



BIPC Newsletter -
Number 90
Spring 2021

MEMBER NEWS AND MEMORIES

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

We start this Newsletter with two fascinating member responses to our earlier request for WWII memories.

TONY FALVEY'S widow **ANNE** has sent us a synopsis of Tony's WWII memoirs. Tony joined Barclays Bank in 1936 the year he also volunteered as a Territorial member of the Middlesex Yeomanry with whom he trained as a signals wireless operator. Being a Territorial Tony was called up six days before war was declared, went on a short leave for Christmas 1939 and that was the last time he saw his family for more than four years. He embarked for France in January 1940, travelling south on a tortuous journey by train, and route marches to Marseille and then on to Palestine.

By December Tony was with the Western Desert Force, later the Eighth Army, fighting the Italians. One day he saw a man waving a Red Cross flag and realised there were Italians wishing to surrender when towards him came a weeping Italian General, in full plumage, who handed Tony his revolver and surrendered his force to him. Things changed in 1941 when the Germans entered the fray in North Africa and for eight months Tony was shut up in the siege of Tobruk living the life of a rat, alongside rats. Hence the Germans dubbing them "The Desert Rats". When the siege was lifted Tony was posted to the OCTU in Cairo, where he was commissioned on the 18th October 1942 just in time for the El Alamein battle which started five days later. Tony was a member of the 7th Armoured Division Signals and was sent forward to establish a communications network whilst shells from both sides passed over his head. He describes the fighting all around him as "ferocious"! From El Alamein the 7th fought their way through to Medenini in Tunisia, were bogged down at El Agheila where they were constantly bombed by German Stukas, then on to Tunis, Carthage and Tarhuna. In North Africa Tony had the privilege of meeting General Montgomery and Winston Churchill, but he was soon on his way to the Sicily landings.

In September 1943 Tony participated in the Salerno battles where huge casualties were incurred as the allies landed on mainland Italy. After a spell receiving medical treatment Tony was posted back to the UK, arriving on 7 January 1944 and looking forward to a family welcome, a decent meal and sleeping in a bed at home only to find his way blocked by an ARP Warden who told him his house had recently been bombed and the family were sheltering in a school. On his 25th birthday Tony landed on the Normandy beaches, fought through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany where he once again had the unenviable task of crawling into "No Man's Land" to set up a communications network before the artillery opened fire and the infantry advanced.

When peace came, Tony was posted to Berlin, a harrowing experience with many Germans committing suicide in desperation over the hopelessness of their situation and where he had the task of trying to identify these bodies and arrange a proper burial.

Before being called up Tony had been his Barclays branch office junior charged with carrying heavy ledgers and money bags from the basement and keeping the boiler alight, but by the time the War started he had passed Part I of the Institute of Bankers examinations. Because banking was considered essential to the economic recovery of Germany, based on his pre-war "banking experience" Captain Tony Falvey was appointed to the banking sector of the Control Commission where he was allocated Land Oldenburg near Hamburg as his area of responsibility. Tony was demobbed two years after the War ended and joined Chief Foreign Branch where after an action packed war he initially found banking life rather tedious. However, there was one priceless asset at CFB as that is where Tony met Anne and they married in 1952.

DAVID SUNRAY recalls his evacuation to America under a special Government scheme.

"I was 12, when WWII was declared. Next day my entire school, St Clement Danes, moved to Oxford, sharing premises with various university colleges. We were allowed home to London occasionally, but as the Blitz intensified we had to sleep in our basement, or at a nearby tube station. Out of the blue mother said "You are being evacuated to America under the Government scheme!" Soon after, I toddled off to Glasgow with about 50 other children (including many from the Actors Orphanage being adopted by Hollywood), and it was "All Aboard" Canadian liner *Empress of Australia*, full of Canadian soldiers, many wounded, but some going to military prisons back home.

We were due to join a convoy next day but our anti-magnetic mine system was faulty. Two weeks later we were ready to sail, but no convoy was available. Being a fast liner we sailed alone with a brief destroyer escort. A few days out of Glasgow, as we were enjoying our luxurious journey, the tannoy announced "TO YOUR LIFEBOAT STATION WEARING LIFEJACKETS!" We thought it was a practice as we tumbled on deck but then we saw huge plumes of water sent into the sky behind our destroyer escort and realised it was dropping depth charges. Then the plumes turned black with oil and debris. We presumed a U-boat had been sunk, but this was not confirmed. A few more depth charges and then the destroyer circled briefly before turning for home, and we departed at top speed zigzagging our way alone to Halifax, Nova Scotia arriving ten days later. Overnight in a children's home, train to Montreal, another children's home, train to New York, month in a children's home, train to Cincinnati, into a children's home again, before meeting my wartime, absolutely wonderful American guardians in an equally wonderful city. *But that's a story in itself.* We learned later that another ship, *City of Benares*, had sailed in a convoy before us and was torpedoed with the loss of 260 lives, including 73 out of 93 children. We were told our ship was probably scheduled to have joined that convoy!"

In January 1944 **TERRY MULLOY** was watching a film at the very large Davis Theatre, Croydon when there was a horrendous explosion, lots of screaming and general chaos. Escaping through clouds of dust and falling plaster Terry later learnt a bomb had hit the theatre, but failed to explode although seven people were killed and many injured. Terry joined Dominion Colonial & Overseas in February 1950 at 29 Gracechurch Street before serving in St. Lucia, British Guiana, St. Vincent and Jamaica from where he emigrated to Canada and worked for CIBC in Toronto, Jamaica again, Barbados and New York, eventually retiring to Oakville, Ontario. Terry would be delighted to hear from former DCO friends and can be contacted at terrymulloy@icloud.com.

Editor's Note: Special thanks to Anne, David and Terry for these three memorable WWII contributions to the Newsletter.

NIGEL MOOREY now lives near Manchester. At the age of 94 he weighs 9 stone even though he still has three teaspoonfuls of sugar in his tea! Nigel's eldest son Christopher retires from the Navy next year and is currently Military Attaché in Istanbul. His daughter Sarah is Head of Group IT for Wates the Builders and his youngest son Richard teaches and practices art in Ireland.

Our request for member memories of those moments during their working lives when they thought “I am being paid for being here” has garnered a number of interesting responses.

After many years in West Africa **MIKE and SHELAGH CUMMINS** found themselves faced with the trials and tribulations of working and living in Greece. “Swimming in Corfu on the sun-drenched beach at Ermones, where Naussica found Odysseus on the shore, eating fresh fish with Greek friends at a local taverna, enjoying the island’s unique history and the enchanting town with its stunning British and Venetian architecture. Helping at the press to crush olives and then tasting the oil on hot fresh bread, walking along the promenade at Garitsa Bay bathed in that unique Corfiote pink glow and thinking *“am I really being paid to be here?* Sunday mornings in Athens reading the sports pages of the papers whilst sitting in the original Olympic Stadium, a balmy night on seats over 2,000 years old watching the Bolshoi Ballet at the Herodes Atticus theatre below the Parthenon. Lunch at a beach taverna in Marathon with the water swirling around our feet, exploring archaeological sites in Crete, snow skiing at Parnassos and pausing on the way home to ask the Oracle at Delphi *“am I really being paid to be here?* It is not surprising that, unlike West Africa, working in Greece was not designated “Dirty Service” for pension purposes!

MARK TEVERSHAM recalls Africa regional conferences in locations such as the Mashatu Game Lodge in Botswana, or Bumi Hills in Zimbabwe when discussions on bank business occasionally broke out in between sessions of game viewing, wine tasting and fishing. The views of the crystal clear turquoise waters of the Atlantic Ocean from a few thousand feet when returning to Nassau from Bahamian out island branch visits. Sumptuous lunches at the home of the Nazareth branch manager when visiting agencies in the north of Israel in the 1970s. Being obliged to spend up to 5 consecutive days during test matches entertaining customers at the Kensington Cricket Oval, Barbados in the Barclays Box which was fully stocked with rum, Banks beer, flying fish, baked chicken and macaroni pie. Mark remembers being extremely annoyed when England managed to beat the West Indies in 3 days in 2004, forcing an unscheduled early return to the office!

DAVID MARTIN recalls being asked to organize a golf match between BBI and the Dutch bank ABN. This was a long running fixture played alternate years in the UK and Holland. Our Dutch opponents always wanted to play on the best courses and this time David chose Wentworth and what an experience that was. Singles in the morning on the West Course and then following an excellent lunch, greensomes in the afternoon on the East Course. Barclays won the match and it was a memorable day for all concerned. Among those playing in the match were **NIC POTTER, MIKE WOOD, PETER WOOD, CLIFF KNOWLDEN, HOWARD BATEMAN, PETER GRAFHAM and BILL SMITH.** However, as they were being paid whilst enjoying this wonderful golfing experience did the Barclays team technically become professionals? David & Louise moved to Perth, Western Australia in 2005 where they live with all their family, including 6 grandchildren. David still plays golf twice a week, but now with the luxury of a golf cart.

At one stage **JON COPPING** worked with SWIFT in Belgium on a global outsourcing project. SWIFT put him up in a Chateau near a lake, with squash courts, a running track, free mountain bike hire and all this within walking distance of the office. There were also generous expenses and Jon remembers emailing his Barclays colleague **BOB MACE** saying *“I love this place so much I’d work here for nothing – but they are paying me”!* Jon also mentions how much he used to enjoy playing squash at 54 Lombard Street where regular partners included **DAVID HORSFORD, TONY GUNCILL, TONY KNAPP, JOHN THEVA-THASAN and CHRIS DIMMOCK.** Until quite recently Jon was still playing squash for Sevenoaks, Knole.

Whilst on a recent business trip to Nairobi **MIKE CRANFIELD's** son, Mike junior, stayed at Karen Country Club close to the infant school on the Ngong Road which he attended, and misbehaved at, back in 1971.

Mention of Rodrigues in No.89 reminded **EDRED BOWMAN** of his trip to the Island in July 1982 which coincided with a visit by Trevor Huddleston, the then Bishop of Mauritius. This was after Trevor Huddleston had been "expelled" from apartheid South Africa. Answering questions at Rodrigues College the Bishop mentioned that he was also Bishop of the Indian Ocean – and he enjoyed swimming – a comment which generated great laughter from the pupils. At the time Edred was relieving **ROGER RISDON** as Mauritius Manager and later had the pleasure of entertaining the Bishop to a lobster dinner at the Bank House prepared by **MOUSSSA** and served by **DORIS** and **JESS**.

Wanting to see the world, in 1962 **DAVID LUND** joined DCO, but when **MISS GILLESPIE** of Staff Travel later handed him tickets to Benghazi, Libya David had to check the atlas to see just where he was going. The destination turned out to be a culture shock that took some getting used to. The "politics" of the situation became all too real on 5 June 1967 when the "Six Day War" broke out between Israel and the Arab States of Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Although Libya was not directly involved, rioting mobs soon targeted all the Jewish businesses and the British Army decided to take around 3,000 expatriates into the D'aosta Barracks for their safety, although the camp was designed to hold only 400. The army then asked Barclays to set up a bank as both the NAAFI and the camp required what turned out to be unique financial services. The "strong-room" was stocked with funds from those who carried spare cash and once sufficient funds had been raised the new branch was able to start cashing cheques. Almost all transactions were written on blank pieces of paper and they covered every bank in town. After six days the staff were allowed back into Benghazi and the thousands of pieces of paper were then allocated to numerous banks, branches and accounts. When the dust had settled **JOHN DELF, EM LLOYD-DAVIES, ANNE SQUIRREL, ARTHUR McCALLEF, DOUG HOPTON, DICK CLARKE, ROBBIE SEWELL, PETER TOPPING and DAVID LUND** set about balancing the books. There was eventually a difference of only £10.00 (short) and banking returned to something like Libya normal, that is until the Gaddafi coup!

The late **PETER HEAVENS** assembled an anthology of numerous stories and anecdotes of events that were experienced by Barclays Bank DCO staff and their families who were working in Nigeria around the time of the Biafra Civil War (1967-70). **DARRELL BARNES** featured a number of those stories in ***All In A Day's Work*** published in August 2018, copies of which are still available, price £15.50 incl. P&P, via the link <https://goo.gl/VwDtp7> or by contacting Darrell Barnes (details below). However, the Biafra stories were so remarkable that Darrell has embarked upon "***Barclays Bank DCO in the Nigerian Civil War***", a project which seeks to weave these stories into the events of the time as recorded in the press and elsewhere. **Darrell would particularly welcome hearing from members who can recall, admittedly 50 years on, how Barclays was run in Biafra during the war period when expatriate staff were withdrawn from the area.** The present Covid pandemic has severely limited Darrell's ability to conduct research in the British Library and other archives so there is as yet no publication date even faintly on the horizon. However, the issue of copyright has arisen. Darrell has been able to obtain consent to publish from a number of contributors to the earlier works but there is a difficulty over the copyright of work by former colleagues who are no longer with us. Therefore, if any members are able to put Darrell in touch with the representatives of the late **LAURIE COOLEY, EILEEN SKEVINGTON, GEOFF SLAYTON and PETER HEAVENS** then Darrell would be pleased to hear from them and eternally grateful - email darrellmpbarnes@gmail.com Tel: 020 8785 6724 M: 07905 190240.

Note – Members may have seen that on Monday 5 April 2021 a heavily armed group from the "People of Biafra Movement" arrived in pickup trucks and buses, stormed the Owerri Custodial Centre and released 1,800 prisoners. Some internal conflicts never seem to end, they just go to sleep, reawakening at a later date.

THE EDITOR THANKS EVERYONE WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS NEWSLETTER AND WILL BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE NEWS & MEMORIES FROM MEMBERS, AT ANY TIME BUT THE SOONER THE BETTER, FOR NEWSLETTER NO. 91 either by e-mail to bennetttn6@btinternet.com (please 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.

CLUB NEWS Spring 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of Club News.

First and foremost, with the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccination programme we hope that all members will have received at least their first jab and we can all enjoy some form of the "new normal" life in the coming months including the Club's Social Events, more of which below.

MEMBERSHIP

We are delighted to welcome the following new Members and Associate members who have joined the Club since the last Newsletter No.89

At 30 April 2021 the Club had 1,404 members - 1,234 Full and 170 Associate

NEW MEMBERS:

Mr Paul	GATTY	Spalding, Lincs.
Mr Alistair	DOWLMAN	Reading, Berks

ASSOCIATE:

Mrs Vivienne	FORD	Kendal, Cumbria
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IN MEMORIAM:

Mrs Vaneshriben D	AMIN	Colliers Wood, London
Mr Malcolm M	BOYCE	Bournemouth, Dorset
Mrs E	BROOKES	Poole, Dorset
Mr Roy R	BURTON	St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex
Mr Bill	CANN	Charminster, Dorset
Mrs Beryl D	DORRITY	Leyburn, North Yorkshire
Mrs MM	FIELDEN	Eastbourne, East Sussex
Mrs AR	HAY	Pontyclun, Wales
Miss Daphne C	HONEYWOOD	Sidcup, Kent
Mrs Sheila J	LEONARD	Streatham, London
Miss Edith M	NEAL	Colchester, Essex
Mr Alan R	PAUL	Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex
Mr Steve J	PROCTOR	Solihull, West Midlands
Mr NC	SAWYER	Solihull, West Midlands
Mr VC	VARU	Ilford, Essex
Mr LH	WILSON	Petts Wood, Kent

NON-MEMBERS:

Mrs	Gwendolyn C	ACKRILL	Trinidad & Tobago
Mr	Augustin	AGDOMAR	Castries, St Lucia
Mr	Abdulrasul G	BHOJANI	Gaborone, Botswana
Mr	Victor A	EUDOXIE	St Lucia, West Indies
Mr	Claude G	HENRIQUES	Canada
Mr	Bernard	ROGERS	Unknown
Mr	Brian C	SAMLALSINGH	Trinidad & Tobago
Mrs	Cheryl F	YONG	Guyana

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/>

In NL89, I highlighted the UK government's "*OneStop*" service usually offered when registering a death (or you can register online afterwards) that automatically handles most, if not all, state and local government-related matters e.g. State pensions, benefits, Council Tax, etc. In particular, it also 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. The service is called "*Tell Us Once*" more information about which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/after-a-death/organisations-you-need-to-contact-and-tell-us-once>

SOCIAL

SOCIAL CALENDAR 2021

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 outbreak meant we had to cancel all of the organised events on the 2020 Social Calendar and also those in the first half of 2021. We anticipated that would have a huge and direct financial impact on the Annual Grant we receive from the Bank in 2021 and, possibly 2022 although the Club's accounts remain in a prudently healthy state. Attendances at the previous year's organised events are by far the largest contributor of the three elements used to calculate the Annual Grant we receive. However, we are pleased to confirm that after discussing the impact of Covid with all the pension clubs the Bank has confirmed they will fund all the clubs at the same level as in 2020.

We know many members are keen for as many as possible of the 2021 social events to be held. Following the government's "Roadmap" for the lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions the Committee has discussed which of the Club's usual social events it would be practical to hold in the second half of 2021. The full 2021 Social Events Calendar is included with this Newsletter and also available on the Club's website at <http://www.pen-club.co.uk/MyDocs.asp>

In summary, we hope 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, tickets will be on a strictly first-come-first-served basis;
- the Ladies lunch has been re-arranged for Friday, 10 December 2021 at the usual venue.

Importantly, we are 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 mandatory.

Inevitably at this stage, events cannot be guaranteed or how they might be hosted on matters such as masks, social distancing and bar service. It is, of course, also recognised that some Club members may not feel comfortable yet 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 further updates in case details change.

The invitation for the Bournemouth lunch is included with this Newsletter and those for the Ladies Lunch and the Club's London Autumn Lunch and AGM will be included with the Autumn Newsletter due to be sent to members in September. Invitations for the other events will be sent out in due course by the respective event organiser.

Windsor Park Picnic

Andy Fair writes:

It is with regret that we have had to take the decision not to go ahead with the Windsor Park Picnic and it seems unlikely that it will happen again.

The car park we used to access Valley Gardens very close to our picnic area has now been closed to the public and is for staff use only. With no other car parks nearby we would have had to be in the main car park in Savill Gardens.

The Park Authority offered us an alternative area near to the main building complex with its restaurant, gift shop, toilets etc but this had no character being just an expanse of lawn and, more importantly, no trees to provide shade. While car parking is available, volumes of cars can be significant during school holidays and late comers might have had to walk considerable distances to reach our reserved area, not ideal. In general, the new facilities offered do not match up to what we had become used to.

Reluctantly, Sonia Smith and I have therefore come to the conclusion to not go ahead. I would like, on behalf of everyone in the Club, to say a BIG thank you to Sonia and her late husband John for all the hard work they put in organising this very popular event over the past 20 years or so. It was always a big success with many attendees enjoying a very special atmosphere. It will be missed in our Social Calendar.

ADMINISTRATION

Annual General Meeting 2021

As explained in NL89, following the decision to cancel the 2020 AGM all Committee members agreed to continue to serve until we could hopefully convene the 2021 AGM in November 2021.

We are pleased to confirm that it is intended that the 2021 AGM will go ahead on Tuesday, 9 November 2021 at our usual venue, the Union Jack Club, London. The AGM provides an important opportunity for Club members to bring issues to the attention of the Committee and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

Committee Membership

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 also 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 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.

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. Although during the Covid-19 outbreak we have successfully held virtual meetings using PC-based Zoom tele-conferencing from members' own homes we hope to resume "face-to-face" meetings in September.

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

Even if new members are unable to attend any of the Club's organised events they would still benefit from receiving copies of, and submit articles for, the Club Newsletters and have access to the various helpful information on the Club website, etc.

Unaudited "Club" and "Benevolent Fund" 2020 Accounts

Copies of the respective unaudited accounts were circulated with the NL89 and available on the Club's website. The current Covid-19 restrictions and social distancing guidelines continue to delay the usual audit of both the above accounts although it is hoped the gradual lifting of restrictions will allow the audit to be completed over the coming months. Copies of the audited accounts will be made available on the website as soon as their audits can be completed.

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, 01892 722570) or any member of the Committee.

Pensions – Barclays Bank Widows Fund

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 with BBUKRF to ensure the following advice 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

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

A report by 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. It is therefore never too late to find out whether you could be missing out. Perhaps you're unaware of your eligibility for claiming benefits or maybe you're unsure where to start.

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 to appeal;
- support you in completing application forms; and/or
- even liaise with other organisations on your behalf.

As an example, in the last Newsletter, I highlighted "**Susan's Story**" reported in **Connection magazine** and 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 still available under "News & Information" 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

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

Don't forget to check out the next edition of "Connection" magazine (Issue 78, available sometime in Summer 2021) 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:

In recent Newsletters, I have highlighted various types of scams perpetrated by criminals to trick unsuspecting customers into parting with personal information and/or their money. It is reassuring though 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.

Barclays own advice to its customers can be found at <https://www.barclays.co.uk/digisafe/> although it is not immune. Which? magazine recently 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

If you have one in your area, **Neighbourhood Watch groups** continue to provide 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 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, members should contact Barclays Willsafe, PO Box 6255, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 1NT, Telephone: 01606 313000. Guidance can also be found on the Club's website under "Members Support".

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.

Members generally change their email address less often than their home address, if at all. It is very important members keep us informed when changes do occur. If you do change your email address at any time please do 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.

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.

They claimed "*the sun never set on the British Empire*" well, likewise, it probably never did on the "DCO/BBI empire" either meaning there must be many more tales to tell from home or abroad so please keep your stories, memories and experiences flowing in to John.

On behalf of the Committee please continue to keep safe.

Steve Merry

Hon Secretary, BIPC

11 Farwell Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4LH

Home: 020 8302 2393

honsecbipc@gmail.com