



Winter 2026

Newsletter

www.barcpen.org.uk

*Visit our website for
more information*

Editor's Note

As a club we are always looking to support our members by acknowledging the difficult times as well as the good times. If as a member you hear about another member who is struggling be it from health issues or life in general, please let us know. We have dedicated welfare people in our team to reach out to you in times of need and give support or celebrate happy times too!

If you are still having problems receiving emails remember all past and current issues of The Link are on our website www.barcpen.org.uk/the-link-archive/

Don't forget to keep us up to date with change of address, phone numbers and especially emails.

Christine Graham

Editor

CHAIRMANS MESSAGE

I recently attended the last Coffee Morning which was a detailed talk about the Great Train Robbery back in 1963. It was fascinating and brought back memories of trailing through local woods hoping to find a bag of the stolen money. Alas that didn't work!

The speaker also has other talks especially about the history of Bletchley Park and is a part time guide. Bletchley, as many of you will know, is a fascinating place to visit and a unique experience. I recommend a visit.

That Coffee Morning was quite well attended but there were a number of empty seats which is unusual and of some concern. We are seeing a similar trend with other events in the calendar. Our coach trips are not being supported as well as we would like despite the responses to the research we undertook and we need to understand why that is and what we can do to reverse that trend. Please reach out to any member of the Committee to share your thoughts.

Watch out for the story about Fred Watson's tandem parachute jump later in this edition. 86 years young and jumps out of an aeroplane for charity. A fantastic experience. Congratulations Fred.

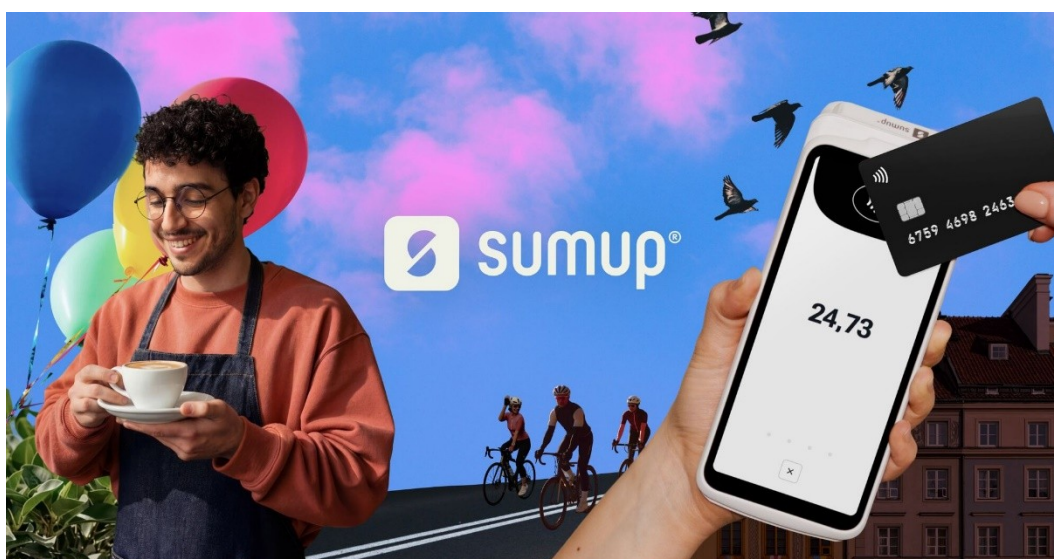
Keep well and I look forward to seeing you at our 2026 Christmas lunch in December.

Roger Alexander

RAFFLE TICKETS So many of us now find we no longer seem to have cash on us so we introduced a card pay facility at the coffee mornings and lunches for payment of **Raffle tickets**. The card payment facility is provided by 'sumup'. Carol will be offering this form of payment via the 'sumup' app on her mobile phone as well as still taking cash.

We believe that by utilising the card payment facility more of our members can buy raffle tickets and not have to worry they have no change to hand, so don't miss out buying a ticket.

And remember the Christmas Raffle always has lots of lovely prizes!



Please return the form below together with your cheque to:
Leona Johnson, 3 Well Yard, Northampton, NN2 6QX **no later than Thursday 17th November 2026**

XMAS LUNCH – THURSDAY 17th DECEMBER 2026

The lunch will be held at the Mercure Hotel, 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 1-3 and £28.50 for categories 4- 5 members** (see page 12 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

Starter

Roast Root Vegetable Soup with Croutons

Main

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

Vegetarian Option

Butternut Squash & Sweet Potato Wellington, Roasted Potatoes, Maple Glazed Carrots & Parsnips, Brussel Sprouts, Red Wine & Rosemary Sauce

Dessert

Traditional Christmas Pudding accompanied by Brandy Sauce

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 – Mercure Hotel Northampton, Thursday 17th November 2026

Name of Member (please print) _____

Name of Guest (please print) _____

Categories 1-3 I enclose cheque for £ _____ (£32 for myself/guest, £16.00 for myself only).

Category 4-5 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 mornings at the Mercure Hotel



The talk at our last coffee morning on 17th September was The Great Train Robbery 1963, presented by Nick Cooke. Many of us will remember this happening 63 years ago. Nick gave an excellent talk and explained how the Royal Mail train set out from Glasgow to go to London Euston.

A gang of 11 or so men, some notorious villains, including Buster Edwards, Ronnie Biggs and Bruce Reynolds stopped the train at 3.00am at Bridego Bridge in Buckinghamshire. They achieved this by fiddling with the signals to display the red stop sign. The driver was seriously beaten and suffered major head injuries from which he never fully recovered and died in 1970.

Once aboard the train the gang stole £2.5 million, worth around £50 million now. They then fled to Leatherslade Farm with the money. After a tip off, the police eventually found the farm with evidence of the crime, including some finger prints on the Monopoly game which the gang had played there. This led to the arrest and trial of some of the gang who received sentences of up to 30 years but none of them served anywhere near that. Some of the gang had fled abroad with their share of the money, enabling them to enjoy lavish lives. Most of the money has never been recovered. Some of the gang were never caught. Now, all of them have died. It was a very interesting talk, and well presented by Nick.

This was the last talk for this year. The following are booked for 2027.

DATES FOR 2027

March 18th Dave Andrews - 100 years of BBC

May 20th Colin Hill - "Dancing with Diana" (Colin was her bodyguard)

July 15 Bozena Kuncewicz - Polish Communities in Britain since WW2.

Sept 23 Nick Cooke - Orford Ness - A place of mystery and secrecy.

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.

I look forward to seeing you. **Pat Smith**

NORTHAMPTON TOWN FOOTBALL TICKETS 2026/2027

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.

Many thanks

Graham

Graham Wheeler, 40 Equestrian Way, Weedon, Northampton, NN7 4NZ

Mobile 07487 416316

Date		Against	Kick Off	Tickets Allocated
15th August	Saturday	Swindon Town	3.00	V Galvin
1st September	Tuesday	Crawley Town	7.45	S Bashford
5th September	Saturday	Newport County	3.00	A Filby
19th September	Saturday	Rotherham United	3.00	J Moran
3rd October	Saturday	Oldham Athletic	3.00	P Arthur
20th October	Tuesday	Tranmere Rovers	7.45	J Higginbottom
24th October	Saturday	Colchester United	12.30	J Dennis
21st November	Saturday	Rochdale	3.00	M Arthur
1st December	Tuesday	Fleetwood Town	7.45	J Selling
19th December	Saturday	Exeter City	12.30	G Billingham
29th December	Tuesday	Cheltenham Town	7.45	C Selling
2nd January 2027	Saturday	Bristol Rovers	3.00	B Searle
16th January	Saturday	Grimsby Town	3.00	M Lambert
30th January	Saturday	Accrington Stanley	3.00	R Bashford
6th February	Saturday	Gillingham	3.00	L Bashford
20th February	Saturday	Shrewsbury Town	3.00	G Wheeler
27nd February	Saturday	Salford City	3.00	T Lambert
13th March	Saturday	Crewe Alexandra	3.00	E Miller
29th March	Monday	Chesterfield	3.00	R Maryan
10th April	Saturday	Barnet	3.00	M Jacobs
13th April	Tuesday	York City	7.45	M Ward
24th April	Saturday	Port Vale	3.00	M Sharp
1st May	Saturday	Walsall	3.00	B Sharp

Winners of Theatre Tickets

The winners were

JULY - Anne Marie Elliott, Jean Graham-Clare,
Terence Partridge and Jane Oakley

AUG - Pamela Taylor, Jenny Thorpe and Bob Hancox

SEPT - Chris Selling, Dawn Carrier and Jerry Leathy

OCT Val Boddington, Sonia Bostrom, Robin Dawes,
Denise Hutchins and Jenny Turner

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



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to have these new members join us:

Rebecca Astin, Ian Spencer, Cathy Farrell
Sue Hartle and Sharron Day

Do you know anyone who would like to join our Club? Let us know or see the application form
on the website www.barcpen.org.uk

Spread the word if you can as we realise not everyone is aware of the Retirement Club.
Our member numbers are strong but we would love to welcome new members and look
forward to 2027 when we hope to see our numbers grow a little more.

CHARITY SKYDIVE - FRED WATSON

86 Years Young — Fred Takes the Plunge for Brenda! Can you imagine doing a skydive at 86 years old?

For most of us, the thought of jumping out of a perfectly good aeroplane at **13,000 feet** might be enough to make our legs turn to jelly! But for one of our dearest members, **Fred Watson**, it was a dream he had long wanted to fulfil — and eventually he decided it was now or never.

Fred wanted to do something incredibly special and memorable in honour of his beloved wife, **Brenda**, who sadly passed away on **17 September 2025**, aged 86.

Fred and Brenda had shared an extraordinary **63 years of marriage and 65 years together**. Their love and devotion to one another was truly something special.

With the wonderful support and encouragement of his daughter **Emma** and grandson **Jamie**, Fred took on the challenge of a **tandem skydive on 16 August this year**, marking a year since Brenda's passing. And he didn't do it alone!

Together, Fred, Emma and Jamie bravely stepped out of the plane at a breath-taking **13,000 feet**, hurtling towards the earth at around **120 mph** for approximately **50 seconds** before their parachutes opened.

What an amazing tribute to Brenda — and what an achievement at 86!

But there was an even more special reason behind Fred's leap. It was all **in the name of charity**.

Fred chose **Marie Curie** as his nominated charity, in grateful recognition of the wonderful care and support they provided to Brenda during the later stages of her illness.

Thanks to Fred's incredible effort and the generosity of family, friends and supporters, he raised nearly £1,000 for Marie Curie. And to make this achievement even more fantastic, **Barclays generously matched the fundraising £4£!**

What an awesome accomplishment, and such a beautiful way to honour the memory of Brenda.

Fred, at 86, you proved that age really is just a number — and that sometimes, when something means enough to you, you simply have to take the leap!



Donation through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Marie Curie, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

You can donate to Fred's JustGiving page by visiting www.justgiving.com/frederick-watson

TRIP INVITE: WINCHESTER XMAS MARKET

DATE: THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

Winchester Christmas market is recognised as one of the best in Europe with pretty wooden chalets within the grounds of the magnificent Winchester Cathedral. This inspired German Christmas Market features handpicked exhibitors selling crafts, clothing, jewellery and local artisan products. All combined with festive lighting and sounds of Christmas Carols with an aroma of mulled wine. The town of Winchester also features a regular market and shops.

£20 for Members in categories 1 – 3 and £23 for categories 4 - 5 Associate Members. (Driver's tip included) Please see the page 12 for the membership categories.

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**. Returning at **16.00pm** A comfort break will be included.

Please indicate which pick up point you require. For parking at Sixfields 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 response slip below and return it to me by **20th NOVEMBER** together with your cheque, made payable to: **Barclays Bank (Barclaycard) Pensioners' Club**.

Cindy Antell
95 Yelvertoft Road
Kingsthorpe
Northampton
NN2 7TQ

MOBILE: 07759 909823

PLEASE KEEP THIS PART FOR YOUR REFERENCE

CUT.....CUT

WINCHESTER : THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

Please reserve places as listed below:

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).....

IMPORTANT : PICK UP POINT: (Please tick)

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



OBITUARIES

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

Our sincere condolences to their families and friends

Diane Goss - passed away 21 Aug she lived in Norfolk

Jacqueline Watson died on the 12th July

Terry Brandom passed away last March, he lived in Scotland

Janet Bates died 28th June

These names were taken from WTW so we have no more details

Pauline Griffiths - Peter Griffiths, husband to Pauline asked for us to convey notice of the death of his beloved wife. They live permanently in Spain where Pauline died peacefully on 28th July in hospital after a fall. The funeral took place on 3rd August with families from England present. Latterly, until Peter took early retirement in 1994, as the Head of Customer Services his wife Pauline was from years gone by a member of the Authorisation team in the early 70's.



Dawn Everson-Watts - Jan Everson-Watts advised of the very sad passing of her dear daughter Dawn Everson-Watts. Dawn passed away on August 13th at Northampton General Hospital. She was aged 62 and had been ill for a short while. Dawn was loved by many for her smile and zest for life. She leaves her wonderful parents Jan and Ron who are both regulars at the lunches and her dear sister Anita.

Elizabeth Ann Webb - Ross, daughter of Ann has advised her Mum Ann sadly passed away on July 8th after a short illness; she was 87 years old. Ann was a regular at the lunches for many years and will be sadly missed by the friends she attended with.

Peter Waite passed away 18th September, his wife Linda advised there would be no funeral as per Peters wishes. Peter worked in Management Information where they met 40 years ago, then later working in Credit Management.

Memories of Aquila House in 1966 from two of our members

I asked for you to share your stories on the 60th Anniversary

John Higginbottom recalls the days back in 1966 with the mail bags at Aquila House stacked almost ceiling high containing recommendations for a credit card from the Branches. As a manager then John recalls the assistant CEOs' were Ken Nuttall and Ken Mead who were at the opening.

Authorisation used printouts to check before an authorised purchase could be made by a merchant. How things have changed!

Vall Cannell shares her memories - she had been working at Barclays Clearing in the Credit Clearing Dept. for about 5 years, when the Managers Mr Miles and Mr Scott asked for volunteers to help set up a Credit Card business (whatever that was?) I put my name down, was accepted and told it would be for a six weeks secondment, unbeknown to me my Mother, Mrs Rowcliffe had just accepted the job of setting up the Coffee Bar on the top floor of Aquila House.

On the 23rd May we reported to Aquila House not sure what to expect, I'm not certain how many young ladies went to the card. I think it was equal numbers from Credit and Debit. What is certain is we were all under 25.

What a culture shock! We were used to working in a modern custom built building, what we found was old building that had been a former shoe factory with bouncy floors. Not only that the whole working environment was different although we still had a deadline the atmosphere was completely different, we were used to working flat out on a daily turn around with very strict rules. The "Card" was very different we were still working to a deadline, it was friendly and relaxed, if we were under pressure the Management sat down and joined in the enveloping. I remember Mr Mead and Mr Otterson (hope I am right) doing this and just joining in the banter!

We met Barclays staff from all over the country and a few locals including John, Gavin and Gerry. We were given the task of enveloping and posting the first million credit cards whose names had been put forward by Barclays Branches. After the initial mailing I worked in Credit Review along with Neil Harris, John and Gavin to name but a few. Then onto Limits, ending up in Collections, working with Gareth Ingram, Mr Jepson, Mr Boadle and I think the one and only Phil Kempton although I'm not sure as he seemed to be everywhere!

Oh what memories and how it's all changed!

Happy days indeed.

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 reliable help and advice. Visit their website for lots of information about what they have available on a regular basis offering so much help should you need it.

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

If you want to receive 'connections' magazine which is for all retired staff you can request a postal version by calling Willis Towers Watson on the above number to request it. Watch out for a short article in next month's edition of 'connections' from us!

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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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.

Many thanks, Christine Graham, 07753118005

MEMBERSHIP



DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR CLUB?

THE MEMBERSHIP FORM IS ON OUR WEBSITE www.barcpen.org.uk

We would love to hear from anyone wishing to join and for any input regarding things you would like to see happen next year by way of events etc.

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.