



BIPC Newsletter -

Number 91

Autumn 2021

## **MEMBER NEWS AND MEMORIES**

### **VERY MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PROVIDED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NEWSLETTER**

We sadly report the death of **TERRY FINNAGIN**, whose wife **BETTY** passed away in October last year. Terry was a stalwart member of BIPC, a regular attendee at Club events and served as a Committee member between 2000-2013. He was the driving force behind the establishment, development, launch and subsequent running of the BIPC website, patiently leading his fellow committee members into the “Digital Age”. In Terry’s final year on the Committee he took on the unenviable task of reviewing the Club’s archives in Barclays House, Poole reducing the contents of two large filing cabinets to a quarter of their previous size.

**MIKE CUMMINS** first met Terry at 29 Gracechurch Street branch in 1962 where they shared a love of football, playing together in various bank teams. Terry recruited Mike into his Sunday morning team, “The Chancellors”, who played on Hackney Marshes enjoying the wonderful cow shed dressing rooms and primitive outside washing facilities! Terry was a formidable, disciplined defender more in the style of Chopper Harris than Bobby Moore, a player you wanted on your side rather than playing against you. One tackle from Terry normally made sure that thereafter you quickly off loaded the ball when you sensed he once again had you in his sights. Terry’s disciplined approach to life in general perhaps stemmed from the fact that before joining the Bank he was a police cadet and it was no doubt a useful asset during the many years he spent working in Chief Accountant’s Department, often visiting overseas operations including the USA, South Africa and the Netherlands. Terry will be sadly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sad time.

The “**Rumble in the Jungle**” was the name given to the famous 1974 fight in Kinshasa, Zaire between the then undefeated heavy weight boxing champion of the world George Foreman and Muhammed Ali. Ali won by a knock out in the eighth round. At the ringside were **TONY ARCHDEACON** and **DAVID STEEL**, who were both working in Kinshasa at that time. Tony recalls how they and the Bank became involved with this legendary boxing match.

“At the time I was MD of Barclays in Zaire with David as my deputy. Barclays came into the picture due to the bank the government usually used not being able to send a message because its correspondent bank was on strike. I was called to the house of President Mobutu’s aide and asked to send a message to the effect that the Presidency was willing to finance the fight. This I agreed to do as there were no financial implications. The message was sent early the next day. Sir Roderick Barclay, the Chairman of Barclays in Zaire, was in Kinshasa and he and I then went out to a prearranged visit to see a customer. When we returned our senior Zairean Manager told us that the Presidency had been in touch and now

wanted the message I had sent to be in the form of a confirmed letter of credit and he had done this! I telexed London asking that the LC not be confirmed but London decided it should. There followed endless meetings about the wording of the LC and other details. David and I spent hours at the Presidency waiting to see the Zairean officials, David saying at the time that by the end he had named all the tropical fish in the tank in the waiting room! There would probably not have been any difficulties but for the fact that George Foreman was injured in training and the date of the fight had to be put back. This meant that many of the halls, cinemas etc. which had been booked to show the fight were by then not available and thus this planned income source was not forthcoming. There were lots of other problems such as the communications centre not being wired up correctly, which meant that all reports for The Times went out on the Barclays telex machine. One of the good things to come out of all this was David and I got seats in the fourth row to watch the fight! An hour or so after the fight ended there was a massive thunderstorm which cut off the electricity at the stadium. If the storm had come a little earlier the fight would have been an even greater financial disaster. Obviously, there is a lot more detail but I think the above gives an accurate gist of what was a fairly interesting few months of my life with Barclays!”.

The “**Rumble in the Jungle**” was clearly one of Tony’s more challenging risk management experiences. Other expatriate staff in Zaire at the time were **ANDY FAIR, DICK BRISTOW, CHRIS DAVIS** and **MARK SHAW**. The admin man was the Belgian, **JACQUES PIERRAT**. Andy Fair was Head of Doc Credits and in particular remembers the fact that the only document needed to pay out under the LC that secured the fight was a newspaper report confirming the fight had taken place!

**ALAN PEACHEY** was greatly saddened to learn from Newsletter No.90 that **ALAN PAUL** had passed away. The two Alans first met face to face when Alan Paul was manager of the Eurobond Department in London, where Alan Peachey was working in the 1980s. Alan recalls that whilst Alan Paul was based in the United States, he was involved with the drawdown of funds under the “Rumble in the Jungle” LC mentioned above.

**JOHN MURTON** joined DCO in 1964 and spent the next 32 years working for Barclays in both the UK and Europe with probably the happiest time being the 12 years he spent at 33 Old Broad Street, London branch where there was great camaraderie and people socialised. LOBS was a fun place to work and there are many stories John could tell from those days, but for the sake of discretion, he has limited his contribution to just one amusing tale. The regular branch whist nights were very popular and John would make up a four with **ALEC WARD, VIC PARKER and PATRICK SULLIVAN**. On one particular occasion they won, receiving wine and chocolates as a prize, but Patrick disagreed with the others on how the winnings should be distributed. In those days bullion was transported in large metal cages, which were kept in the basement, so in retribution for being the odd man out the other members of the team enticed Patrick into the basement, grabbed him, locked him in a bullion cage and took the cage up to the banking hall which was full of customers. By this time Patrick was calling them all sorts of unrepeatable names, the other three were killing themselves laughing and customers just looked on incredulously. Suddenly out of the blue appeared **TOMMY SUMNERS**, the Staff Manager, who was down the stairs from the mezzanine floor like a whippet and in no uncertain terms laid into the captors, ordered them to release Patrick and to report to his office. The reality of the situation sunk in when Tommy told them they were lucky not to get their marching orders, but all the time Tommy was telling them off, he was clearly struggling to keep a straight face. Just another fun day in their young lives at LOBS! Those of you who remember Tommy from playing cricket with him at the Private Banks Sports Club, Catford Bridge will

appreciate both the “whippet” description and the struggle he must have had keeping a straight face as he interviewed the offenders. Tommy was one of Circus Place/LOBS branches great characters.

For **ANDY MUNDEN** first impressions were always the most important and arriving in Nigeria for the first time on Guy Fawkes Day 1966 was no exception. Andy was part of the “Fire Brigade” sent from London to help in the branches which had lost the majority of their staff to what would become Biafra. Arriving in Kano, Northern Nigeria which at the time was reported in the UK as a potential war zone, was nothing compared to Andy’s “initiation” into Coaster life. The plane landed early in the morning and Andy was met by a bunch of Old Coasters who gave him a swift introduction to the social side of his new life. First Heineken. Having left a chilly Manchester the day before a cold beer was very inviting, the second even more so, but beer at that time of day was a new experience. The second part of the initiation was curry and chilies, those things that look like pieces of tomato but leave you very hot on the inside. The dusty, intense Northern Nigerian heat had already ensured Andy was hot on the outside! Part three was the air-conditioning at the Central Hotel. Andy being a naïve young Brit just arrived in Africa had no idea what the thing was making the dreadful racket on the wall, so he switched it off, opened the window and in came the sandflies. But after an overnight flight, a few beers and a large curry, sleep was now more important than anything else. When Andy awoke, he was covered from head to foot in sandfly bites. A very, very uncomfortable experience. **BARRY STREETS** and **MIKE MCNIE** were amongst the Old Coasters who met Andy that day and initiated him into life on the “Coast”. Nearly sixty years on they remain good friends; despite the chilies!

Mention in Newsletter No. 90 of Tony Falvey’s experiences during WWII reminded **ALAN TRITTON** of his time in Malaya in the 1950s. Alan was conscripted into the Army in 1950 and after 9 months training was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Seaforth Highlanders. On reaching the Regimental Depot he was ordered to take Embarkation Leave before joining the Battalion fighting the Chinese Communist terrorists in Malaya. Disembarking from the boat in Singapore he was instructed to find his own way up country which he did by travelling on an armoured train, maximum speed allowed 15 mph, commanded by a Malay Sergeant. When a bridge in front of them was blown up, a very intense stand-off ensued before Alan was relieved by a company of Gurkhas whilst the bridge was temporarily repaired. At this point he had been in Malaya for 18 hours! On disembarking from the train Alan was instructed to join a Seaforth Company at Kuantan, an area where the Highlanders had 800 men split into four companies, with military responsibility for Central and East Penang region roughly 150 miles in both length and breadth with dense, often mountainous jungle. As a platoon leader and navigating officer Alan would go out on lengthy “deep jungle penetration patrols” lasting a fortnight or more which were supplied by air-drops from Dakotas of the Royal Australian Air Force. As navigating officer, Alan had to provide exact co-ordinates for the drop, a nerve-wracking responsibility for a 19 year-old. On these patrols he would carry an American Mark 11 Rifle, a small silent de Lisle rifle, a machete, parang, map case, compass, a note book, two large ammunition pouches and six hand-grenades. His pack would weigh 60 to 70 pounds with food rations, some dry clothing and a collapsible bed. In the jungle they were always soaking wet from sweat, swamps, rivers and monsoon-like rain. Everywhere there were insects, snakes, small white ants, great big red ants marching in military formation, centipedes, scorpions, monkeys, water buffalo, the occasional tiger and worst of all leeches, which latched onto humans resulting in hourly stops to light cigarettes, which were applied to the leeches, now swollen with human blood, that then fell off. Alan describes fighting in the jungle as “Hot, steamy, greenness, sweat, rotting wood, pallor, silence during the day, a huge clamorous noise in the morning and evening, feeling sick, nerves and uncertainty but, in

the end, you got used to it". But above all else there was the enemy with whom there were occasional skirmishes, mostly indeterminate. However, using local intelligence one day Alan's platoon laid an ambush for a Communist Chinese group collecting food. A vicious engagement ensued, during the course of which Alan was severely wounded, thus bringing an end to his fighting career in the jungle. He spent the next five months in hospitals, following which he left the army and went South to lead the South Orkneys Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, now the British Antarctic Survey, for 15 months before relieving other Antarctic Survey stations. Alan must have found life in Barclays Bank, 54 Lombard Street rather tame after his adventures in Malaya and the Antarctic!

The Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) was declared by Rhodesia in 1965. **DAVID MURDOCH** recalls that come 1968/69 the Rhodesian petrol ration remained much greater than that in Zambia so members of the Lusaka bachelor mess would regularly set off in a couple of cars early in the morning with nearly empty fuel tanks, enter Rhodesia at Chirundu, pick up fuel coupons for a return run to Salisbury, fill the cars up to the brim with petrol, drive to Makuti where there was a nice pub for elevenses i.e. a few Castle beers, and then cut up to the Kariba dam. Another few cold ones, fill the cars once more using Rhodesian coupons, return to Lusaka over the dam and get back to the mess with two thirds of a tank of fuel, no Zambian coupons used and another raging thirst. Sadly, these excursions ended when Zambia closed the border to all traffic.

Over thirty years ago, whilst working in North Devon, **GEOFF MILLARD** received a call from the Regional Office asking if he knew that the Exeter District was twinned with Botswana. He had little knowledge about the country, but in August 1989 moved with his wife and two children, then aged seven and five, to Gaborone for a three-year stint in Botswana. The experience was life changing and the family tried to see as much as possible of that part of the world. After three years Geoff returned to the UK and Inspection, but Africa was now on his CV and possibly in his blood. In 1996 he accepted a three-year posting to West Africa, which lasted over six years. Geoff had not realised how much influence the African experience had on the family until his son studied medicine and after qualifying applied for a grant to complete a PhD in his chosen field of Infectious Diseases. His son's education in Botswana was a positive factor and he was soon in South Africa undertaking research. This also meant that the family made regular trips to see him and visited many areas well off the beaten track. How one telephone call can influence and redirect our future lives.

During the Nigerian war in the 1960s the Federal Government decided to change the currency notes for the whole country. At the end of the changeover period, it was found that there were 200 or so people working at a large cattle complex on the Mambilla Plateau who had been missed and **TREVOR MARTIN** was asked to make the 220 miles trip from Makurdi, with the cash boxes in the boot of his car, over dirt/laterite roads to carry out the exchange. The Nigerian Army offered him security for his trip which turned out to be one soldier with a loaded .303 rifle and a spare magazine bound with a large amount of sticky tape to avoid the bullets rattling! They had travelled about 40 miles when the exhaust fell off Trevor's car. The soldier described the noise as "just like a tank" and after a few more miles he told Trevor to stop, gathered up his rifle and belongings and disappeared into the bush. Trevor carried on to Mambilla alone, staying a full day and two nights in a guest house exchanging notes for many, many more people than just those who were employees whilst the mechanics at the complex repaired the exhaust. On his return journey, after travelling around 150 miles Trevor saw a lone figure at the road side waving him down. It was his soldier who climbed into the car with a big grin and said "good the car

is fix". Trevor asks how did the soldier know when he would be coming back? Perhaps the answer is "WAWA" or West Africa Wins Again.

On the 12 June 2021 whilst the G7 Leaders were meeting in Cornwall, **EDRED BOWMAN**, via the letters section of The Times, provided Messrs. Johnson, Biden and Macron, with the following guidance on the "Great Brexit Sausage War".

*"Sir, Surely a solution to the impasse over the protocol lies in labelling not only the sausage, but all foodstuffs. This would be a variation of James Forsyth's solution of a "trusted trader" scheme (comment June11). The label could say "Produced in the UK for consumption only in Great Britain and Northern Ireland". If such products were then found in the Republic of Ireland it would be up to that country's government to take appropriate steps – confiscation perhaps. There is no need for a hard border - Edred Bowman, Shaftesbury, Dorset".* Congratulations Edred.

In the Spring 2016 Newsletter we reported that **STAN BRISTOW's** son, Dr. Laurie Bristow, had been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Russian Federation. He remained in this post until January 2020 when he moved from Moscow to the position of Regional Ambassador to the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference. Laurie was appointed CMG in 2015 and advanced to KCMG in the 2019 New Year Honours. In June 2021, at very short notice and fully aware of the numerous challenges awaiting him, Laurie accepted the post of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Afghanistan based in Kabul.

Members may well have already learnt from newspapers, social media, radio and television that just two months on from his latest appointment Laurie was spearheading the administrative effort on the ground to evacuate from Afghanistan British nationals and those Afghans who worked for the British and now wished to leave the country. He and his team personally processed visa applications at Kabul Airport when the situation in Afghanistan was clearly subject to change at a moment's notice. We greatly admire the commitment of Laurie and his team and, just prior to this Newsletter going to print, welcome the news of their safe return home to their families on Sunday, 29 August after successfully completing their unique and challenging assignment in Afghanistan.

Incidentally, whilst at school Laurie had a holiday job with Barclays and his son is currently on a placement with Barclays during his summer break from university which makes the Bristow's a three generation Barclays family!

After a gap of 20 months the Barclays International Golf Society (BIGS) resumed "normal" service on June 14<sup>th</sup> when 25 members and guests gathered at Betchworth Park Golf Club, a challenging Surrey course, on the hottest day of 2021 to that date. The morning team contest was won by **CHRIS SCOBLE, PHILLIP BUCKINGHAM** and **GRAHAM SKINNER**, recently returned to the UK after many years living in the Cayman Islands. They just pipped **ANDY FAIR** and **SIMON CULLIFORD** playing with his cousin Larry. In the afternoon **IAN MYERS** proved that lockdown had done nothing to diminish his golfing prowess as he won the Peter Pan prize with **CHRIS MARTIN** not far behind. Society Captain, **PHILLIP CURRIE**, on his birthday, won the Simmons Cup for over 65s, whilst **ANDY VELJOVIC** took home the Gibbs Goblet for those with handicaps of 19 and above. The principal prize of the day, the impressive Seeborn Bowl, was won by Past Captain **ALAN SMITH** with a score of 36 points, the result being decided on a count back of the last six holes. ***It was splendid to have BIGS up and running again and it would be wonderful to***

**see an even bigger field participating at Arlesford GC in the Autumn Meeting on Wednesday 13 October 2021 which is being organised by PHILLIP CURRIE ([Phillip.currie1@btopenworld.com](mailto:Phillip.currie1@btopenworld.com)).**

The Past Captains of BIGS met at Tyrells Wood GC on the 13 July, another glorious sunny golfing day. The course was in superb condition, particularly considering the rain of Biblical proportions that had fallen over the previous two days. Fifteen Past Captains partook of an excellent lunch namely **MIKE DIXON, ANDY CARR, GEORGE FERGUSON, SIMON CULLIFORD, PETER WOOD, ANDY FAIR, PAUL HUNTER, IAN MYERS, HOWARD BATEMAN, BOB RUSSELL, IAN POTTER, ALAN SMITH, PHILLIP CURRIE, JOHN BENNETT**, and the much appreciated by all organizer, **CLIFF KNOWLDEN**. Nearest the pin prizes were won by Andy Fair and Cliff Knowlden, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize went to the current Captain Phillip Currie, who because covid had kept him in office for a second year is technically also a Past Captain, whilst Andy Fair was second with 38 points. The winner of the Hitchcock Salver, presented to the Past Captains by **MARTIN HITCHCOCK**'s widow many years ago in Martin's memory, was Ian Potter with a fantastic 42 points. The win was very special for Ian as in 1970 it was Martin who interviewed him for his entry into Barclays DCO and Tyrells Wood was the 300<sup>th</sup> different golf course Ian has played since he first took up the game.

**THE EDITOR THANKS EVERYONE WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS NEWSLETTER AND WILL BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE NEWS & MEMORIES FROM MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY FROM THE LADIES, FOR NEWSLETTER NO. 92 either by e-mail to [bennetttn6@btinternet.com](mailto:bennetttn6@btinternet.com) (make sure though you have 3 consecutive " t"s in this address) or by post to John Bennett, Gable View, Wellesley Close, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1QP.**

**.. but before we move on from Memory Lane (from the Hon Sec)**

As this is the last Newsletter to members before the forthcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the merger on 1 October 1971 of "DCO" and the "Foreign Branches" network to form "BBI" we could not let the event pass without mention so here's a further quick trip down memory lane just for fun.

How many of the following do you remember?

1. How many Chairmen of DC&O/DCO/BBI were there between its inception in 1925 and its merger with BBPLC on 1 January 1985?  
(time may be to hunt out that attic copy of "The DCO Story" as a starting point!!)  
a) 6      b) 9      c) 12      d) 15
2. Who was the UK Government's Chancellor of the Exchequer on 1 October 1971?  
(Come on, Prime Minister would have been far too easy but here's a clue - in the mid-1970s he went on to become Chairman of BBI's big rival, Standard Chartered Bank)
3. What was number one on the UK singles record chart on 1 October 1971? Was it:  
a. "Maggie May/Reason to Believe" by Rod Stewart; or  
b. "Hey Girl, Don't Bother Me" by The Tams; or  
c. "Coz I Luv U" by Slade (I had to include Noddy Holder's mirrored top hat in here somewhere!!)
4. In 1971, both the Men's and Ladies Singles Championships at Wimbledon were won by Australians. Can you name them both?
5. Who won the 1971 FA Cup final? a) Liverpool   b) Arsenal   c) Leeds Utd   d) Chelsea

6. Why did banks close at 3:30pm on Wednesday, 10 February 1971 but not re-open until 10am on Monday, 15 February 1971?
7. A mile and a half mile long, what did the Queen open on 24 June 1971? Was it the:
  - a) Mersey Tunnel      b) Tyne Tunnel      c) Forth Bridge
8. Which of the following "Britain's Got Talent" TV show judges was NOT born in 1971:
  - a) Amanda Holden      b) David Walliams      c) Simon Cowell
9. One especially for our BIGS members, who won the 100<sup>th</sup> Open Golf championship played in 1971 at Royal Birkdale?
  - a) Tony Jacklin      b) Lee Trevino      c) Jack Nicklaus      d) Tom Weiskopf
10. Which TV programme in 1971 was watched by the most households?  
 (*Care: up until 1976 audiences were measured by "households watching" not "viewers watching"*)
  - a) The Benny Hill Show      b) the FA Cup final      c) Eurovision Song Contest

How well did you do? Answers will be revealed in Newsletter 92 (2022 New Year)

## CLUB NEWS Autumn 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of Club News.

### MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted to welcome the following who have joined the Club since the last Newsletter No.90 (Spring 2021).

At 31 August 2021 the Club had 1,387 members - 1,214 Full and 173 Associate

#### NEW MEMBERS:

No new members have joined since the last Newsletter.

#### ASSOCIATE:

|           |          |                     |
|-----------|----------|---------------------|
| Mrs Helen | CANN     | Charminster, Dorset |
| Mrs Ann   | MAYO     | Brentwood, Essex    |
| Mrs Mary  | STRINGER | Potters Bar, Herts  |

#### IN MEMORIAM:

|             |           |                         |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Mr Timothy  | ARUNDELL  | Dorking, Surrey         |
| Mrs Ena     | BECK      | Stanford-le-hope, Essex |
| Mrs Jean    | BEST      | Bournemouth, Dorset     |
| Mr Don      | BETSWORTH | Bournemouth, Dorset     |
| Mrs L       | BRANDRICK | Broadstone, Dorset      |
| Mrs Iris    | ELDER     | Surbiton, Surrey        |
| Mr Terry M  | FINNAGIN  | Bournemouth, Dorset     |
| Mr Geoff    | GAMMON    | Orpington, Kent         |
| Mrs Helen C | GREEN     | Poole, Dorset           |
| Mrs Barbara | HAYWARD   | Penzance, Cornwall      |
| Mrs Joan M  | MALONEY   | Wimborne, Dorset        |
| Mr Michael  | MAYO      | Brentwood, Essex        |
| Mr Ron      | MILLER    | London                  |

|     |           |           |                           |
|-----|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Mr  | Alan T    | MITCHELL  | Shepton Mallet, Somerset  |
| Mr  | Alan      | RUDDLE    | Sevenoaks, Kent           |
| Mr  | Dennis    | STRINGER  | Potters Bar, Herts        |
| Mrs | Edna MA   | SWATRIDGE | Ponteland, Northumberland |
| Mr  | Malcolm D | THOMPSON  | Gillingham, Dorset        |
| Mr  | Richard   | BARCLAY   | Stroud, Glos              |
| Mr  | Tony      | WEDLAKE   | Broadstone, Dorset        |
| Mrs | Christine | WHITE     | Wimborne, Dorset          |

#### NON-MEMBERS:

|     |              |             |                   |
|-----|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Mrs | Elizabeth A  | BEYNON      | New York, USA     |
| Mr  | Kanchanlal C | CHAMPANERIA | USA               |
| Mrs | Pamela       | HILL        | (wife of Eddie)   |
| Ms  | Canaga PS    | IYAVOO      | Mauritius         |
| Mrs | Lena T       | LARSON      | USA               |
| Mrs | Meryl        | LOBB        | (widow of Danny)  |
| Mrs | Mary M       | MAGALHAES   | Trinidad & Tobago |
| Mrs | Joyce E      | MASON       | Poole, Dorset     |
| Mr  | John S       | TREVATHASAN | London            |

We extend our sincere condolences to all the families in their bereavement.

Members are often the first port of call for families wishing to let us know when a member has sadly died. Willis Towers Watson has a very useful guide accessible under the "Reporting a Death" tab on their website homepage. In particular, it explains the documentation that WTW shall require which can sometimes go beyond just providing a copy of the death certificate especially if a surviving spouse pension becomes payable. <https://epa.towerswatson.com/accounts/barclays/>

The UK government's "Tell Us Once" service, usually offered when registering a death or you can register online afterwards, automatically handles most, if not all, state and local government-related matters e.g. State pensions, benefits, Council Tax, etc. In particular, it ensures that any bereavement benefit and/or allowance is automatically paid and other allowances and benefits you might not ordinarily be aware of and miss out on. More information about the service can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/after-a-death/organisations-you-need-to-contact-and-tell-us-once>

One of the saddest aspects of the pandemic restrictions has been the inability of Club members to attend funerals or memorial services of colleagues and share anecdotes with their families. In a couple of instances during the pandemic, I have been able to put members in touch with bereaved families. In a similar vein, unable to organise a memorial service for him, **Ian Bennison's** family would be pleased to receive any anecdotes etc from colleagues who might have worked with or knew Ian or you might have been a Club member who received support from Ian in his role as part of the Club's Member Support Network. If so, I'll be happy to put you in touch with his family.

## SOCIAL

### SOCIAL CALENDAR 2021

The full 2021 Social Events Calendar was included with Newsletter No.90 and is also available on the Club's website at <http://www.pen-club.co.uk/MyDocs.asp>

In summary, we plan to hold all the events usually held in the second half of the year subject to the following changes:

- the York/Northern lunch in September subject to satisfying the venue's required minimum number of attendees;

- the Bournemouth lunch has been re-arranged for Wednesday, 6 October 2021 at the usual venue but will be in the smaller restaurant. Unfortunately, as it can only cater for 80 attendees, tickets will be on a strictly first-come-first-served basis; and
- the Ladies lunch has been re-arranged for Friday, 10 December 2021 at the usual venue.

Importantly, we are still hopeful of being able to hold the Autumn Lunch and 2021 AGM in November although numbers might need to be restricted if social distancing rules are still applicable.

Events cannot be guaranteed nor how they might be still be impacted by social distancing and bar service etc. It is, of course, also recognised that some Club members may not yet feel comfortable being in large gatherings, regardless of vaccination status and the situation at the time of events.

We do though look forward to seeing everyone again at the events but please be aware that, in some cases, event organisers are still in discussions with venues so please do check the Club website's Social Events Calendar for updates in case details change.

The Bournemouth lunch invitation was included with Newsletter No.90 and is also available on the Club's website. Invitations for the Ladies Lunch and the Club's London Autumn Lunch and AGM are included with this Newsletter and also available on the Club's website in the "Documents" section. Invitations for the other events will be sent out by the respective event organiser.

When responding, please remember to advise the organiser of any specific dietary requirements.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Annual General Meeting 2021 - Union Jack Club, London**

As explained in NL90, we are pleased to confirm that it is intended the 2021 AGM will go ahead on Tuesday, 2nd November 2021 at our usual venue, the Union Jack Club, London. The AGM provides an important opportunity for you to have your say about the running of the Club and bring issues to the attention of the Committee and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

Accordingly, Notice is hereby formally given that the Annual General Meeting of the Club will take place at 2:45pm on Tuesday, 2nd November 2021 immediately following the Autumn Lunch. A copy of the Chairman's Annual Report is included with this Newsletter and copies of both the Minutes of the last AGM held in November 2019 and Club Accounts @ 31.12.2020 will be available at the Meeting. The Chairman's Report is also available on the Club's website.

### **Committee Membership**

Control of the Club is vested in a Committee consisting of no more than 15 members of which, as detailed below, three vacancies arise at the conclusion of the 2021 AGM. In the absence of being able to hold the 2020 AGM and having been elected at the 2019 AGM the following are the current members of the BIPC Committee until the 2021 AGM:

|                                                                                           |                 |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Club Chairman                                                                             | Andy Fair       | 01483 576945  |
| <i>(retires as Chairman at 2021 AGM but has agreed to continue as a Committee member)</i> |                 |               |
| Club & Hon. Secretary                                                                     | Steve Merry     | 020 8302 2393 |
| Hon. Auditor (& Chairman elect)                                                           | Simon Culliford | 020 8788 0814 |
| Hon. Treasurer                                                                            | Lesley Mittins  | 01277 225780  |
| Membership Secretary                                                                      | Paul Dennis     | 01883 712161  |
| Committee Secretary                                                                       | Maria Heaney    | 01494 875410  |
| Social Secretary <i>(retires at 2021 AGM)</i>                                             | Trevor Martin   | 01277 227404  |
| Social Secretary elect <i>(wef 2021 AGM)</i>                                              | Barry Streets   | 01778 570928  |

|                                                 |                |                             |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Benevolent Fund                                 | Richard Webb   | 01892 722570                |
| MSN Coordinator                                 | Hilary Turner  | 020 83939215                |
| MSN Regional Rep                                | Adrian Field   | 01202 892508                |
| MSN Regional Rep ( <i>retires at 2021 AGM</i> ) | Mike Cummins   | 01234 825772                |
| Welfare Rep                                     | Margot Sutton  | 01628 629265                |
| Welfare Rep ( <i>retires at 2021 AGM</i> )      | Denis Flaherty | 01268 455034                |
| Website Manager ( <i>ex-officio</i> )           | Steve Kitson   | steve.kitson@btinternet.com |

## **Committee Membership Retirements/Recruitment**

As previously reported, there will be a number of changes to the Club's Committee membership with effect from the 2021 AGM with both a change in Chairmanship and three members stepping down.

After 5 years at the helm, Andy has decided to step down as Chairman at the next AGM although will remain on the Committee with Simon becoming Chairman at that time. Three vacancies also become available to join the Committee at the next AGM following Mike's, Denis' and Trevor's wish to stand down after a combined 50 years' service on the Committee.

The Committee would greatly welcome any interest from members who might wish to join us. The Committee usually meets four times a year in January, May, September and November and also attend the AGM. Committee meetings normally take place early lunchtime on a weekday in London to allow members to avoid peak travel times. During the Covid-19 outbreak we successfully held virtual Zoom-based meetings but hope to resume "face-to-face" meetings in September 2021

**Please let either Andy or myself know if you might be interested in joining the Committee and/or would like further information. We welcome members interested in joining to sit in on a couple of Committee meetings to see what it is we "really do!". Meetings are always good humoured so we'd love to hear from you.**

## **Club Membership recruitment**

We always welcome the opportunity to attract new Members to join the Club. In many instances, new members join after being introduced by existing members. NL87 outlined the Bank's membership criteria for joining our Club with the additional requirement that potential members must, of course, also either be in receipt of, or be entitled to, a deferred Bank pension. The Membership Secretary would welcome all enquiries from new members satisfying the criteria at [memsecbipc@gmail.com](mailto:memsecbipc@gmail.com)

## **New "Affiliate" membership category**

At its May 2021 meeting the Committee recognised that prospective members might satisfy all the Bank-prescribed criteria except the 15 years length of service. The Committee therefore agreed a new "Affiliate" category of membership for those members who might satisfy all the other membership criteria and have between 10- and 15-years' service. "Affiliate" members would be able to receive an email copy of the Club Newsletter although attendance at social events would need to be paid at the non-subsidised cost as we would not be able to claim any part of the Annual Grant from the Bank for this new category of membership.

## Audited "Club" and "Benevolent Fund" 2020 Accounts

Copies of the respective unaudited accounts were circulated with the NL89. Following the lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions the accounts have now been audited and are unchanged from the previously circulated unaudited accounts. Copies are available on the Club's website.

### Barclays International Benevolent Fund

The Club's Benevolent Fund was set up in 1968 to assist pensioners *"who are in necessitous circumstances and the wives, widows, children and other dependents of such pensioners being in need of assistance"*. (Taken from the Fund's rules as adopted at the Club's AGM in 1968.)

As highlighted in NL89, some of the wording would not get past an editor's beady eye today but it is nevertheless worth stressing that the Fund is available to all pensioners of DCO/BBI, not just Club members and their dependents.

Importantly, the Fund does not ask for documentation to prove need, relying instead on the knowledge and recommendation of Club members. If you are therefore aware of any pensioner who would benefit from a grant (in the range of £250-500) from the Fund, please contact Richard Webb, ([richardwebb948@gmail.com](mailto:richardwebb948@gmail.com), 01892 722570) or any member of the Committee.

### Pensions – Barclays Bank Widows Fund

As highlighted in previous Newsletters, widows may be entitled to an additional benefit if their husband worked for Barclays prior to 1973 and made contributions to the Barclays Bank Widows Fund. This annuity is payable to a widow if she was married to the deceased when that Fund was wound up in December 1972.

We are verifying the following advice with BBUKRF to ensure is still up to date but, currently, to obtain this information, you should contact them along these lines ensuring you include your home address:

*"Can you please advise what widow's pension benefits, including any annuity from the Barclays Bank Widows Fund to which she may be entitled, would my wife (name) currently receive in the event of my death.*

*We were married on....., my date of birth is.....and my National Insurance No..... "*

BBUKRF - 01737 227567 / [barclaysteam@willistowerswatson.com](mailto:barclaysteam@willistowerswatson.com)

### Bank Workers Charity - could you be entitled to any state benefits?

As previously highlighted, Just Group revealed that half of pensioner homeowners are missing out on almost £1,000 a year by not claiming benefits they're entitled to. At a time when the BBC is stepping up its campaign to ensure, where applicable, the over-75s have paid for their TV licence it is never too late to find out whether you could be missing out.

If you're unsure of your eligibility for claiming benefits advisors at the Bank Workers Charity can help you:

- identify benefits and schemes that you may be eligible for;
- establish whether a previous claim (or claims) was incorrectly rejected and help you to appeal;
- support you in completing application forms; and/or

- even liaise with other organisations on your behalf.

As I highlighted in Newsletter 89, "**Susan's Story**" reported in **Connection magazine** confirmed how the BWC had been able to significantly increase Susan's income. Her story can be found on page 8 of "**Issue 76, Summer 2020**" edition available in the Members' section of the Willis Towers Watson ePA website.

To find out how the BWC might be able to help you, please call their confidential helpline for free on 0800 0234 834, from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Or visit [http://bit.ly/BWC\\_BPsupport](http://bit.ly/BWC_BPsupport)

## **Bank Workers Charity – "Wellbeing Action Calendar"**

The BWC has also created a "Wellbeing Action Calendar" providing 31 daily actions as an aid to help you look after and improve your mental health and wellbeing. It can be found at [https://mcusercontent.com/00f03be57cbc84a7b82b36bf0/files/e6ef75f7-69be-4d34-8c61-b5933bbfb761/BWC s Wellbeing action calendar 2021.pdf?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=Bank\\_pens\\_exl&utm\\_campaign=MHAW\\_2021](https://mcusercontent.com/00f03be57cbc84a7b82b36bf0/files/e6ef75f7-69be-4d34-8c61-b5933bbfb761/BWC_s_Wellbeing_action_calendar_2021.pdf?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Bank_pens_exl&utm_campaign=MHAW_2021)

## **Bank Workers Charity – Annual Christmas grant**

Many members might have seen in the Summer 2021 edition of "Connection" magazine that the BWC are again inviting applications for Christmas grants which are one-off grants to help with winter fuel, utility bills or day-to-day living expenses.

Applying is simple by completing a short application form that the BWC team will be happy to help with. You will also need to provide evidence of income and your banking service with Barclays. To be eligible you should have no more than £16,000 in capital (money or other assets).

Even if you have been unsuccessful before, it's well worth applying again if your circumstances have changed. Anyone who received a Christmas grant last year will automatically be sent a letter by the BWC inviting them to apply again this year.

If you have any questions, or want to register your interest, email [winter@bwcharity.org.uk](mailto:winter@bwcharity.org.uk) or call BWC's free and confidential helpline on 0800 0234 834. BWC will then send further information and an application form. **Important dates are:**

- **Friday 24th September 2021** - Last date to request an application form
- **Friday 29th October 2021** - Deadline for applications

## **"Connection" magazine, Summer 2020 edition re "family connections"**

Don't forget to also check out the current edition of "Connection" magazine (Issue 78) available from the Members Section of the Willis Towers Watson website for our successful rise to the challenge laid down by Barclays Bank Luton District Pensioners' Club on page 13 of the Summer 2020 edition (Issue 76).

## **Scam avoidance:**

It remains reassuring to remember that recent City of London advice confirmed that although scams are getting more and more sophisticated, no-one has yet invented a method where a single click can gain access to someone's bank account without their knowledge.

As highlighted in NL90, Barclays is not immune though and its own advice to its customers can be found at <https://www.barclays.co.uk/digisafe/>. Earlier this year Which? magazine reported that text messages directed recipients to a fake Barclays website. In a particular twist, the fraudsters managed to successfully drop the texts into people's inbox with the sender shown as Barclays itself [https://conversation.which.co.uk/scams/fake-barclays-unusual-payee-request-text/?utm\\_source=whichcouk&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=scamalert130221](https://conversation.which.co.uk/scams/fake-barclays-unusual-payee-request-text/?utm_source=whichcouk&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=scamalert130221)

Members who have Barclays current accounts might have also recently received an email from the Bank highlighting scammers' increasing sophistication and that the common faults of bad spelling etc are increasingly no longer the scammers' hallmark.

A scam that increasingly shows its face is the receipt of emails purporting to be from someone we recognise but where closer inspection shows that it has in fact not come from the correct email domain/service provider e.g. [honsecbipc@outlook.com](mailto:honsecbipc@outlook.com) say, instead of the correct [honsecbipc@gmail.com](mailto:honsecbipc@gmail.com). Replying to this type of bogus email often leads to requests for the disclosure of personal details.

If you have one in your area, **Neighbourhood Watch groups** remain an excellent source for finding out about current scams in your own local area and also allow your local Police Service to quickly circulate details of the latest reported national and local scams.

**Dating signed documents 2021 not just 21** - NL87 highlighted Metropolitan Police advice against the use of just "20" to denote the year "2020" when signing documents to avoid fraudsters adding a further two digits to make the document appear older than it was e.g. changing 14/1/20 to read 14/1/2017. During 2021, it would be wise to continue to follow this advice as the "1" can so easily be changed to "0" still allowing the fraudster to backdate documents.

## **Willis Towers Watson ePA website – changed password reset process**

In May 2020, following UKRF members' feedback, WTW changed the ePA website's password reset functionality to one now known as the "Account Recovery service".

In order to protect your account, you will be asked to verify your identity using details from your **passport** or **driving licence** to enable that stage of the password reset process to be carried out quickly and securely online. The details provided will be used for identification only then securely deleted. Neither the Trustee nor WTW will retain this information or use it in any way other than to reset the password. The information may be disclosed to a registered credit agency to confirm your identity but will not affect your credit rating as it will only leave a soft 'footprint'. Any member uncomfortable using the new process can still reset their password by contacting the Barclays Team at WTW. Unfortunately, the Barclays requirement to reset passwords every three months remains in place.

## **BIPC website email address**

Please remember to add the website's [info@walkthetalksolutions.co.uk](mailto:info@walkthetalksolutions.co.uk) email address as a "trusted" site in your email address book to avoid website emails going to your spam folder.

## **Barclays Safe Custody service – Wills and House Title Deeds**

We hope the following guidance will be useful relating to locating estate Wills and/or House Title Deeds placed with Barclays in the past for safe custody.

For Wills, we are grateful to David Cawdery for informing us that members should please **no longer** contact Barclays Willsafe, Stratford Upon Avon but instead contact Zedra, Booths Hall, Booths Park 3, Chelford Road, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 9GS, telephone 01565 748799 who continue to hold existing Wills without charge. Guidance on the Club's website under "Members Support" will be updated as soon as possible.

For House Title Deeds, members should contact the BarclaySafe Access Line on either 0345 075 7475 or 0845 766 0248 who will arrange for your documents to be sent directly to you by Special Delivery or you can collect from a branch with a counter service during normal opening hours.

## **Change of Postal address**

Please remember to advise us of any change of address. For data protection reasons, neither the Bank nor Willis Towers Watson are able to pass this information on to Pensioners Clubs.

## **Change of email address**

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of being able to keep in touch with each other in a timely way without having to rely on posting letters particularly those who were shielding or isolating and especially those members living abroad. Although the Club issues three Newsletters a year to members, in need, we can send email broadcasts more frequently and quickly.

Members generally change their email address less often than their home address, if at all. It is though very important members keep us informed when changes do occur. If you do change your email address at any time, please remember to send an email as soon as possible to Paul Dennis, the Club's Membership Secretary at [memsecbipc@gmail.com](mailto:memsecbipc@gmail.com) confirming your new email address.

## **Barclays 2021 Carol Service**

Members might recall that the 2020 Carol Service was held virtually but details became available too late to be included in the Newsletter at the time although we were able to circulate details to members for whom we held an email account. Unfortunately, we have yet to receive details about whether and, if so how, the Carol Service might be held this year but, as this is the last Newsletter in 2021, should details become available in time we will circulate them via email to members.

## **Newsletter**

Our special thanks as always go to John Bennett for all his hard work producing the "*Member News and Memories*" section and also to all those members who contribute their stories ensuring the Newsletter continues to reflect the broad global "reach" that was DCO/BBI.

We all enjoy hearing everyone's tales from the "*DCO/BBI empire*" so whether from home or abroad please do keep your stories, memories and experiences flowing in to John.

On behalf of the Committee, we look forward to seeing many of you at our Club's organised events. In the meantime, please continue to keep safe.

Steve Merry

Hon Secretary, BIPC

11 Farwell Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4LH

Home: 020 8302 2393

[honsecbipc@gmail.com](mailto:honsecbipc@gmail.com)