



# MARTINS BANK

Website: [www.martinsbank.co.uk](http://www.martinsbank.co.uk)

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**CHAIRMAN:** Bernard Lovewell: **TREASURER:** Robert Bunn

**WELFARE OFFICER:** Susan Sutcliffe



## WE HAD PLANNED FOR TWO BUT FINISHED WITH FIVE!

So what did you think about the 'Remembrance Lunches' and do about our new (actually old) font? Please let me have your thoughts so that they can be included in the next Newsletter.

Having been granted additional funding by Barclays to enable us to remember our takeover we wanted to spread the net as wide as possible so that all former members of staff could, should they wish and be able to, attend a Lunch to remember 12<sup>th</sup> December 1969. Originally, having only planned for two lunches (London and Liverpool) we were pleased to be approached by members in Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester asking if their lunches could be subsidised as their members were unable to travel to either of the main locations.

The first of the 'Anniversary Lunches' was arranged by Chris Broomhall and Carol Moore and took place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October when 21 former colleagues met at the Burlington Hotel in Birmingham with our Treasurer, Robert Bunn, travelling down from Pinner as the 'Head Office' representative.

The second 'Anniversary Lunch' was arranged by David Baxter and was held at 'The Wheatley Arms', Ben Rhydding, Ilkley on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, which I attended as Secretary of the Club, whilst the third 'Anniversary Lunch' was arranged by George Hamilton and took place at The Pinewood, Wilmslow, Cheshire, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

The two original Anniversary Lunches took were held at The Union Jack Club (UJC) in London for which we are eternally grateful to Arthur Rowe who, as a UJC member, was able to save a substantial amount for our Club's funds by

booking the function room on our behalf. The unenviable task of organising the London and Liverpool Lunches once again fell at the feet of Ken Quirk and his wife, who provided the beautifully hand-written place names.

One of the great legacies which has resulted from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunches is that contact has been re-established with and by many of our former colleagues, some of whom have also become members.

### 12<sup>th</sup> December 1969 Memorabilia

Although a small stock of the commemorative ties and scarves is held, with Christmas potentially causing both printing and distribution problems, this edition of the Newsletter is being printed in two sections with a '50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunches supplement' being printed later. Coasters are a completely different animal though and are not subject to the same volume restrictions as the ties and scarves. My contact details are in the header of the Newsletter and the order form for coasters can be found on the back page of this issue.



To date, almost 600 coasters have already been sold to satisfied purchasers. Should you wish to purchase some, I would appreciate it if you would post your Order Form (on Page 3) to arrive with me no later than 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and look forward to receiving yours in the near future.



**Kathleen (Kitty) Bryon** (On 13 January 2018 aged 97).

The following information was received from Paul Wiscombe, (Kitty's nephew) as previously published.

*Although secretary to one of the directors, perhaps more interestingly, from your perspective, she was the archivist at the Lombard Street branch. Her greatest find, which hit the national press, was uncovering an original hand written manuscript by Lord Byron of his famous poem Child Harold which was first published in 1812.*

Our recent house move gave me time to check the contents of the files which I had inherited from Ros Edwards in which I discovered some foolscap typewritten pages which appear to have been produced by 'Kitty' and which provided an insight into the day-to-day workings of our bank and which I feel certain will bring back many happy memories of how banking used to be and will feature in forthcoming editions.

It also brought the following photograph of the Senior Training Course, in the Spring of 1965 (Names supplied by Jonathan Snowden).



**Back row (left to right):** H. Halstead (Manager, Morecambe), N. E. Blake (Pro Manager, Formby), P. Little (Pro Manager, Brighton), G. R. Taylor (Manager, Jarrow), D. J. Hill (Inspector, London District Office), H. A. Robinson (Manager, Bournemouth), H. B. Pettier (Manager, Redcar), H. F. Smith (Deputy Manager, Heywoods), A. N. Meyer (Clerk-in-Charge, Fallowfield), J. S. Ford (Pro Manager, Canterbury)

**Middle row:** G. Sharpe (Clerk-in-Charge, University, Sheffield), A. F. Sharp (Manager, Norwich), E. P. Gudgin (Pro Manager, Income Tax Department, Head Office), E. B. Thorington (Manager, Prenton), C. T. Norman-Butler (Manager, Waterloo Place), M. Henderson (Manager, Bridgwater), M. Haigh (Assistant Manager, Bolton), K. R. Chance (Manager, Portland Street), D. M. Douglas (Manager, Castleford) **Front row:** D. E. Lewis (Assistant Manager, Walsall), F. J. Lyons (South Western District Office), J. B. Cullen (Manager, Miles Platting), A. J. Irving (Manager, Cloughton Village), A. L. S. Watson (Assistant Manager, Middlesbrough), A. W. Sheldrick (Manager, Moorgate), E. B. Sanderson (Inspector, North Eastern District Office), C. B. Heaton (Manager, Wednesbury), R. F. Hopwood (Assistant Manager, Keighley)

## Pensioners' Clubs National Forum

Originally held on an annual basis attended by the Chairman and/or another Board Member, the Forum was changed to a biennial event in 2017. It would appear from the comments received on 27<sup>th</sup> September that it will no longer occur. You may be able to remember that both Bernard Lovewell and I believed that the Forum in the 2017 format was a waste of time and that appears to be the same as that held by the majority of Clubs which responded as can be seen by Sharon McSweeney's comments, which follow:

*I am writing with details of the feedback we received when we recently asked you questions about the Pensioners' Clubs National Forum.*

*Firstly, I would like to thank those of you who responded with your thoughts. Your frank and honest input was very much appreciated. We received a response from around half of the Pensioners' Clubs.*

*The majority of Clubs said they were dissatisfied with the format used at the last National Forum.*

*In particular they expressed a desire to hear directly from senior figures in the bank and the trustee chairman of the Barclays Bank UK Retirement Fund (the UKRF), and saw this as a minimum requirement for a successful event.*

*Unfortunately, we are not able to provide you with this access as part of a Pensioners' Clubs Forum. We would like to remind you of the existing channels for communication with the Bank and UKRF that are available to you:*

- *Those pensioners who are shareholders of Barclays can attend the AGM and submit questions to the bank's leaders for response. The bank continues to fund the costs of producing and publishing connection magazine twice a year for UKRF pensioners, which features news from Barclays such as commentary on the annual results and various initiatives within the bank.*
- *The UKRF Trustee keeps you updated with news and information on matters relating to the UKRF such as the current funding position in the annual newsletter, and will continue to do so.*

*As a result of the feedback received and time involved, we have taken the decision not to hold a Pensioners' Clubs National Forum in 2019. Instead, we would like to trial other ways of engaging with Club members. Please let us know if you would be interested in your Club being part of a new pilot approach.*

*Kind regards,  
Sharon McSweeney.*

So, there we have it. Despite dissatisfaction

being expressed not only by ourselves but also by our fellow Clubs that's it! However, I have asked for our Club to be added to the 'pilot approach' group but, to date have heard nothing. We can only live in eternal hope that the project will happen sometime in the future.

**ARRIVALS**

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| William Alderton | Joan Jones       |
| Alan Appleton    | Len Jones        |
| Ann Ashcroft     | Sandra Jones     |
| Alan Blackburn   | Veronica Muitt   |
| Erica Bowden     | Susan Nicholas   |
| Mike Cadwallader | Joan Rigby       |
| Mike Carter      | William JF de Sa |
| Roy Davis        | Myra Sutton      |
| Allan J Dixon    | Patricia Vaughan |

Joan Gray  
John Harris  
Peter Hole

Sandra Wallace  
Michael Widdup  
Brian Williams

*Although I have attempted to ensure that I have included every new member, please don't hesitate to contact me should I have omitted anyone from this or previous lists.*

**DEPARTURES**

**David Hall** 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017  
**Carole Bickley** April 2019  
**Ronald Moore** 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 Aged 97

**Gone Missing**

Delivery of three of our last Newsletters failed and they were returned with the following answers:

**Mrs AK Bromley of Woking:** *Not at this address* and **Mr NR Leigh of Cobham:** *Unknown at this address.* **Mr. G Litherland of Bolton:** *No longer at this address.* **Can anyone assist us in tracing these members?**

**REMEMBER, REMEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER (1969)**

**WITH ONE (OR MORE) OF OUR UNIQUE**

**500 MILLION YEARS-OLD WELSH SLATE COASTERS**

Initially, the coasters were only available to those of you who attended one of our Remembrance Lunches because of the cost of mailing and the fact that until we ordered the first batch we didn't know how much they would weigh. They have also been offered to all Grasshopper Club members for whom we hold email addresses and are unable to attend one of the Lunches. We are now able to provide them to all former members of Martins Bank staff by mail order at a price of £1.50 per coaster **plus postage and packing**. As you have seen, the coasters commemorate 12<sup>th</sup> December 1969 and feature the Martins Bank Coat of Arms.

Should you wish to place an order for one or more coaster(s) then simply complete the following form and **return it to me at the address on the front page of this Newsletter** with your cheque for the value of your purchase plus postage.



**COASTER ORDER FORM**

Dear Dave,  
I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ coasters for which I enclose my cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (being \_\_\_\_\_ x £1.50) **plus the appropriate Postage and Packing** payable to **The Grasshopper Pensioners' Club**

NAME: ..... ADDRESS: .....

..... POST CODE: .....

**POSTAGE & PACKING RATES PER NUMBER OF COASTERS ORDERED:**

| No. | COST    |
|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|---------|
| 1   | £1.00 | 2   | £1.50 | 3   | £1.50 | 4   | £1.50 | 5   | £2.00 | 6   | £2.00 | 7+  | CONTACT |

Please return your order form and completed cheque to me at:  
Lower Windle,  
Windle Royd Lane,  
Warley,  
Halifax,  
HX2 7LY.

**N.B. This is our new address following our return to Yorkshire from deepest West Sussex**

## MORE MEMORIES

In early November, the following email arrived in my inbox which I believe is worthy of being shared with you as it illustrates just how great an impression, not only has Martins Bank had on ourselves as former staff but also with others.

*Dear Dave, Although I am not a Grasshopper Pensioner, I did work at Martins Bank for three months at the end of 1959 on an internship basis; one month in the Victoria Street, London SW1 branch (very long time closed) and two months in the Securities Department at 68 Lombard Street. I was not enrolled as an employee, but I seem to remember that I did get a 3 shilling luncheon voucher a day, which I much appreciated. I am a member of the Martin family; the last one alive that can claim any connection with Martins Bank other than as a bank account-holder!*

*By chance last week, I came across a small notice on my website screen labelled Martins Bank, so I clicked and found coverage about your Grasshoppers Club and in particular about your Old Welsh Slate Coasters. I remember that time of December 1969, as I was on the corporate finance side of Cazenove & Co who acted as the corporate stockbrokers to Martins*

*Bank and it fell to me to process through the acted as the corporate stockbrokers to Martins London Stock Exchange's Quotations Department the draft Merger documents which were duly sent out to the Martins' shareholders in 1968 and approved. I remember having a nostalgic tear in my eye, feeling that I was letting down my family history by conniving with the Barclays merger. I also remember that the Parliamentary approval process took a further year to go through to obtain the relevant banking law Consent.*

*Do you accept a Barclays cheque or should I obtain a bankers' draft??!*  
*My family remain very touched by the strong bonds of friendship and loyalty generated by the surviving Martins Staff members through your Association.*

*The Martins branches were always so friendly and welcoming, even after the merger. Whenever I used to cash a cheque in a branch (before and after the merger), I often got an extra word of welcome because of my name connection which the tellers seemed to recognise.*

*With kind regards,  
Robin (Robert) Holland-Martin*

## FINALLY, ON BEHALF of THE COMMITTEE of THE GRASSHOPPER PENSIONERS' CLUB

We hope that all of our members enjoyed a Happy Christmas and wish you all a Healthy 2020 and look forward to seeing both old and new members again in the near future.



*© Jonathan Snowden*

Please feel free to continue to spread the word that *'we are still alive and kicking'*, even after 50 years have passed, and we hope and trust that many more of our former colleagues will become members of this elite Club in the future.