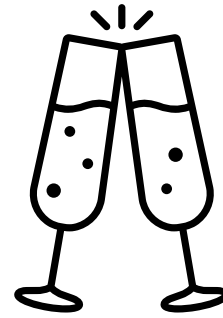




BIPC Newsletter
Number **100**
Autumn 2024



MEMBER NEWS AND MEMORIES

WHAT LASTING MEMORIES DO YOU HAVE OF LIFE WITH DCO/BBI?

MEMBERS WOULD LOVE TO SHARE THESE MEMORIES WITH YOU

Is this really Newsletter edition No. 100 - how quickly time passes!

It was in 1991 that “Anon” compiled the first Newsletter for BIPC members, but it was not until 2010 that the identity of “Anon” was revealed, namely **JULIAN WATHEN** the former BBI General Manager and later Vice-Chairman of Barclays Bank Limited.

Over the past 33 years the Newsletter has contributed greatly towards meeting the wish of the pensioners who in 1938 founded the DC&O Pensioners Club, namely “Keeping united the strong bonds of friendship maintained through many years of service”. In 1971, when Barclays Bank International was established, both DCO and the Foreign Branches of Barclays Bank Limited were transferred to BBI and the former DCO Pensioners Club became the Barclays International Pensioners Club (BIPC).

With the 80th Anniversary of “D-Day” on the 6th June 2024 we thought it would be appropriate to start Newsletter No.100 with a memory of that day. John Bennett was aware that during WWII **KEN TATTERSALL DFC** had flown out of RAF Tempsford, perhaps the most secret RAF station, from which 138 and 161 Squadrons dropped agents and supplies into occupied Europe on behalf of the Special Operations Executive (SOE). John telephoned Ken’s widow **JANET** to enquire whether Ken had flown on D-Day and he certainly had. Oliver Tattersall now holds his grandfather’s RAF logbooks and kindly supplied us with the following information.

“Ken started his pilot training in late 1942, finally getting into a Halifax bomber for the first time on 3 January 1944. By the end of the month he was fully operational with 161 Squadron based at Tempsford. Over the next few months Ken flew a variety of missions, often deep behind enemy lines, delivering SOE agents, supplies and even messaging pigeons, all undertaken without the modern navigational aids which are now taken for granted.

Ken’s logbook for the 5th June 1944 shows an operation codenamed “POLITICIAN 2”. This was an operation designed to sabotage the French railway system in the Pays de Loire region thus disrupting the Germans’ ability to move troops and equipment quickly towards the beachhead which the Allies were about to establish in Normandy. Ken took off from RAF Tempsford at 23:07hrs on 5 June 1944, headed across the Channel and down towards the drop

site where at 01.33hrs on 6 June 1944 they dropped five operatives. They re-crossed the English coast over Sidmouth at 03.59, landing back safely at Tempsford at 04.57hrs”.

Oliver recalls his grandfather telling him that rather than flying very low both out and back, as was usually the case for all their missions, on the 6 June 1944 they were instructed to return at a high altitude from where below him Ken witnessed wave after wave of planes and gliders, all lit up, heading for France. What an incredible sight that must have been. By the 11th July 1944 Ken had completed 40 missions, including one on which he hit high tension power cables over occupied France. Somehow they completed the mission and Ken got his crew and aircraft back to Tempsford, where he made an emergency landing. The aircraft was a complete write off.

Many, many years later at a BIGS golf meeting, Ken was asked about his DFC and replied “It was awarded for flying a bit”. Some bit!

DAVID SUNRAY recalls his arrival at CFB. “I joined Chief Foreign Branch, the Victorian edifice, in 1947 and my talents were immediately recognised. I was appointed Fireplace Monitor in Drafts Department. This entailed shoveling coal from a mahogany desk drawer into two marble fireplaces and so skilled was I that I was soon promoted to filing in the vast basement of passages and tiny rooms. Many a romance blossomed in that underground haven. In fact, I heard some staff had been mislaid for days down there. There was a large strongroom in the basement occupied from 9 to 5 by two senior clerks. Air conditioning was provided by leaving the strongroom door open. There was also a Gold Safe containing the reserves of many South American countries. To carry the heavy gold bars upstairs meant two of us using a large ledger as a stretcher, then to hand the bars to a broker who wore a jacket with a bulge the shape of a revolver. Smoking was the norm, not enhanced by some of us using foul herbal tobacco. Departments had strange names. Authentications, Produce, Trading With the Enemy, Board Book and Geographicals where the staff were multi-lingual, one being a genius not just speaking all the major languages, but as a consequence being able to grope his way through just about any other. It was rumoured that during the troubles in Spain he had been smuggled to England in an orange box! Those were the days, with friendships enhanced by being just yards from the pubs of Leadenhall Market”.

Amongst BIPC members there are clearly rich fields of personal banking memories just waiting to be harvested.

Your News and Memories Editor, **JOHN BENNETT**, joined Barclays eight years after David, but at DCO, Circus Place Branch, London. “My first job was in the Cables Department on the first floor where I was handed a rubber stamp stating “Barclays Bank DCO formerly” with instructions to stamp the new name above “Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas)” on reams of letter and form headings. The Bank had changed its name to DCO in 1954. After six months I was transferred below street level to Foreign Exchange Department, which was surrounded by departments boasting strange names such as Produce, Charges and Impersonal. I often wondered what went on in the last named! In the same area Miss Yates, she with the chef’s hat, ran the staff canteen, so in FOREX we were close to her famous “milk and a dash” coffee, and pie and chips for lunch. For pubs, we had The Half Moon or The Stirling Castle where we would mark one of our number either departing for National Service, or on their first overseas tour. Happy days”.

JOHN McDAVID was Accountant of the main branch in Tripoli, Libya in 1967 and recalls one particularly lively occasion, namely the "Six Day Arab/Israeli War".

"Day 1 - Mid morning, the usually very loud radios in the street outside the branch fell silent. They then came back at full volume saying the Americans were bombing Cairo! Almost immediately a full scale riot broke out. Mobs rampaging up and down the main roads burning foreign businesses. We decided to close the Bank! Eventually the rioters got tired and we sneaked off home, having a few rocks thrown at us on the way.

Day 2 - Half the staff stayed away, but all the Italian ladies came in – remarkably brave of them as there were fires still burning all over town.

Day 3 - Brisk message from London "Institute full duplication immediately". Brisk reply "Can't be done, too few staff, martial law and 5pm curfew".

Days 4, 5 and 6 - We tried to stabilise the situation within the Bank and restore some form of order. During this time the atmosphere within the branch became a bit fraught as the local staff realised the Israelis were winning the war.

At the time I thought "This is a bit different to working in 29 Gracechurch Street branch", but eventually things did get sorted out".

PETER ROCK recalls his time in Beijing.

"Three days after arriving in Beijing to establish the Representative's office in 1981, I decided to attend an evening film at the British Embassy. Secretary Helena ordered a taxi, wrote on note paper the Embassy address in Chinese, gave it to the Chinese driver, and I disappeared into a Beijing night. Perhaps 15 minutes later I began to suspect that the Chinese driver had little idea where we were going! She spoke appealingly to me in Mandarin but although I vaguely understood our predicament, I could say nothing to her. I had no idea where I was, nor where I was heading. I was utterly helpless in Beijing, and I had only been there 3 days! Somehow the situation was all resolved within an hour, but they were a few minutes never forgotten.

Beijing in 1981 was totally different from the city we see today. The Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square were prominent, but otherwise the city was a polluted, dreary place, dominated by austere, Soviet influenced buildings. The population dressed identically in the grey blue of the time, and bicycles everywhere. There were no signs of Western influence at all.

Today's skyscraper skyline does not tempt me back. I want to remember life as it was; a tiny community of 20 British businessmen making the very most of a frugal existence in a vast alien city - enjoying darts matches, picnics at tumble-down Chinese tombs, an annual British community pantomime, skating at the Summer Palace Lake in the bitter winter. Beijing, sometimes frustrating, but often fascinating, gave me three years of great memories, mostly very happy ones".

When **LESLEY MITTINS** was interviewed for a job with BBI she was asked why she was interested in joining the Bank and somewhat flippantly replied "Because my bus stops right outside the office". However, the interviewer persevered, even eventually agreeing to Lesley's salary request, but more was to come, an additional £1500pa London Allowance. Lesley describes this as "corn in Egypt", as she could, and often did, walk to work.

Having told BBI she had been a translator of EEC insurance directives into English from French, albeit it was before the UK joined the EU, in their wisdom the Bank placed Lesley

on the Japan desk in International Division, at 168 Fenchurch Street, where she recalls being fascinated by the fact that you had to ascend an escalator to get to the banking hall.

At her induction course Lesley was told there would be a Fire Marshall, and when there was a fire drill she must proceed to her “safe place”, a Church in Lombard Street where her name would be ticked off the Marshall’s list. Shortly after the course there was a fire alert and having made her way down the stairs from the 15th floor and out of the building, she was surprised to be dragged off by a colleague in the opposite direction to the Church. When asked where they were going he said “The pub, but don’t worry, we’ve already been ticked off the list and the Fire Marshall will join us when he’s made sure everyone’s accounted for”. Lesley learned a lot about BBI, very quickly!

As a Russian speaker, in 1974 it was planned that **ALEX JABLONOWSKI** would go to Moscow as No.2 to **ALF BENNETT**, the ex-RAF military attaché in Tokyo who had earlier set up the Japan Office of the confirming house Tozer Kemsley and Millbourn (TKM). The Moscow office was to be a joint venture between Barclays, TKM and Lazards, all of whom wanted to dip their toes in Russian waters. Alf went to Moscow, whilst Alex held the fort in London until Alf settled in. Unfortunately, that summer there was a terrible accident when the Moscow office Volga, driven by the office driver, crashed on the way to the beach on the Moscow River. The driver died and two of the occupants were injured. This brought things in Moscow to a stop so instead of Russia Alex was posted to Cairo to help **GAVIN GREEN** set up Cairo Barclays.

In time, TKM and Lazards pulled out of the joint Moscow project and it became a Barclays Repts Office, part of Financial Institutions Group (FIG). Fast forward to the 1990s and Alex was responsible for FIG. In response to the fall of Communism and the related emerging business opportunities, the Moscow venture was relaunched. Alex recalls one particular “opportunity”, the financing of McDonalds’ first outlet in Pushkin Square, Moscow where you could pay in either US Dollars or Roubles – the queue for the latter went right around the Square!

Sadly in 1998 Barclays decided to close down in Russia, which at that time was no longer considered a suitable place to do business. As Alex puts it, “there was a certain ironic circularity in all this”.

During the Nigerian Biafran Civil War, **TREVOR MARTIN** was Manager of Makurdi branch where, at that time, the only outside communication was by a note sent to Jos 310 miles away on the cash delivery truck. One day Trevor developed a raging toothache and the next time the truck came he sent a note back asking for permission to travel up to Jos to see the dentist, there being none nearer. A couple of days later the lorry returned with cash, but no reply to Trevor’s note. Later in the day he received a message from his house to say that he had a visiting expatriate, which was strange as there were only two in the town. Arriving home Trevor was astounded to see the English dentist from Jos sitting in an armchair. Trevor sat down, the dentist opened his case of tools and whipped out the offending tooth. The following morning the dentist left for his 310 mile drive back to Jos.

Trevor has no idea how much it all cost. Closing the Jos practice for two days, a 620 mile round drive over laterite roads and of course the extraction fee. The cost of dinner, wine and breakfast were not reimbursed. Trevor still believes the cost was incurred by the Bank so as

to avoid him travelling to Jos, then refusing to return to Makurdi; as the Branch Accountant had already done!

MALCOLM MAUGER arrived in Ghana in 1959 and was met at Accra airport by **JOHN ATKINS** who promptly put him on a plane to Kumasi where he shared a bachelor mess with **BRIAN POWELL**, **NOEL DAVENPORT** and **DANNY LOBB**. Malcolm soon got used to sleeping under a mosquito net and hearing the sounds coming from the nearby Rain Forest. The Prempeh II Street branch staff were welcoming and he was placed in charge of six Ghanian staff, and the branch hand written ledgers. Malcolm recalls:

“We worked hard, but there was a most enjoyable social life. I was in Ghana for 12 years during the course of which there were many changes, both in the Bank and the country as a whole. Early on, whilst I was in Accra, the staff were invited by the Local Directors to a drinks party on the Senior Local Directors lawn. Halfway through, the Directors appeared on the Balcony to address the serfs below. Perhaps the last vestiges of Colonialism? However, I later personally experienced the Director’s paternalism and their interest in the Staff’s welfare. My wife Pauline had returned to Guernsey, our home, to have our baby but unfortunately she miscarried; again. **JULIAN WATHEN** called me to his office and suggested I travel to Guernsey to be with Pauline. However, as I was due to return on leave in a few weeks, I thought that would not be necessary. None the less, he handed me tickets for the flight home that evening so that I could be with Pauline. The Bank at its most caring”.

This is my last News and Memories for the Newsletter. Sadly, the fingers no longer take kindly to keyboards. News and Memories is of course only part of the Newsletter, the bulk of the work being carried out by the BIPC Secretary. On behalf of all members I thank **MIKE CUMMINS**, who assumed the role of Secretary when **NICK POTTER** sadly passed away, and latterly **STEVE MERRY**, all of whom have undertaken this role since “Anon” opened the Newsletter innings with No.1 thirty-three years ago.

I also wish to thank everyone who over the years has taken the trouble to send me contributions for the Newsletter. Without their input there would have been no “News and Memories”.

With apologies to BIPC members who were not employed by DCO, I thought I would end my editorial innings with the “DCO Recruitment Song” written by **JOHN BLANDFORD** which appeared in the DCO Quarterly of November 1966. John was later the co-author, with **SIR JULIAN CROSSLEY**, of “The DCO Story” published by Barclays Bank International Limited in 1975.

It’s delicious in Mauritius, and it’s not so bad in Bo:
It’s much better in Valletta and it’s simply grand in Ho.
In Paarl and Paarden Eiland there are lots of things to do,
And so there are in Lagos, Krugersdorp and Sokoto.
In Sapale quite happily and joyfully in Jos,
In Alice without malice or Lobatse without loss,
You might work quite hard for Barclays, but never will you know
The mystic, magic meaning of those letters D C O.
In Gombe or Njombe pass the Institute Exam,
In Yola or Chingola, Stutterheim or Kingston (Jam),
Victoria (Seychelles) or in Victoria (Cameroon), Victoria (in Gozo),

Thomsons Falls or Viljoenskroon.
You can rumba in Kumba, you can waltz in Kuruman,
Play polo up in Molo or the fool in Sudan,
Geography comes easy when you work for Barclays, though
You'll never learn the meaning of that cryptic D C O.
Neither Malta nor Gibraltar has Dominion status now
While Dodoma, like Nongoma, is no colony, I vow,
But overseas we'll send you to New York or Morant Bay,
Paulpietersburg, Naboomspruit, Half Way Tree or Lady Grey.
You'll be merry in Owerri and have fun in Port of Spain;
Life's no harder in Grenada than in Brits or Grootfontein;
But from Omdurman to Swellendam, from Limbe to Roseau
The customers will always ask you: What is D C O?

May BIPC keep going for many years to come.

John Bennett

Barclays International Golfing Society (BIGS)

The Spring Meeting was held at West Byfleet Golf Club, where the course, catering and hospitality were all excellent, with 21 members and 2 guests participating. The singles competition for the Willingdon Bowl was won by **ROBERT MUNRO** with 35 points. The Society Vice Captain **CHRIS SCOBLE** was second on a count back one point behind the winner. The Methusaleh Cup (for the Over 70s) was retained by **KEITH GARNER**, **JUSTIN CLIFFE** won the Ray Hawthorne Trophy (for those with a handicap of 19 or more), whilst for the 5th time **ANDY FAIR** took home the **DENNIS LOVELL** trophy for those who had worked in Africa. The afternoon Greensome competition for the McMATH trophy went to **MIKE DIXON** and **RAY BISSAGAR** with a score of 35 points.

The BIGS Summer Meeting at Betchworth GC was organised by BIPC Chairman **SIMON CULLIFORD**, who compiled the following report.

“Happily we played in pleasant summer conditions and the views from the highest parts of the course southwards across the idyllic southern English landscape were as excellent as ever. The morning nine-hole team competition was won by **ANDY CARR**, **PAUL HUNTER** and **ANDY HOULT** with a combined score of 40 points, 6 points ahead of **SIMON CULLIFORD** and his guests Thomas Webb-Wilson and Matthew Kellert. The morning winners featured prominently in the 18 hole afternoon singles, for the Seeborn Bowl, which was won by **PAUL HUNTER** on 37 points, 2 ahead of **ANDY CARR** and **ANDY HOULT**. The **SIMMONS CUP**, for those aged 70 and over went to **ANDY FAIR** with an excellent 36 points, 4 points ahead of **KEITH GARNER**. The final trophy, the Gibbs Goblet, played for by those with handicaps of 19 and above was awarded to **PHILIP CURRIE** with a score of 34 points. **GABY BUCK** came second on 28 points. The guest prize went to **JAMIE CRORKIN**, son of BIGS Captain **GRAEME SKINNER**, who emerged as a strong winner with 40 points, the highest individual score of the day. Before departing, a vote was taken that gave clear support to our returning to Betchworth for the BIGS 2025 Summer meeting”.

The BIGS Past captains met at Guildford GC on 17 July 2024 to compete for the **MARTIN HITCHCOCK Memorial Bowl**. BIGS current Captain, **GRAEME SKINNER**, was also present. The winner was **GARETH STEVENS** with 35 points, closely followed by **MIKE DIXON** and **JUSTIN CLIFFE** on 34 and 33 respectively. Nearest the pin prizes were won by **Justin** and **ANDY CARR**.

The Past Captains present took the opportunity to fondly remember BIGS Past President **RICHARD CARDEN** who had sadly passed away a few days earlier. **CLIFF KNOWLDEN** recalled Richard being the only BIGS golfer to have his handicap cut after a morning round, before playing in the afternoon. Richard had just scored 48 stableford points on the challenging South Herts Golf Club course and no one was more surprised by this exceptional score than Richard!

The final BIGS event of the year will be held at West Hill Golf Club in November.

CLUB NEWS Autumn 2024

On behalf of the Committee welcome to the latest edition of Club News.

MEMBERSHIP

At 31 August 2024, the Club had 1,222 members - 1,058 Full, 159 Associate and 5 Affiliate.

NEW FULL MEMBERS:

Mrs	Fiona J	DANIELS	Ilford, Essex
Mr	Andrew	DIBDEN	Southend-on-Sea, Essex
Mr	Lester G	GARDNER	Woodstock, Oxfordshire
Miss	Sally A	MARTIN	New Eltham, London SE9
Ms	Lauraine G	PEARCE	Poole, Dorset
Mr	John P	SAWYER	Basildon, Essex
Mrs	Clare L	TIMMS	Woodstock, Oxfordshire
Mr	Andrew	WHITELEY	Basildon, Essex

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Mrs	Pamela J	DALY	Woking, Surrey (widow of Dennis)
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NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERS:

Mrs	Dawn	SOMMERFORD	Basildon, Essex
Mrs	Caroline	WHITELEY	Basildon, Essex

A special mention, and our thanks, goes to Gary Lacey through whom many of the above new members became aware of the Club.

IN MEMORIAM:

Mrs	Rosie	BALL	Wimborne, Dorset
Mr	Howard A	BEBER	London
Mrs	Gwynneth	BOSTOCK	Poole, Dorset
Mrs	Connie	BRAGG	Wimborne, Dorset
Mr	Richard	CARDEN	Upper Hartfield, East Sussex
Mrs	Miriam	DUNN	Enfield, Middlesex
Mr	DJ	GREEN	Lincoln, Lincolnshire
Mrs	Margaret E	HARRIS	Billericay, Essex
Mr	Peter J	HARRISON	Poole, Dorset
Mr	Edmund	HOMWOOD	Great Gransden, Bedfordshire
Miss	Thelma D	JUSTER	Everton Lymington, Hants

Mr	Mostyn	LLOYD	San Mateo, California, USA
Mr	Chris J	MARTIN	Copthorne, West Sussex
Mr	DN	McGREGOR	Chalford St Giles, Bucks
Mr	Roger	MONEY	Wimborne, Dorset
Mr	BP	PARIKH	Rickmansworth, Herts
Mr	David O	PASSEY	Hornchurch, Essex
Miss	Vera J	ROLFE	Pulborough, West Sussex
Mr	Basil G	SHRIVES	Watford, Herts

We extend our sincere condolences to all their 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 explaining 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/> .

Deaths can now also be reported online via WTW's website.

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 so otherwise might 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>

SOCIAL

SOCIAL CALENDAR 2024

A huge thanks goes to all the organisers of the Club's 2024 events now in full swing. The full 2024 Social Events Calendar was included with Newsletter No.98 and is also available in the "Documents" section on the Club's website at <http://www.pen-club.co.uk/> Please do check the Club website's Social Events Calendar for updates in case details change.

Update re: London Autumn lunch (12 November 2024)

The London Autumn lunch will again be held at The Union Jack Club near London Waterloo Railway station the invitation for which is included at the rear of the Newsletter and also available on the Club website. If attending, please ensure completed forms are received by 2 November 2024.

Update re: Sidmouth Lunch (14 October 2024)

Would members intending to attend the Sidmouth lunch please note the request on the website under "Events" from David Cawdery who is kindly organising this event again this year. A copy of the lunch invitation form is now available on the Club website or

available from David (email: dlfc2022@outlook.com) but please note David must receive completed forms by the end of September.

Update re: Liverpool/Manchester Reunion

The signups for this year's Liverpool/Manchester Reunion event have diminished to the extent that following discussions with regular attendees it has sadly been decided to postpone this year's event. With attendances dipping, it has also regrettably been decided to call it a day with a plan to go out on a high with a Grand Finale for the Reunion in September 2025.

ADMINISTRATION

Annual General Meeting 2024

Following the agreed shift the Meeting was brought forward and held immediately after the London Spring lunch rather than, as previously, after the Autumn lunch. The Minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved without amendment by members attending and are available on the Club website where members can also view the draft Minutes of the 2024 AGM which will be tabled for adoption by members at the 2025 AGM to be held after the London Spring 2025 lunch.

Committee Membership

Control of the Club is vested in a Committee consisting of no more than 15 members. Following the recent approval by Members attending the 2024 AGM the following are the members who have agreed to serve on the BIPC Committee until the 2025 AGM:

Club Chairman	Simon Culliford	07960 166927
Club & Hon. Secretary	Steve Merry	020 8302 2393
Hon. Treasurer	Lesley Mittins	01277 225780
Hon. Auditor	Keith White	07783 859131
Benevolent Fund	Andy Fair	01483 576945
Committee Minutes Secretary	Chrina Jarvis	020 8527 5978
Membership Secretary	Paul Dennis	07887 240024
MSN Coordinator	Hilary Turner	020 83939215
MSN Regional Rep	Adrian Field	01202 892508
Social Secretary	Roger Wright	07870 357022
Welfare Rep	Margot Sutton	01628 629265
Website Manager (<i>ex-officio</i>)	Steve Kitson	steve.kitson@btinternet.com

The Committee would greatly welcome any further interest from members who might wish to join us.

The Committee plan to meet three times in 2025 in January, May and September and also attend the AGM that, with effect from 2024, will continue to follow the Spring rather than November London lunch. Committee meetings normally take place in London at 11:30am on a weekday to allow members to avoid peak travel times and include a lunch following the meeting.

Please let either Simon 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 relaxed affairs and 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. Although it is for the Club to determine membership eligibility, the Bank's minimum criteria for membership of the Club is:

- a) anyone who retired from the Barclays Group with an immediate pension from the UKRF (including those who choose to "transfer out" their pension upon retiring from the Bank);
- b) or, anyone who left the Barclays Group with a deferred pension that is now in payment, who is aged 50 or over and completed a minimum of 15 years employment with Barclays;
- c) or, the surviving spouse of a former eligible member as deemed in points a) and b) above and are themselves in receipt of a spouses' or dependent's pension from the UKRF.

Paul Dennis, the Club's Membership Secretary would welcome all enquiries from new members who believe they satisfy the criteria at memsecbipc@gmail.com It is worth highlighting that enquiries from new members satisfying the above criteria are welcome even if already a member of another of the Bank's pension clubs as there is no restriction on how many of the Bank's pension clubs a member might wish to belong to.

"Affiliate" membership category

The Committee has also recognised that prospective new members might satisfy most, but not all, of the above Bank-prescribed criteria for joining the Club. In 2021, the Committee therefore agreed a new "Affiliate" category of membership whose members would be able to access the Club's Newsletters via the Club's website although attendance at social events would need to be paid for at the non-subsidised cost as we would not be able to claim any part of the Annual Grant from the Bank for this category of membership. Affiliate members would also be welcome to attend, but be unable to vote at, the Club's AGMs. The Club would wish to be as flexible as possible in welcoming new members and, again, the Membership Secretary would welcome all enquiries from new members wishing to be considered for "Affiliate" membership at memsecbipc@gmail.com

Barclays International Benevolent Fund

The Club's Benevolent Fund was set up in 1968 to assist "all pensioners, widows and widowers of pensioners of Barclays Bank International Limited or its predecessors, and to Bank officials and spouses who were at any time in the service of Barclays Bank International or its predecessors." (Taken from the Fund's recently updated rules)

In these continuing difficult economic times your Committee would like to remind Club members of the existence of the Benevolent Fund, which was established to help with the pressure of day to day living, including one off purchases. The Fund does not ask for any documentation to prove need, relying instead on the knowledge and

recommendation of Club members. Grants can also be made to non-Club members as the Fund's Rules permit grants to all pensioners, including widows and widowers of pensioners of Barclays Bank International or its predecessors. Please contact Committee member Andy Fair for further information. Andy's contact details are email ah.fair@ntlworld.com, telephone no. 01483 576945.

New: Willis Towers Watson - changed contact details

According to their website contact for UKRF benefits is now based in Sunderland. The new email, mail and telephone contact details are available on the WTW ePA website.

Updated: Connection Magazine

Issue 84 (Summer 2024) is now available on the WTW ePA website and on page 13 is Pam Pow's story of how she worked for Barclays in the UK from 1966 until 2022 - 56 years!

New: Barclays Carol Service 2024

Issue 84 of "Connection" magazine has confirmed that the Service will again be held at Southwark Cathedral, this year at midday on Monday, 9 December 2024 followed by refreshments.

Government "Cost of Living" support website

The rise in the cost of living remains a challenge for many. With all households entitled to some form of support the following government website provides information about what help is available [Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](#)

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. However, with so many means-tested benefits (e.g. Pension Credit, Council Tax reduction, etc) and many others not means-tested (e.g. Attendance/Carers Allowance etc) it can be difficult to know where to begin.

If you're unsure of your eligibility for claiming these or other 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
- even liaise with other organisations on your behalf.

As is so often highlighted in the Press, becoming eligible for Pension Credit automatically also qualifies you for a free TV licence. More importantly, eligibility for one State benefit sometimes also automatically makes you eligible for other benefits e.g. Council Tax reduction.

NEW: Winter Fuel Allowance restriction

With the government's current plans to restrict the winter fuel allowance to only those on pension credit (and/or some other State benefits) it is as important as ever to check

if you qualify. You can also check eligibility via the online pension credit calculator at [Gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator](https://gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator).

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 (except Bank Holidays) or visit [The Bank Workers Charity \(bwcharity.org.uk\)](https://www.bwcharity.org.uk)

NEW: BWC Christmas Grant

Since 2018, The Bank Workers Charity has administered the Barclays Spread Eagle Foundation Fund, with the purpose of providing an annual Christmas grant of up to £500 to eligible Barclays pensioners.

As with many Funds of this nature, it has depleted over time, and the BWC are now looking at their options for the future. For this year, at least, they are unable to offer the Christmas grant to any new clients. Anyone that received the grant last year will have been sent a letter at the beginning of August to give them details of how to apply this year.

However, if you or someone you know is struggling financially or in any other area of their wellbeing, please be assured that the BWC continue to support Barclays pensioners, as well as the wider banking community. They may be able to provide an alternative one-off grant (these are means-tested and eligibility criteria applied), signposting or referral to a partner organisation for further support.

NEW: BWC Friendship Telephone Service

Connection Issue 84 (Summer 2024) provides details of the above new service in partnership with Age UK to help those affected by loneliness to create new meaningful connections, because sometimes it's just nice to talk. The calls are a chance to share experiences, memories, and make new connections in a safe and friendly space. Each call is run by a trained facilitator, lasts around one hour, and takes place on the same day and time each week. Each call has a maximum of six members per group. As a Barclays pensioner, or a partner of a Barclays Pensioner, you can register your interest by completing an online form at [bwcharity.org.uk/resource/friendship-telephone-service](https://www.bwcharity.org.uk/resource/friendship-telephone-service)

Supporting the BWC "Pennies from Heaven" charitable donation

According to the Bank *"if all Barclays pensioners joined the scheme, it could raise up to £250,000 a year for charity"*. Donations from pensioners of the Bank are given to the BWC. It's simple and fast to join, just email community.investment@barclays.com to be set up with a profile to start donating your pennies. More detail can be found in Issue No. 83 of *"Connection Magazine"*.

Tip from Age Concern re Attendance Allowance

Age Concern is another great source of help and assistance. Following previous feedback from members, support is available from Age Concern including checking draft applications as well as suggesting attachments that might speed up the process. A particularly useful tip is to **make sure receipt of the application is acknowledged** so

that when the allowance is finally authorised, payment will be **back dated to receipt of the application**, which in some circumstances could be months.

MoneySavingExpert's "Cost of Living Crisis Survival Guide" provides 90 ways to save. You can find out more at

https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/cost-of-living-survival-kit/?utm_source=MSE_Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=06-Apr-22-c54958726974f72803a-624d34c40b4e978c6eebaff26c37f15c&source=CRM-MSETIP-c54958726974f72803a&utm_campaign=nt-hiya&utm_content=2

Scam avoidance:

According to Which?, fraud losses in 2023 are expected to have exceeded £1bn. With Office for National Statistics reports also showing that fraud now accounts for 40% of all crimes recorded it remains reassuring to remember that although scams are getting more and more sophisticated, it remains the case that no-one has yet invented a method where a single click can gain access to someone's bank account without their knowledge.

Scammers often exploit fear and confusion though, for example, by setting up fake websites to steal card details, or posing as delivery companies to target online shoppers. Some of the more prevalent scams have been bank or family impersonation scams. Barclays' own advice to its customers can still be found at <https://www.barclays.co.uk/digisafe/>.

Latest Scam alerts (From Which?)

You can find out about the latest scams trending this month. Have you come across a scam? If so, you can let them know by using their scam sharer tool. For weekly updates on the scams you need to be aware of you can also sign up to their free scam alerts service.

BIPC website email address

To make its identification more readily recognisable to Members the prefix to the email address used by the Club's website to communicate with Members has been amended e.g. when confirming the availability of Club Newsletters. The updated email address is "Barclays International Pensioner's Club info@walkthetalksolutions.co.uk". Please add this website email address as a "trusted" site in your email address book to avoid website emails going to your spam folder and possibly being automatically deleted before you have had chance to read them.

Barclays Safe Custody service - Wills & 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, 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 although there is likely a charge should Zedra be requested to administer a deceased's estate (website [Probate & Estates | ZEDRA](#))

For House Title Deeds, the contact number for BarclaySafe Access Line is 03457 345345. You can still arrange for your documents to be sent directly to you by Special Delivery or for you to collect from a branch with a counter service during normal opening hours.

Have you changed your 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 share this information with Pensioners Clubs.

Have you changed your email address?

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 therefore 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 confirming your new email address. Website broadcast emails, including those confirming when the latest Newsletter is available, will continue to be sent to your old email address unless updated via Paul.

Newsletter

As John Bennett highlights in this edition's "Members News & Memories" section this will be his final compilation after some 75 such compilations.

It is no mean achievement to have reached a centenary edition of the Newsletter and I know from correspondence I receive from time to time how much Newsletters are appreciated by members.

We'd therefore like to thank John for his marathon achievement on behalf of the Club, in addition to his years as a former Club Chairman, and also thank all those members who have shared their news and stories with him over the years to make it all possible.

Our special thanks also go to John's wife, Andrea, not only for her own past contributions but for "sharing" John's retirement with us over these many past years.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Committee, we look forward to seeing many of you at any of the Club's remaining 2024 organised events.

Steve Merry
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Dear Member

Autumn Lunch – Tuesday 12th November 2024.

We are very pleased to advise that the Autumn Lunch will be held on **Tuesday 12th November 2024 at The Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London SE1 8UJ.**

Members, their partners, guests & carers are all welcome at this lunch.

The Committee has agreed that the cost will remain at £15 for members, their spouses/partners and member's helpers. The cost for guests is £30.00.

Pre-lunch drinks from 11.45am will be in the Gascoigne Room and the Main Club Bar on the ground floor. Lunch will be served at 1pm in the Gascoigne Room. **Please note the BIPC AGM now follows the Spring Lunch.**

The number of places that can be comfortably set up in the Gascoigne Room is 100 and these will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. When booking please advise the names of any other guests you may wish to sit with. If no preference is shown, you will be allocated a place prior to the lunch.

The UJC requires confirmation of the numbers attending 10 days prior to the event so please ensure that applications are with me by Saturday 2nd November at the very latest. Refunds for cancellations cannot be made after this date.

For new joiners of BIPC, please note that the required dress code for this event is Smart Casual (ie Jackets and Ties for men.)

Yours sincerely,

Roger Wright
Social Secretary. BIPC

Please find enclosed my cheque for £15/£30 payable to Barclays International Pensioners Club for the Autumn Lunch.

Please advise of any specific dietary requirements

I would like to sit at a table withplease continue overleaf if necessary)/ I have no particular preference (delete as applicable).

Name Email address.....

Address.....

.....

Please note it is likely that your cheques will not be cashed until after the event.!!



