



BIPC Newsletter

Number 96

Spring 2023

## **MEMBER NEWS AND MEMORIES**

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

### **MEMBERS WOULD LOVE TO SHARE THESE MEMORIES WITH YOU**

**THE EDITOR THANKS ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE PROVIDED NEWS AND MEMORIES FOR THIS EDITION AND WILL BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE, THE SOONER THE BETTER, FURTHER NEWS & MEMORIES FROM MEMBERS FOR NEWSLETTER NO. 97 either by e-mail at [bennett19601969@outlook.com](mailto:bennett19601969@outlook.com) (PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS AND THE PREVIOUS @btinternet.com ADDRESS IS NO LONGER USED) or by post to John Bennett, Gable View, Wellesley Close, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1QP.**

**TONY TINSLAY** recalls both the history and demise of the DCO stamp collection. Barclays (Dominion Colonial & Overseas) was established in 1925 and by 1943 DCO had over 500 branches, some of which were opened during WWII to serve the needs of the military in former enemy territory. During 1943 **JULIAN CROSSLEY**, then a General Manager and later to become Chairman, conceived the idea of creating a DCO postage stamp collection representative of those countries in which the Bank operated. Initially the collection was limited to issues since 1925, but subsequently changed to cover earlier issues. Under successive curators the collection grew steadily through new issues sent to London by overseas branches and from incoming mail. Limited funds were later made available to purchase more valuable earlier stamps and associated items, particularly relating to West Indies territories, but there was also an outstanding collection of Gibraltar material which was displayed at "Stampex" 1987. Between 1947 and 1960 sections of the collection were displayed at several international exhibitions.

Barclays Bank DCO became Barclays Bank International Limited (BBI) on 1 October 1971 and then when BBI was absorbed into a "One Bank" group structure on 1 January 1985, it was decided to cease collecting. Further deliberations questioned the validity of a Bank stamp collection and it was decided that the collection should be sold. The London Auction House was chosen to conduct the sale which took place on 28/29<sup>th</sup> May 1987. Tony attended on both days and the sale realised £1.3million. The most expensive item, a Captain Garrod original pen and ink essay on paper of a proposed Gibraltar 1<sup>d</sup> stamp fetching £16,000. The sale marked the end of an exciting and ultimately profitable DCO adventure in which Tony was deeply involved during the latter stages.

In 1981 **MICHAEL TOMALIN** was based in Barbados where the Bank owned its own plane, a Citation II jet. No turbo prop for Barclays. On one occasion, Michael flew with **LLOYD ROBERTS**, the Caribbean Chairman, to the Turks and Caicos Islands, visiting Grand Turk before flying on to

Providenciales where a new branch had recently been opened. There seemed to be nothing there, one small hotel at Grace Bay, a coast road and, of course, the just opened Barclays Bank at the airport. Looking back makes Michael think how ambitious the Bank was in those days, and in this instant far sighted. In 1981 Provo had barely 1,000 inhabitants, it now has over 15,000 supporting dozens of ritzy hotels, glamorous houses and shopping malls. Just as the Bank originally envisaged Provo developing but, 40 years on, unfortunately there is no longer a Barclays Bank on the Island!

Sadly, Michael lost his wife **CAROLYN** to cancer last May. Carolyn was a great, unpaid ambassador for the Bank, in the West Indies, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Japan. Michael has a daughter, son and seven grandchildren keeping him on his toes. He travels a lot, recently to Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and also took advantage of the opportunity to see the dragons on Komodo Island.

**BRENDA (Bee)** and **CHRIS PAINTON** have moved from Kilminster, Devon to Bury St. Edmunds where they are living in "Box Heaven" together with assorted builders, electricians, kitchen fitters and a very affable carpenter.

In the search for the most exotic branch names, **MIKE CUMMINS** has nominated Teyateyaneng. Not a full branch, but an agency to Leribe branch in North West Lesotho.

When the Biafran War broke out in 1967, the Igbo staff were evacuated by the Bank, or fled from Northern Nigeria to avoid the massacres that were taking place. At this time, along with others about to embark upon their careers overseas, **TONY STORROW** was attending the "C" course in London. One day the Training Manager, the indomitable Willie Haggoe, announced "You will all go to Heathrow Airport to catch a BOAC VC10 to Kano from where you will be sent to Northern Nigerian branches as needed". Life thereafter was fast and furious, new sights, sounds and smells, particularly the open drains, but on the plus side there was the scent and colour of wonderful tropical flowers. Along with **BARRY STREETS**, **BRIAN HURR** and **BRIAN HARRIS**, Tony was sent to Hospital Road, Kaduna branch where **DAVE BROOKS** was Accountant. He recalls **LAURIE COOLEY**, **DAVE HARBOUR**, **CHRIS HOWARTH** and "**SKEV**" already being at the branch on "permanent" Nigeria postings. Dave guided Tony and the other trainee fire fighters at both work and play, with squash, soccer and rugby heading the social agenda.

After this emergency assignment Tony moved to Malawi, which he found rather tame after Nigeria, but returned later to assist **MIKE McNIE** in the Northern Regional Office from where he also acted as a Relief Manager across the region.

### **DCO/BBI WIVES TALES**

At the end of the Biafran War **SANDIE STREETS**, who had only been married to **BARRY** for a few months, found herself in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The only Barclays wife and just the fifth white women in town. A baptism of fire!

"Although at first feeling a bit intimidated, I soon settled into my new life and fortunately the five of us wives got on very well and banded together over everything. We were lucky to have electricity so were able to buy chilled and frozen goods, that is when they were available, but there was no fresh produce, vegetables etc. When someone was going "Up country" on business they would take with them goods available in Port Harcourt, but not available at their destination and return with baskets of fresh produce which was duly shared out among us. If someone was flying up to Lagos you could give them a shopping list of things you would like. I went up near Christmas and returned

loaded with Christmas goodies as well as basics such as shampoo. There was a great camaraderie amongst us. Life had its lighter moments such as our invitation to a Nigerian Wake. Along with another couple, Barry and I arrived to find a very large cooking pot bubbling away on a fire in the middle of the courtyard with people high on palm wine dancing around it. We looked at each other, remembering the cartoons we used to see as children and wondering who was going to be first in the pot. We didn't stay long! The Eastern Region of Nigeria is a major oil producer and soon more families arrived and our little band became outnumbered by Dutch and Americans. There was now a need to re-open the primary school, but whilst this was being organised, I ran classes from a small bedroom in our house. I was very pleased when I could finally ship everything and everyone into a proper classroom. As I look back, I'm glad I had those experiences, it certainly made me appreciate the good things in life and the friendships we made".

**HELEN CANN** recalls that shortly after she and **BILL** moved into their house in Floreal, Mauritius, with a month old baby and Rudy, the African Grey parrot they had acquired in Ghana, she went into the kitchen late one night to see it seething with cockroaches and a rat, probably more than one, which ran across her foot on its way to hide behind the fridge. Having just come from a hotel in Curepipe which had mice running riot through the wainscoting this was the last straw for Helen who threatened Bill with returning to England – IMMEDIATELY. However, the Bank handiman came to the rescue and closed an open drain under the kitchen floor and Helen and Bill stayed on for another five years in Mauritius.

Helen has a special request. "**MIKE RITCHIE's** recipe for a delicious peanut soup, a West African dish made from roasted peanuts and then rubbed to get the skins off. Mike used chunky peanut butter from a jar when we visited him and **AUDREY** in Parkstone, Dorset. Does anyone have the recipe"? If you do have the recipe, please send it to Helen via email [bennett19601969@outlook.com](mailto:bennett19601969@outlook.com)

## **ROYAL VISITS**

In February 1983 **PAM TABOR** was an MDP in the Cayman Islands when the late Queen made the first ever visit to the Islands by a reigning monarch. This was seen as a thank you to the people of Cayman who had raised half a million pounds in 1982 for the Falklands War effort. There was a two day public holiday and the Islands were festooned in red, white and blue banners. Barclays in Georgetown had a royal-themed window display and about five thousand people, out of a population of around 17,000 (it is now just over 55,000) turned out to see the Queen and Prince Philip. Crowds cheered the royal couple as they passed in a black Rolls Royce, especially imported for the occasion. Prince Philip visited the turtle farm, which bred endangered turtles, and released a year-old turtle into the sea. With his usual tact, the Prince had a go at residents wanting to export turtle shell products to the USA on the grounds that it would encourage the smuggling of wild turtle shells. Pam was presented with a turtle shell as a leaving present!

The only sour note was struck by British journalist, Simon Winchester, who published a scathing article about Cayman in The Sunday Times, mentioning people living in shacks and speaking poor English. He was given his comeuppance though by the popular Cayman calypso band, The Tradewinds, who released a single titled "Simon" claiming he had left Cayman without settling all his accounts and including in the chorus the line "If your birthday passes and you get a jackass, name him Simon Winchester". The flip side "The Queen" has HM deciding to go to Cayman to defrost because "England cold, Philip" and she wants to try conch fritters and barracuda.

**JOHN and ANDREA BENNETT** were in Botswana in 1979 when the Queen and Prince Philip paid a State visit. A splendid relaxed occasion and John and Andrea were lucky enough to be invited to the State Banquet that was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, the only place in Gaborone at that time capable of hosting such an occasion. One of John's squash playing partners was the General Manager of the hotel and was not only personally responsible for the smooth running of the banquet, but was also an official guest at the function. Rodney was placed at the end of the reception line, The Queen handed her white mink stole to an attendant who handed it to Rodney, who had planned to race through the back door into the dining room and be standing behind his seat before Her Majesty entered the room. What could he now do with The Queen's stole? Rodney's answer – he rushed into the casino and dropped the stole into the casino drop safe, scampered back to the dining room and was in his place before The Queen, President Seretse Khama, and their party entered. Rodney sent a message to the Casino Manager to be waiting by the drop safe with the key at the end of the banquet. Up until this point all had gone well, but then a problem arose, a big one. On opening the safe he found the fruit machines had been emptied during the banquet, the takings dropped into the safe and the stole was beneath all the coins. Rodney grabbed the stole, shaking it frantically as he scampered to the end of the departure line where he handed it to The Queen's attendant who gave the stole a very strange look. Rodney expected to be summoned to the President's Office the following morning to be advised that his work permit had been revoked, but he heard no more. Mark you, when he told John this story at the squash court a couple of days after the banquet, Rodney's squash was not up to its usual standard.

**DURING HER REIGN OUR LATE QUEEN ELIZABETH MUST HAVE PAID MANY VISITS TO COUNTRIES, CITIES AND TOWNS WHERE DCO/BBI WERE REPRESENTED AND WE WOULD WELCOME MEMORIES OF SUCH VISITS FOR FUTURE BIPC NEWSLETTERS.**

After seven years in Hamilton, Canada (1962-69) **FRANK TERDREY** returned to the UK and applied for a job with Barclays. The Head Office switchboard put him through to DCO Staff Department, he was immediately employed and started work at 29 Gracechurch Street branch, before being relocated to Dashwood House. The next stop was International Division under **PATRICK PERRY** followed by a spell in Admin. Africa with **SANDY SAUNDERS**, after which **JOHN TUBB** asked Frank to set up and work in the new Union Court, Bills Department, where he later ran the branch Admin. Department with **IAN SILLITOE**. Frank was subsequently closely involved with the HOFEX move from 29 Gracechurch Street, to Royal Mint Court - 220 dealing staff and a brand new Dealing Room designed under the guidance of **TREVOR CASS**. A photograph of this Dealing Room has been placed on the BIPC website. Frank retired in 1993.

**MARK TEVERSHAM** arrived in the Caribbean, where he still has a home, in 1995 and has witnessed an incredible number of changes to what was the Barclays business in that part of the world. His first permanent assignment was in The Bahamas, which as any Bahamian will forcefully tell you, is not part of the Caribbean. His welcome took the form of a speech from the Prime Minister at the leaving party for his predecessor, **HUGH SANDS**, berating Barclays for not finding another Bahamian to take over from Hugh. Welcome to the Bahamas! A few months later Mark was instructed to enforce some relatively stringent cost cutting, including a 10% staff number reduction target. Not surprisingly the staff reduction target was not universally popular and prompted a letter to the local newspaper which they published under the heading, "Bank Boss is a Hitler". The article was sent to AFCARME in London, but with no dire consequences from Mark's boss **CHRISTOPHER HAVILAND**.

In 2002, Barclays merged their Caribbean business with CIBC to form First Caribbean International and in 2006 Barclays sold their shares in FCIB to CIBC, resulting in Barclays departing the Caribbean after some 170 years dating from the formation of the Colonial Bank, one of the three banks which in 1925 merged to form Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), the centenary of which event will soon be upon us. Mark tells us that if you look hard enough you can still find some traces of Barclays in the Caribbean. The CEO of CIBC West Indies is **MARK St HILL**, a Bajan who joined Barclays as an MDP. Although the branches are in CIBC colours, all is not lost. In a number of Islands the Barclays blue, or something close to it, is still prominent, including large numbers of branch ATMs branded as “Blue Machines”. These are owned by Republic Bank of Trinidad and Tobago which was itself Barclays until 1989.

**PETER WEATHERHEAD** found an old aerial photo of Georgetown, Guyana Barclays Bank Sports Club, which has been posted on the BIPC website. Peter was transferred out of Guyana in 1967 returning home to Barbados, but he recalls the Guyana Club facilities, tennis courts, swimming pool, bar and snooker table being fully used by staff. In 1987 Barclays “sold” its assets in Guyana to the Government of Guyana for the sum of ONE GUYANA DOLLAR and the Bank was renamed Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry. In 1991 this bank merged with the Republic Bank (Guyana) Limited, formerly Chase Manhattan Bank. Then in 1991 the ownership completed a full circle when the Republic Bank was “privatized”.

#### **BARCLAYS HOUSE, POOLE**

In Newsletter No. 94 **TONY PETERS** reported that Barclays House, Poole was now empty. He also recounted how in 1974 BBI Computer Services relocated from Token House, London to Barclays House via a building in Market Street, Poole. **PETER WILLIAMS** mentions that Frizzell House, Westbourne was the transit building for other departments moving from London to Poole, specifically Inspection, O&M, a small part of Staff Department, the entire Trustee Department under **GEORGE GOLDSMITH**, along with a premises group responsible for supervising the furnishings etc. for Barclays House.

**DAVE EMERTON** has kindly up-dated Tony Peters’ earlier report on the demise of Barclays House building which is now surrounded by grey security boarding. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council placed a bid for the building, but this was withdrawn after a due diligence report, that is rumored to have raised issues relating to the foundations being below sea level. A local property developer was also said to have placed a bid, but his bid was also withdrawn. It is now reported that the building has been sold, but at the time this Newsletter was prepared the purchasers name had not been announced. However, the Barclays Eagle was removed from Barclays House in October 2022, 46 years after the then Chairman **ANTHONY TUKE** formerly opened the building. The Bank is said to have finally left the site in January 2023. Dave Emerton also mentions that the Bank’s former Computer Centre in Cabot Lane, Poole has been demolished and replaced by a large new office block.

For those interested in the future of Barclays House, we are told the Bournemouth Echo website is perhaps the best source for up-to-date information.

## **NL95 QUIZ ANSWERS: King Charles III's Coronation**

(from the Hon Secretary)

How well did you do? You can check your answers here:

1. **Charles III will be the sixth monarch to reign since Queen Victoria died. Can you name the others?** **ANSWER:** Edward VII (1901), George V (1910), Edward VIII (1936), George VI (also 1936), Elizabeth II (1952)
2. **How old was Charles when his mother, Queen Elizabeth II became Queen?**
  - a) 1 year 5 months 22 days was Princess Anne's age when her mother became Queen;
  - b) **ANSWER:** 3 years 2 months 23 days was his age when his mother became Queen;
  - c) 4 years 6 months 18 days was King Charles' age at his mother's Coronation.
3. **Charles was the first heir to the British Crown to earn a Bachelor's degree, having attended Trinity College, Cambridge but what subject(s) did he study?**
  - a) Archaeology
  - b) Anthropology
  - c) History**ANSWER:** All three are strictly correct. Charles studied Archaeology and Anthropology in the first part of his degree before switching to History for the second part.
4. **At which Castle was Charles' investiture as Prince of Wales held on 1 July 1969?****ANSWER:** a) Caernarfon Castle
5. **At which university did Charles spend a term to learn the Welsh language?****ANSWER:** c) Aberystwyth

## **CLUB NEWS Spring 2023**

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

### **MEMBERSHIP**

At 30 April 2023, the Club had 1,282 members - 1,115 Full, 164 Associate and 3 Affiliate.

We are delighted to welcome the following who have joined the Club since the last Newsletter No.95 (New Year 2023):

#### **NEW MEMBERS:**

|     |                    |            |                           |
|-----|--------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Mr  | Ian                | CAMPBELL   | Dibden Purlieu, Hampshire |
| Mr  | Gary               | LACEY      | Blewbury, Oxfordshire     |
| Mrs | Rosalinda ("Rose") | VAN GELDER | Eastleigh, Hampshire      |

#### **NEW ASSOCIATE AND AFFILIATE MEMBERS:**

None

#### **IN MEMORIAM:**

|     |          |             |                       |
|-----|----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs | Lilian E | ANDERSON    | Bromley, Kent         |
| Mrs | Vanouhi  | ARMAGHANIAN | Reading, Berkshire    |
| Mr  | Brian C  | BLAKE       | Wokingham, Berkshire  |
| Mrs | Ann R    | BRIDGE      | Preston, Lancashire   |
| Mrs | Hannah M | CRANE       | Grayshot, Surrey      |
| Mr  | Alan J   | DENHAM      | Radstock, Avon        |
| Mr  | David C  | DICKER      | Winchester, Hampshire |

|      |             |          |                           |
|------|-------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Miss | Anne MM     | FRASER   | Banchory, Aberdeenshire   |
| Mr   | Ken         | HARVEY   | Christchurch, Dorset      |
| Mr   | John D      | HOLLIMAN | Worthing, West Sussex     |
| Miss | Doris E     | HOUGHTON | Virginia Water, Surrey    |
| Mr   | Michael G   | LANGFORD | Winchester, Hampshire     |
| Mr   | David       | MARTIN   | Poole, Dorset             |
| Mrs  | Susan E     | NELMES   | Murcia, Spain             |
| Mrs  | June A      | REILLY   | Dartford, Kent            |
| Mrs  | Diann       | REVELL   | Gerona, Spain             |
| Mrs  | J Y         | ROGERS   | Newmarket, Suffolk        |
| Mrs  | Pamela A    | SMITH    | Parkstone, Dorset         |
| Mr   | Brian F     | SOLLITT  | Melton Mowbray, Leics     |
| Dr   | Tom P       | SOPER    | Canonbury, London         |
| Mr   | Jeff        | STOKLEY  | Felmersham, Bedfordshire  |
| Miss | June M      | TROTT    | Burgess Hill, West Sussex |
| Mr   | Martin      | WADE     | Sawbridgeworth, Herts     |
| Mr   | Frederick G | WARRICK  | Whitstable, Kent          |
| Mr   | Charles Q   | WHEELER  | Shrewsbury, Shropshire    |
| Mr   | John HC     | WHICKER  | Ely, Cambridgeshire       |

#### **NON-MEMBERS:**

|     |             |                         |                       |
|-----|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr  | Bartholomew | CORALLES                | Gibraltar             |
| Mr  | Ray W       | CHAN                    | Oakville, Canada      |
| Mr  | Leon H      | DOZITHIE                | Laborie, St Lucia     |
| Mr  | John M      | DUBURY                  | Greenpoint, Australia |
| Mr  | Ricardo I   | ESCALANTE               | Belize City, Belize   |
| Mr  | Aldo        | PEROTTI                 | Sliema, Malta         |
| Mr  | Martin H    | WILLIAM                 | Castries, St Lucia    |
| Mrs | Valerie     | WORSLEY (wife of Brian) | Tidmarsh, Berkshire   |
| Mr  | Charles C   | YARDE                   | Bridgetown, Barbados  |

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 2023

The full 2023 Social Events Calendar was included with Newsletter No.95 and is also available in the "Documents" section on the Club's website at <http://www.pen-club.co.uk/>

We look forward to seeing everyone again at any of these events but please do check the Club website's Social Events Calendar for updates in case details change. In particular, would members intending to attend the Sidmouth lunch please note the request on the website from David Cawdery who is kindly organising that event this year.

A huge thanks goes to all the organisers of the 2023 events for doing so in what are often still very difficult times for host venues.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Committee Membership

Control of the Club is vested in a Committee consisting of no more than 15 members. Following approval by Members attending the 2022 AGM the following are the current members of the BIPC Committee until the 2023 AGM:

|                                       |                 |                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Club Chairman                         | Simon Culliford | 020 8788 0814                                                                |
| Club & Hon. Secretary                 | Steve Merry     | 020 8302 2393                                                                |
| Hon. Auditor                          | Andy Fair       | 01483 576945                                                                 |
| Hon. Treasurer                        | Lesley Mittins  | 01277 225780                                                                 |
| Membership Secretary                  | Paul Dennis     | 07887 240024                                                                 |
| Committee Secretary                   | Maria Heaney    | 01494 875410                                                                 |
| Social Secretary                      | Barry Streets   | 01778 570928                                                                 |
| Benevolent Fund                       | Richard Webb    | 01892 722570                                                                 |
| MSN Coordinator                       | Hilary Turner   | 020 83939215                                                                 |
| MSN Regional Rep                      | Adrian Field    | 01202 892508                                                                 |
| Welfare Rep                           | Margot Sutton   | 01628 629265                                                                 |
| Committee Member                      | Keith White     | 07783 859131                                                                 |
| Committee Member                      | Roger Wright    | 07870 357022                                                                 |
| Website Manager ( <i>ex-officio</i> ) | Steve Kitson    | <a href="mailto:steve.kitson@btinternet.com">steve.kitson@btinternet.com</a> |

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 that follows the November London lunch. Committee meetings normally take place early lunchtime on a weekday in London to allow members to avoid peak travel times.

**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 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.

The Membership Secretary would welcome all enquiries from new members satisfying the criteria at [memsecbipc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:memsecbipc@gmail.com)

### **Audited "Club" and "Benevolent Fund" 2022 Accounts**

Copies of the respective audited accounts are available under "Documents" on the Club's website at <http://www.pen-club.co.uk/>.

### **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 Richard Webb for further information. Richard's contact details are [richardwebb948@gmail.com](mailto:richardwebb948@gmail.com), telephone no. 01892-722570.

## Government "Cost of Living" support website

2023 remains a challenging year for many with the rise in the cost of living. 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. Eligibility for one State benefit sometimes also automatically makes you eligible for other benefits e.g. Council Tax reduction.

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 [http://bit.ly/BWC\\_BPsupport](http://bit.ly/BWC_BPsupport)

## 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](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)

## **NEW: Which? "My Money Health Check Tool"**

You can use their free tool to get expert advice on how to cut your living costs in seven simple steps and is accompanied by their helpful video. The tool can be found at [My Money Health Check - free Which? tool](#) and takes less **than 5 minutes** to complete and your **answers will be anonymous**.

## **UPDATE (!): Old-style postage stamps**

In 2022, the Royal Mail introduced bar-coded style postage stamps. Newsletter No.95 explained that old-style stamps without a bar-code would no longer be valid for use after 31 January 2023 (originally after 1 January) but could be exchanged at Post Offices.

Unfortunately, after the cut-off date for printing the previous Newsletter, Royal Mail further extended the deadline for using the old-style stamps until 31 July 2023. Also, rather than being able to exchange the stamps for the new-style bar-coded stamps at the Post Office it is instead necessary to obtain a "Swap Out Form" from the Post Office to be completed and sent with your old-style stamps to a Royal Mail processing centre.

Alternatively, you can print the form from the Royal Mail's website but please note there are different forms depending on the number of stamps you wish to exchange. More information can be found at [Know where your old stamps are? | Royal Mail Group Ltd](#)

## **NEW: Approx. 50 Barclays' ties collection offer**

We have been approached by the family of a recently deceased member who had a collection of approximately 50 various Barclays' ties. Although the exact contents in the collection are unknown a fellow Club member who attended the funeral was able to identify one being worn by one of the sons as that belonging to Barclays Bank of Zimbabwe Ltd. Barclays Archives have declined the offer of the collection as they already have a sizeable collection of their own. If any member would therefore be interested in the collection please let me know by, say, 30 June 2023 and I will be happy to put you in contact with the member's family.

## **Scam avoidance:**

With Office for National Statistics reports 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, 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/>.

If you have one in your area, Neighbourhood Watch Schemes 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.

## **"Confirmation of Payee" ("CoP")**

Banks and building societies must introduce the name-checking tool 'Confirmation of Payee' (CoP) by mid-2024 to help prevent bank transfer scams although the major UK banks have already done so. When sending an electronic payment banks use CoP to confirm whether the name you have entered matches the account details held by the receiving bank.

## 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 and possibly being automatically deleted before you have had chance to read them.

## 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, 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.

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.

## 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

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](mailto: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

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 have contributed their stories. Whether from home or abroad please do keep your stories, memories and experiences flowing in to John. **Please remember though that John has recently changed his email address to that shown at the top of this Newsletter.**

In the meantime, on behalf of the Committee, we look forward to seeing many of you at any of the Club's 2023 organised events.

Steve Merry

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