before - just as well, as the 16 seater bus, circa 1970, had no air conditioning, nor seat belts (it did have pull out ashtrays!) and definitely no power steering!

We set off and stopped on Abington Square where our guide gave us details of early politicians Charles Bradlaugh and Spencer Percival. On up the Kettering Road to the Racecourse then round to Abington Park for coffee in the café. Down to the University grounds and round to the train station, near the site of the medieval castle which gave the station its name. Our guide giving us a running commentary while we travelled.

Next stop was the 12th century church of St Peter (who remembers the Barclaycard carol services there?) A delightful Jean gave us a tour of the inside and explained the changing architecture of the building over time and the history of the surrounding location.

On to the Sessions House, next to The Old Bank (formerly Barclays). We met Roger, I can't remember his title but his job is to arrange a chef, butler and chauffeur for any visiting judges and to accompany dignitaries on their official engagements. The building has scaffolding up at present and maintenance work was going on so we were not able to visit the cells that day, but Roger said we could go back another time, for free, when the work was completed. He took us outside to show the notch marked into the door of County Hall, made by the propeller of a plane that crashed at the bottom of Gold Street and came all the way up to All Saints. Next time you are in town and passing the County Hall in George Row, look up at the four faces on the building and see if you can guess which season they each represent, Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter. We were none the wiser!

Time for our afternoon tea at Delapre Abbey. We had the full works - savouries, cakes, scones with jam and cream, unlimited tea or coffee. There was a lot to eat and most of us went home with a box of leftovers. We had ours the next day, delicious. To round off we had a tour of the house with a very knowledgeable volunteer guide who gave us the history of the Abbey from its days as a nunnery, through Henry Eighth's dissolution of the monasteries, the Tate and Bouverie families, its time as the Northampton Records Office, and as you see it today.

Back on the bus to town, returning to the car park where we started. Just the parking charge to sort out.



NORTHAMPTON TOWN FOOTBALL TICKETS 2025/2026

This year was again oversubscribed and as a result there is a waiting list. Therefore, if anyone is unable to attend their fixture please let me know in order for the tickets to be reallocated.

Date	Day	Against	Kick Off	Tickets Allocated
9 th August	Saturday	Bradford City	15:00	E MILLER
19 th August	Tuesday	Lincoln City	19:45	M WARD
23 rd August	Saturday	Exeter City	15:00	S BASHFORD
13 th September	Saturday	Blackpool	15:00	J MORIN
27 th September	Saturday	Bolton Wanderers	15:00	A FILBY
11 th October	Saturday	Rotherham United	15:00	M ARTHUR
25 th October	Saturday	Luton Town	15:00	R BASHFORD
8 th November	Saturday	Mansfield Town	15:00	J DENNIS
22 nd November	Saturday	Cardiff City	15:00	S MALIN
9 th December	Tuesday	Huddersfield Town	19:45	G WHEELER
20 th December	Saturday	AFC Wimbledon	15:00	L BASHFORD
1 st January 2026	Thursday	Stockport County	15:00	J HIGGINBOTTOM
10 th January	Saturday	Port Vale	15:00	T LAMBERT
17 th January	Saturday	Wycombe Wanderers	15:00	R MARYAN
31 st January	Saturday	Reading	15:00	P ARTHUR
7 th February	Saturday	Stevenage	15:00	B SHARP
21 st February	Saturday	Leyton Orient	15:00	M LAMBERT
28 th February	Saturday	Peterborough United	15:00	J GREEN
14 th March	Saturday	Burton Albion	15:00	M JACOBS
28 th March	Saturday	Barnsley	15:00	R MILLER
6 th April	Monday	Wigan Athletic	15:00	G BILLINGHAM
18 th April	Saturday	Doncaster Rovers	15:00	T MARTIN
2 nd May	Saturday	Plymouth Argyle	15:00	M SHARP

BARCLAYCARD HISTORY STORY

The Retirement Club was recently contacted by Paul Timms, a member of the public, with a very interesting story.

Paul found an old Barclaycard among his late mother's possessions. He told me his mum was a long standing customer of Barclays Bank in Neath, South Wales. She worked for a local television rental company in their local shop and was manager there for many years until her retirement in 1983.

Many of us will be aware of the history of credit cards back in 1966 when the first cards were issued. Surprisingly when Barclaycard was first issued they were sent out unsolicited to about a million or so valued Barclays customers. The credit limit on this card was £100!

Paul quoted; "My mum was the 'old school' you bought and paid for things straight away, credit was not a word in her vocabulary, therefore she had no use for the card. Why she chose to hold on to the card, given her views on credit, is a mystery. I wouldn't have called her a hoarder, perhaps it was something to hang on to should her views have changed in the ever changing society of the 60s and 70s. Mum was widowed at the early age of 37 and never remarried. When she received the card she had just turned 40 so, young enough to adapt to a changing society should the need arise"

On June 29th 1966 Barclaycard launched the UK's first all-purpose credit card initially as a charge card before evolving into a rolling credit card in November 1967. Paul believes his Mum would have been amongst those chosen million or so Barclays customers to get this innovative card.

Sadly, Pauls Mum passed away in 2017 at aged 90.

See the pictures of the card which Mrs Timms would have probably received in 1967.



ACT OF REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2025 at BRACKMILLS

Once again we have been warmly invited to the Service of Remembrance at Brackmills, which is to be held on the patio in front of the main reception, seating provided for those not able to stand. (So let me know when you register please).

The Service will commence at 10.45 so please arrive in good time and there is a lunch provided afterwards which will finish at around 14.00

The Remembrance Service will include all the members of the armed forces, together with local MP's, veterans and the Fire Service. The Last Post will be sounded the laying of wreaths and a march by of combined cadet forces from three local schools.

Due to the small number of places we have been allocated, attendance will be on a 'first come, first served' basis. Therefore, it is important to get your application in asap. Deadline is 30th October

Please note that this invite is for members only.

As with all outside events, it is weather permitting but hopefully will be able to let you know in good time changes or cancellation of the event by e-mail/phone.

Please remember:

- Members only
- You need to register by 30th Oct latest
- Should you need a car space, please supply registration number
- You will need photo ID ie driver's licence, passport or bus pass.

Register with Pauline Hodgson by either email brackmills.activities@barcpn.org.uk or phone/SMS/What'sApp on 07854531592.



We are pleased to welcome new members:
**Natalie and Steve Smart, Neville
Ellington, Mary Boulton and Dawn Faulkner**
its great to have you join us! If you know
anyone wishing to join see the application on our
website www.barcpen.org.uk

TRIP TO CAMBRIDGE CHRISTMAS MARKET

10th December 2025

£20.00 for Members in categories 1-3 and £22.00 for Categories 4-5 Associate Members inc Drivers tip

Please see the last page for the membership categories.

Cambridge Christmas Market on Parkers Piece, a Festive Market, Ice Skating, a Maze ,a big wheel, and a cosy lodge,

There is also has a Winter Wonderland which is free, also you can just go... weather permitting for a PUNT ON THE RIVER !!!

The coach will leave Christchurch road (Abington Park end) at 8.30am and 8.45 at Sixfields (road in front of Bella Pasta car park) Please indicate at which pick up point you will be waiting

Returning at 4.00pm

For Sixfields Parking please visit www.yourparkingspace.o.uk

Please see the last page for the membership categories.

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 response slip below and return it to me by Monday 1st of December 2025 together with a cheque, made payable to Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Pensioners Club

Cindy Antell

Mobil 0775990982

95 Yelvertoft Road

Kingsthorpe

Northampton

NN2 7TQ

PLEASE KEEP THIS PART FOR YOUR REFERENCE

CUT.....CUT

Cambridge Christmas markets Weds 10th December 2025

Please reserveplaces as listed below: **£20 or £22 dependent on the category of each person attending.**

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

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Cat 1-3 £20 PENSIONER MEMBER NAME:
£20 GUEST NAME:
Cat 4-5 £22 ASSOCIATE MEMBER NAME:
£22 GUEST NAME:

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

PICK UP POINT: (Please tick)

Christchurch Road.....Sixfields.....



OBITUARIES

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

Our condolences go to their family and friends

Beryl Nash - David Nash advised of the passing of his dear wife Beryl, who died on Tuesday morning, 8th July aged 82 years after going into hospital. Beryl's friends saw her at the lunches which she regularly supported with her husband on occasion. She had stopped going to coffee mornings. Beryl worked in Authorisation and then Merchant Relations.

Beryl Tack died on the 21st June aged 89 years. Beryl worked closely with PDQ and engineers on the road. Beryl enjoyed many trips, lunches and coffee mornings, her son Ian advised of this sad passing.

Sandra Collins passed away very suddenly on 28th July she was 80yrs old and had only recently joined our club, she was a bright and cheerful lady and is very sadly missed by her husband John and her family.

Paul Daley: Andy Daley, son of Pam and Paul Daley, has advised me of the sad passing of his Dad. Paul died 24th August after a short illness and vicious battle with cancer. Paul would have been known to many through his work in the regional centres including Wavertree, Kirkby, Stockton, Middlesbrough and of course Northampton, where he worked in Premises, at Marefair House. Many may remember Pam who worked on reception and is still a member. The funeral was held in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand where they emigrated to in 2005.

Ray Wake passed away at Northampton General hospital on Monday 7th July, Ray was a regular at the lunches. Ray had been a volunteer at the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway.

Roberta (Bobbie) Wardell John husband to Bobbie advised me of the death of his beloved wife who passed away on Saturday 26th July, after a long illness. Bobbie was known by many over the years from working in the town offices and at Brackmills. She regularly attended the club lunches. Many will have known her as Bobbie Race. It was only upon retirement John and Bobbie married.

John Abbott passed away July 19th he was 96 years old, **Alan Cook** died Sept 1st he was 91yrs old

Greeta Coutinho died on August 11th, **John Bevan** passed away 30th June

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES FOR TRIP and LUNCHES

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.

Willis Towers Watson - Pension Helpline - call **01737 227567** - you will need your NI number and your staff pension ID number to identify yourself before they will discuss the reason for your call.

Bank Workers Charity helpline number 0800 0234 834 www.bwcharity.org.uk

Visit our website www.barcpen.org.uk for all the past Link newsletters, lots more information, membership info and contact details.

Pass this our website details onto a friend who may want to join.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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