

THE GRASSHOPPER PENSIONERS' CLUB



**MARTINS
BANK**

Website: www.martinsbank.co.uk

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TREASURER: Alan Thomond

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**IN THIS EDITION
MORE MEMORABILIA
FUTURE LUNCHES
HEAD OFFICE BUILDING UPDATE**

MEMORIES OF REG BYWELL and DERYK INGHAM

REG BYWELL

Following the recent death of Reg Bywell, aged 98, (right), I was contacted by **Ralph Roberts** (left), who was storing Reg's Martins Bank sign to see if it was wanted by anyone. I was aware that Jonathan had at



least one sign in his archive and asked **Sam Lawson Johnston**, one of the founding partners of **Kinrise**, if they would like it for their future Water Street archive, which he accepted. However, I had forgotten that I should never assume anything and, hadn't realised was that the sign could/would be one of the 'new' **Perspex** signs.

Although Reg finished his Martins' career as Manager of our **Shirley** branch, he was first employed at our **Castle Street (Adelphi Bank) Liverpool** branch (above right)* in 1940 before joining the forces in 1942 and returning to **Smithdown Road** in 1946 when he was



demobbed. Reg successfully completed his Institute Examinations in 1948 whilst at Smithdown Road where his 'Institute' exam success was rapidly followed by his Chartered Institute of Secretaries Final Examination in December 1949.

1950 saw Reg moving south to **Birmingham Markets** branch following which he was back in the 'forces' for two years between 1951 and 1953. (Was this, **National Service**, following a stint in the forces during World War II a regular occurrence in those days?).

Despite his Liverpool roots, Reg stayed in the Midlands for the remainder of his career, being transferred to **Hanley** following his National Service, then on to **West Bromwich** before his first 'Appointment' at **Newcastle under Lyme** in 1959, where Reg was pictured in 1965 when our Magazine visited the branch. Leaving **Newcastle under Lyme** in 1967, Reg made his final career move when he was promoted to Manager of **Shirley** branch.

DERYK INGHAM

Similarly, following the death of his mother, Kathleen, **Ralph Ingham** (Deryk's and Kathleen's eldest son) offered me Deryk's 'Appointment Letters', which I subsequently offered to **Kinrise**, which were also gratefully accepted.

In his first letter, dated 14th May 1962, Deryk's first 'Appointment' was as 'Pro Manager' at **Aintree** branch in which **Ian Buchanan** (District General Manager) advised him that, from 1st July, his annual salary would



be increased to £1,320 per annum (how times have changed). Just short of spending three years in



L to R: Peter Aynsley, Jessica Grimshaw, Jack Dixon, June Tabarn, Ian Johnson, Deryk Ingham, Pat Hart, George Shaw, Diane Powell, and John Quirk.

(With thanks to Peter Aynsley for the above photograph) his role at Aintree branch, where Deryk is caught in the above photograph on the departure of John Quirk to Liverpool's Garston branch in 1963. On 17th April 1965, Deryk was appointed Assistant Manager of Keighley branch, from 1st May on an annual salary of £1,750, *less £10 per annum in respect of his Death Benefit Fund membership*. He was also given a discretionary lending limit of £750 *'up to which you can make advances to any one customer without previous reference to District Office.'* *'You will, of course, understand that this power is to be cautiously used, especially in cases not to be covered by security.'* Applying inflation since 1965, Deryk's £750 discretionary limit would be £16,140 today.

I first met Deryk in January 1966 when I walked through the doors of 77 North Street, Keighley branch at 9.30 am, for my first job interview. Two hours later I was in Barclays' 61 North Street, Keighley branch waiting for another interview.

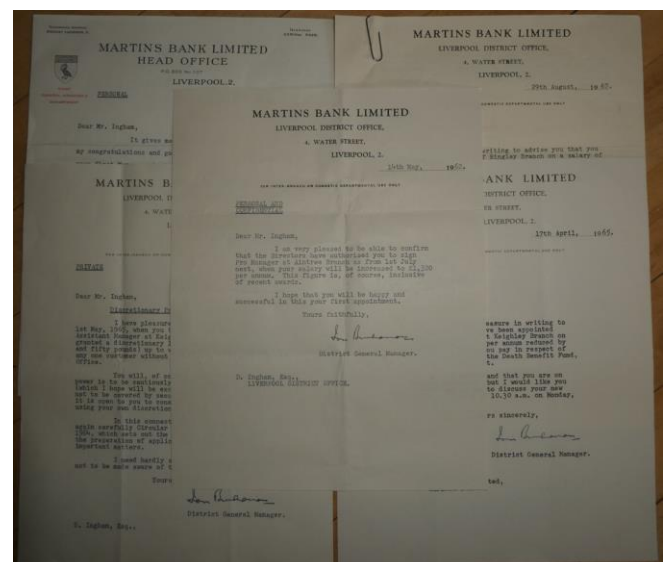
Having waited for twenty minutes, I was finally ushered into the manager's office and, after shaking hands I was asked if I had applied for jobs elsewhere, to which my response was: 'Yes', followed by 'Martins'. *'And, first impressions Mr Baldwin, which do you prefer?'* came the next question, to which I responded: 'Martins'. *'Well, if you are unsuccessful with Martins, call me and I'll see what I can do,'* came the reply. And that was it. I had just experienced what must have been one of the shortest job interviews on record.

It was not only the different atmosphere in 77 North Street (friendly and vibrant) compared with Barclays, but the manner in which I was greeted by Deryk. 6 months later, after my Water Street interview, I rang the bell of 77 North Street, Keighley branch to start my banking career.

Then the real work started (The Institute of Bankers Examinations). During his lunch hour, Deryk used to call junior staff, into his office to ask questions on the various subjects being studied. Who would do such a thing today (even if the Institute examinations still exist)?

Onwards and upwards! Another letter from Ian Buchanan dated 24th August 1967 advised Deryk that he had been appointed Manager of Bingley branch, from 1st January 1968, on a salary of £2,375 per annum with a Discretionary Limit of £2,000 and that he could also run his own 'Insurance Agency' with the reminder that: *'we prefer Managers to take Agencies with Insurance Companies who maintain important connections with us.'*

Deryk's 'Appointment Letters' can be seen below and will be safely stored for future reference:



Deryk's fellow colleagues during his time in Liverpool District Office follow, some of whom you might remember



DG Telfer



WJ Hutton



JR Hullock



W.G. Morris



Brian Pearse



Colin Harris



E.G. Shaw



C.M. Summersgill



A.B. Pitts



Mick McClay

Some of Deryk's former colleagues during his time in Liverpool District Office. Memories of your time in District Office would be appreciated.



Deryk Ingham

AN ARTICLE FROM JONATHAN SNOWDEN

A new dawn at 4 Water Street...

<https://kinrise.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c96aee6d2815f539c0294c1fe&id=3919843712&e=a0d09c5977>

The news that 4 Water Street, Head Office of the modern-day Martins Bank Limited had been acquired by **Kinrise** has come as a great relief to all who want to see this fabulous **Grade II*** Listed Building loved and in use once more. The ethos of **Kinrise** is literally to enable communities to rise again, and through a clever re-imagining and sympathetic process, the company breathes new life into buildings that might otherwise remain abandoned or forgotten. In order to achieve their vision for the Martins Bank Building, **Kinrise** are working steadily towards the creation of what they refer to as "A hybrid mix of work, social and restaurant space". This must be a perfect fit for a building which from its completion in 1932 let out its office space across eight floors to businesses large and small.

Grab your skates

Take a final tour around the vaults, banking hall and board room of Martins Bank Building before our renovation begins. We're excited to start bringing our plans to life this summer. Transforming this historic jewel into a hybrid mix of work, social and restaurant spaces.

Equally important is the continued provision of a public space, and key to this, as ever will be the magnificent banking hall with its horseshoe counter,

breath-taking mezzanine galleries and futuristic system of natural lighting. **The Grasshopper Pensioners' Club** and **Martins Bank Archive** are both proud and pleased to have been consulted about the restoration of **4 Water Street**, and both look forward to being able to help **Kinrise** achieve its worthy goal, restoring not only one of the most historic buildings in Liverpool, but also the affection and pride held for it by the people of the City. Click the image here to take one last tour of the building before the magic begins, and watch this space over the coming months, as we will make sure you don't miss a moment of this exciting project!

And, once again, we must thank **Kinrise** for their 'colourised' photograph of **'The Horseshoe'**.



DEATH NOTICES and OBITUARIES

- Bywell, Reg** on aged 98
- Thorne, Margaret** nee **Oels**, on 28th April
- Peters, John C T** on 6th June

MARGARET THORNE (nee Oels)

Margaret Oels joined Martins in 1955 as a Secretary at **Bruton Street** branch before meeting Michael at **117 Victoria Street** branch three years later, when he started work at the branch as the new 'office junior'. Although they started 'going out' and became engaged, under Martins' Rules at the time, they were not permitted to marry until Michael was 24 and had been married for 57 years at the time of Margaret's death on 28th April this year. During her Martins days, Margaret worked as the Manager's Secretary at various branches including: **Sloane Street, Westminster, Garrick Street** and **Tothill Street**, marrying Michael in 1964. *Martins Bank Magazine* mentions Margaret on the occasion of the retirement of Tothill Street's Manager: *while Mrs Ellis was*

presented with a bouquet by Mrs Margaret Thorne.

JOHN T. C. PETERS

It is with great regret that I have to tell you that John died on Monday 6th June.

As almost all of John's former London-based colleagues will know, John suffered for many years from a muscle-wasting illness which severely limited his mobility. Nevertheless, he always took part in everyday activities with enthusiasm and never failed to attend any leisure meetings with his friends. John was an active supporter of this Club and will be greatly missed. He was enlisted into the Army Pay Corps during his National Service and attached to the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment and served in Austria and Cyprus. The Austrian part could have been considered relatively cushy, but in Cyprus EOKA made it very difficult for a pay clerk paying wages to outlying bases on the island, and he was therefore always accompanied by an armed escort. However, John did enjoy his National Service with the Regiment and always continued to attend their annual Commemoration Service at St. Paul's Cathedral.

After being demobbed, John returned to the Bank, and was posted to **Oxford Circus** branch, where he made many friends. The branch was very lively, and many after work activities were arranged, usually involving snooker and alcohol.

Being in the heart of the West End, in the "swinging sixties", a fairly good time was had by all. In-fact, the ex-**Oxford Circus** staff always refer to these times with the best of memories, and a hard core of about a dozen staff kept monthly meetings up for years after, with John always at the centre. John was transferred to Staff Department in the mid-sixties, working under **Frank Belcher**, and it is through there that he got to know so many Martins people. Later, after Barclays merger, he was posted to **Gracechurch Street** where, amongst his other duties, he edited the in house and district magazine. He became very involved in City affairs, particularly the City of London Committee examining building and planning applications. He was also involved in the ACCESS group,



which was a City committee looking at ways to make areas and buildings more accessible to physically impaired people. For his work in this field, in September 1985, he was granted the honour of being made a Freeman of the City of London. (below left)

LONDON, LIVERPOOL and OTHER LUNCHES

Reservation forms for both of our November and December Lunches are enclosed with this Newsletter and **must be returned to Ken Quirk no later than 31st October** to ensure that you will be able to attend either or both Lunches.

MANCHESTER LUNCH

The lunch will be held on **Wednesday 7th December** at the **Pinewood Wilmslow Hotel**
Contact George Hamilton:
(georgehamilton57@gmail.com)

for more details but we will be subsidising the lunch to ensure that the cost for all attending will be £20.

NORTHERN LUNCH

Our '**Northern Lunch**' will be held in **BINGLEY** on **Wednesday 7th December** and the Reservation Form for this Lunch will be circulated with our September Newsletter, since the Oakwood Hall have yet to decide on their December menu. However, if you wish to attend, in order to **ascertain numbers, can I ask those of you who are interested in attending to make contact with me** by whatever means is easiest for you?

MARTINS MEMORABILIA

If you have any Martins memorabilia of which you need to dispose, could I ask you to initially contact Jonathan Snowden or me, as central points of contact, so that we can liaise with those parties who might be interested in their preservation.

RECRUITMENT

Although it is a sad fact of life, given the age of our current and potential members, I continue to believe that there must be more '**Martians**' out there who would like to become members of our Club. I'm certain that our current members must know some of their former colleagues who have yet to '**sign up**' as members of our Club.

MISSING BRANCH PHOTOGRAPHS

If you have visited our website at all, you might have noticed that there are some branches for which we have no photographs. Can you help

Jonathan in his continuing search to discover photographs of these branches?

Recently discovered photographs are of two of our Staffordshire branches 'in the raw' as opposed to 'sanitised' images and we are currently attempting to obtain copies for our website.

The first is of our **Hanley** branch which was prominently positioned at **11 Market Square Hanley**. Our Magazine staff visited Hanley in 1965 and commented: *We visited Hanley Branch which has to be seen to be believed. Since we worked there on relief in 1937 an adjoining shop has been taken in and every floor above is more than fully occupied.*



The photographs (above and cropped below left)



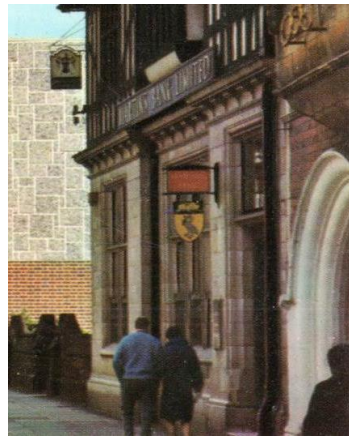
would appear to have been taken before the branch was extended during which its windows were also replaced, as evidenced by the photograph provided by Barclays (below) can attest.

Sadly, the branch was demolished in 1988 to make space for Hanley's new shopping centre.



The second, recently discovered, photograph is of our **Stafford** branch which was housed in a beautiful 'Mock Tudor' building and was

Summer Edition 2022 (accidentally?)



part-captured (and part-cropped, left) for 'Dennis Postcards'. The only other photographs of Stafford branch that we had, until now, were of it in Barclays' days. We are currently in the process of



obtaining a high-definition image of this view of the branch from Staffordshire Archives & Heritage Service. From the lack of traffic and the dress of the people in the photograph, it would appear that it was taken during the 1950s.

DO YOU HAVE ANY MEMORIES OF YOUR TIME WORKING FOR MARTINS?

Or did you work at Hanley or Stafford branches?

If you have any memories that you would like to share, then please let me know so that they can be published for our members.

OUR 55TH ANNIVERSARY 'REMEMBRANCE LUNCH'

WHAT! You might say. Well, it's never too early to start thinking about it and we have.

WHY? Because, by **12th December 2024**, **Kinrise** hope to have completed the renovation of our former **Head Office Building** and what better location for us to remember the Bank that we loved and for which working was a pleasure. Before 2024, **Kinrise** will have identified a restaurant partner and, although that is some time in the future, our request to reserve the restaurant for the next 'Remembrance Lunch' has been noted.

KINRISE

So, make a note in your diaries and we hope to see as many of you as possible at the Lunch. With this in mind, and although we have no idea of what the cost might be, we intend to manage our funds to ensure that our members will not have to pay an excessive amount to enjoy the experience.

MOBILE BRANCH MEMORIES

In 1961, our member, Julian Taylor, was fortunate to have been selected to work as a cashier in one of our mobile branches. Following a request for information about our mobile branches from Cal Taylor of Kinrise, I contacted Julian, who was happy to provide copies of his personal archive of his time 'on the road' during the summer of 1961, which makes extremely interesting reading. First, an alphabetical schedule of Shows and Exhibitions at which we would be represented. Then, the essentials; details of the Hotel, and Florist:

Whilst some of you might have already read the following words:

Something special is on its way.

In 2024, Martins Bank Building will provide 140,000 sq. ft. of leading work, social and restaurant space in Liverpool. Drop in your details to stay up to speed.

For those of you who haven't, you can see what our former Head Office could look like in 2024 by clicking on the following link:

https://martinsbankbuilding.com AND FINALLY ...

More recently discovered photographs for which I will attempt to obtain permission to publish:



Sadly, the demolition of or Bexleyheath branch, date unknown; and what might have been:



Jul. 07, 1968 - Banks press on with their merger campaign chiefs meet the Chancellor of the exchequer: The chairman of three of our big banks this morning met the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Roy Jenkins, to plead their case for the biggest merger in British history after the Monopolies Commission had ruled against the merger. Photo shows the three bank chiefs (L. to R.) John Thomson, of Barclays Bank; Harald Peake, of Lloyd Bank and Sir Cuthbert Clegg, of Martins Bank, are seen leaving the Treasury after their meeting with Roy Jenkins today.

With thanks to the 'Mary Evans Picture Library'©

Table with columns: Show, Venue, Date, Page No. Lists various agricultural shows and exhibitions across different regions like Altrincham, Apsley, and Buxton.

Table with columns: Show, Venue, Date, Page No. Lists various agricultural shows and exhibitions across different regions like North Dyrce & Betsalein, Northumberland County, and Oswestry.

Table with columns: Date, Event, Venue. Lists specific events like 'Open Self-Management' and 'Shropshire & West Midlands Agricultural Show'.

Table with columns: Date, Event, Venue. Lists specific events like 'Leave Liverpool for Chester-Lea Street' and 'Leave Chester-Lea Street for Ordsley'.

Table with columns: Date, Event, Venue. Lists specific events like 'Leave Liverpool for Ringley' and 'Ringley Show'.

Table with columns: Date, Event, Venue. Lists specific events like 'Bankfield Hotel, Bradford Road, Ringley' and 'Mr. Eastell & Sons Ltd., Shipley Old Nurseries, Baildon'.

RESERVATION FOR THE LONDON NOVEMBER LUNCH

To be held on **THURSDAY 24th November 2022** at The Union Jack Club

The **deadline** for returning your reservation is **31st October 2022**

WINES: Isonto Sauvignon Blanc and Isonto Shiraz/Cinsault

STARTER: Prawn and Crayfish Cocktail, Lettuce, Rye Melba Toast

MAIN COURSE: Roast Rump of Lamb, White Onion Sauce, Melange of Baby Vegetables, Dauphinoise Potatoes

PUDDING: Strawberry Eton Mess

Tea or Coffee

Please tick the appropriate box if you require an alternative option:

| Diabetic | Gluten Free | Vegetarian | Other (please state) |
|----------|-------------|------------|----------------------|
| | | | |

Pay Bar available from 12.00 Noon until 4.00 p.m. Luncheon will be served at 1 p.m.

Cost: **£20 per person, member and/or guest**

These prices include table wine or fruit juice and gratuity. Please state your preference to ease administration:

| Red | White | Fruit Juice |
|-----|-------|-------------|
| | | |

Please return your Reservation Slip to arrive **before the closing date of 31st October 2022** to:

Mr. K.W. Quirk, 119 Fernhill Road, Cove, Farnborough, GU14 9DS

Contact details: kenneth.quirk@sky.com or 'Phone: 01252 521044

Please reserve me place(s) for the December Lunch at **The Union Jack Club**, on **Thursday, 24th November 2022** for which I enclose my cheque payable to The Grasshopper Pensioners Club for £..... and confirm that **I was a member of Martins Bank Staff on or before 12th December 1969.**

Please tick this box to confirm

I am /am not a member of The Grasshopper Pensioners' Club. (Please delete whichever does not apply)

Names of those attending (capital letters please)

..... (Member/Guest)

..... (Member/Guest)

My contact number: My email address:

.....
Seating preference (Although this cannot be guaranteed) I will make my best effort to ensure that it is.
Name(s). **BEFORE completing, please ensure that this person/these persons will be attending:**

.....

RESERVATION FOR THE LIVERPOOL GRASSHOPPERS LUNCH
on **FRIDAY 9th December 2022** at The Racquet Club, 5 Chapel Street, Liverpool, L3 9AG
The **deadline** for returning your reservation is **31st October 2022**

STARTER: Smoked Salmon with Potato Salad and crème fraiche

MAIN COURSE: Roast Chicken Breast served with Vegetables and Roasted Potatoes, Traditional Gravy

PUDDING: Sticky Toffee Pudding with Chantilly Cream

Tea or Coffee

Please tick the appropriate box if you require an alternative option:

| | | | |
|----------|-------------|------------|----------------------|
| Diabetic | Gluten Free | Vegetarian | Other (please state) |
| | | | |

Coffee and Pay Bar available from 11.00 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. Luncheon will be served at 1 p.m.

Cost: £20 per person, member and/or guest

These prices include table wine or fruit juice and gratuity. Please state your preference to ease administration:

| | | |
|-----|-------|-------------|
| Red | White | Fruit Juice |
| | | |

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