

THE GRASSHOPPER PENSIONERS' CLUB



**MARTINS
BANK**

Website: www.martinsbank.co.uk

© gut informiert!

SECRETARY: David Baldwin, Lower Windle, Windle Royd Lane, Warley, HX2 7LY.

'Phone: 01422 832734. email: grasshoppers@btinternet.com

CHAIRMAN: Bernard Lovewell

TREASURER: Alan Thomond

WELFARE OFFICER: Susan Sutcliffe



**AFTER ALMOST 53 YEARS SINCE
THE TAKEOVER THERE ARE**



IN THIS EDITION

AGM MINUTES

MEMORABILIA & MEMORIES

SPREAD THE WORD

LUNCHES

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of**

**The Grasshopper Pensioners' Club
Held at The Union Jack Club**

On Thursday, 9th June 2022 at Noon

Apologies for Absence:

David Baxter, George Martin, Brenda Northrop, Ted Foster, Anthony Roe, Norman Eccles, Michael Woolnough, Robin Holland-Martin, Kenneth Quirk and Mike Sharp.

Chairman's Report:

Bernard Lovewell thanked his fellow Committee members and our retiring Treasurer, Robert Bunn, for their and his time and support. Ken and Pam Quirk were also thanked for organising our main lunches and that, although numbers were diminished following the interruptions caused by the Covid pandemic, he hoped that they would return to their previous levels in future.

Treasurer's Report:

Robert Bunn elaborated on the three sets of Annual Accounts which covered the Pandemic period during which we had been unable to meet until the middle of 2021 following which questions were asked.

Ros Edwards queried the substantial surplus, which had accumulated during the pandemic, and how it could be spent. Should we have a 'Special Lunch' to which Bill Webb said that we must continue to be careful and not spend recklessly. The Treasurer

Autumn 2022

pointed out that the club had been extremely fortunate in that the Bank Grant over the Covid years had been based on figures for 2019, when lunches were held all over the country to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our takeover. Discussion continued about the London Manager's Club having founded the Club but and that following the 2019, 50th Anniversary 'Remembrance Lunches', the membership was now evenly spread throughout the country with 'hot spots' in Liverpool, Manchester, the Midlands and Yorkshire which now accounted for in excess of 50% of our membership. It was pointed out, as can be seen from the accounts (which were published in the Easter Newsletter), that the cost of lunches in London is far higher than elsewhere in the country. It was also noted that none of our Committee Members claim any expenses for attending the Lunches, some of whom attended most of them and, in so doing, incurred substantial travelling and accommodation expenses.

As there were no further comments about the Accounts, Bernard Lovewell thanked everyone for their input and asked for them to be approved by those members present, which they were unanimously.

Welfare Officer's Report:

Sue Sutcliffe confirmed that she had nothing to report.

Election of Officers:

As Robert Bunn had taken the decision to retire as Treasurer and we were fortunate to have had Alan Thomond volunteer to become our new Treasurer, should there be no-one else interested. As Bernard Lovewell, David Baldwin and Sue Sutcliffe were all willing to continue in their current roles and no other members wished to put their names forward all were unanimously re-elected.

Constitution: All of the proposed amendments to our previously-amended Constitution were unanimously accepted and our Secretary said that he would create a revised Constitution as the existing one (in his possession) simply had the earlier amendments attached to it.

Appointment of Auditor:

It was agreed that this would be left to our new Treasurer to decide, bearing in mind the fact that Alan lived in Manchester, where there are numerous members in the area, who comply with the requirements of our Constitution.

Any Other Business:

Robert Bunn announced that, sadly, John Peters had died in his sleep on 5th June.

A question was asked about Mike Sharp's condition, following his recent illness, and it was confirmed that he was improving.

Our membership numbers were queried and our Secretary said that they continued to increase, initially boosted by the Remembrance Lunches, subsequently by members recruiting their former colleagues, and at the end of 2021 the Club had **XXX** members.

MEMORIBILIA & MEMORIES

Still taking pride of place in Brian Constable's garage, is Brian's Perspex Coat of Arms. We must thank Sue Williamson for taking this



photograph when she collected Brian's copies of the Martins Bank Magazine, of which, I understand, is only lacking a single edition. I am now storing Brian's collection and will work my way through them over the coming months

in the hope of bringing, possibly forgotten, memories to our members which could trigger memories that you would like to share.

I'm certain that all of our members must have **memorabilia** of some sort or another.

Personally, although I have several items of varying sizes, I thought that I had lost my £100 cloth silver bag, but I stumbled on it again recently, having put it away in a 'safe place', so here it is.



OLD MARTIANS NEVER DIE

A few years ago, Brian Constable sent me the following photograph, which was taken at one of Brian's regular 'meets' for some of his former colleagues:



THEY SIMPLY



FADE AWAY



That said, we all still have memories of our former colleagues which, I'm certain that you will agree, need to be documented for future generations. **Why?** In case you have forgotten, **The British Library** continues to archive our website as it is deemed to be an essential record of Britain's Social History.

Yet more memories from one of our older members, some of which could jog your memories and prompt you to share them with us.

Memories of the Barclays/Martins Merger

I worked, from 1955, in Martins Bank's Trustee Department which became Martins Bank Trust Company in 1968.

In February 1968, I attended a meeting of the National Union of Bank Employees, Manchester Branch. Minds were occupied by breaking News that three banks were to merge: Westminster, National Provincial and District to form the National Westminster. Our days in Martins would surely now be limited, but with which other bank would we merge?

The announcement soon came that Barclays, Lloyds and Martins would merge. I do not recall that any name was suggested, but that would become irrelevant when Lloyds dropped out, probably under Government pressure on monopoly considerations. So Barclays, much bigger than Martins, would not need to change its name.

Remarkably, Martins was ahead of Barclays in two respects; having control of what had become Martins Unicorn Unit Trusts and having established its Trust Company. The merger caused the name, in both cases, to become 'Barclays' instead of 'Martins'.

I acquired a copy of Barclays bank Trust Company Act 1970, which recorded in 'Recital (5), that such had become the name of the former Martins Bank Trust Company on 1st October 1969. Yes indeed, but Martins Bank itself continued to operate under the Martins name until closing time on Friday, 12th December 1969 (there was no Saturday opening in 1969). At that closing time, a few of us were on a train to Manchester from London, where we had been on what was called a 'Conversion Course' – learning, what seemed to us Barclays' very old-fashioned book-keeping system, to which we were required to adapt.

10, Norfolk Street, Manchester, spent a couple of years or so housing two separate branches of Barclays bank Trust Company. The former Barclays Bank Trustee Department was known as Barclays Bank Trust Company Ltd., Trustee Office, and the former Martins Bank Trust Company office was known as Barclays Bank Trust Company Ltd., Trustee and Investment Office.

I left in 1973 as I could not meet Barclays' requirement that I should move to Radbroke Hall.

Raymond Prior

DEATH NOTICES

It is with great sadness that we must advise you of the deaths of our following members:

DAVIS	Roger

FORTHCOMING BRANCH CLOSURES

11-21-40 [Guisborough](#) 02/09/2022



11-07-30 [Colwyn Bay](#) 07/09/2022



11-93-20 [Clitheroe](#) 21/09/2022



11-10-30

[Consett](#)

21/09/2022



11-81-20

[Chorlton cum Hardy](#)

28/09/2022



PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD

YOUR CLUB



JOIN THE MARTIAN ARMY

With apologies to Lord Kitchener

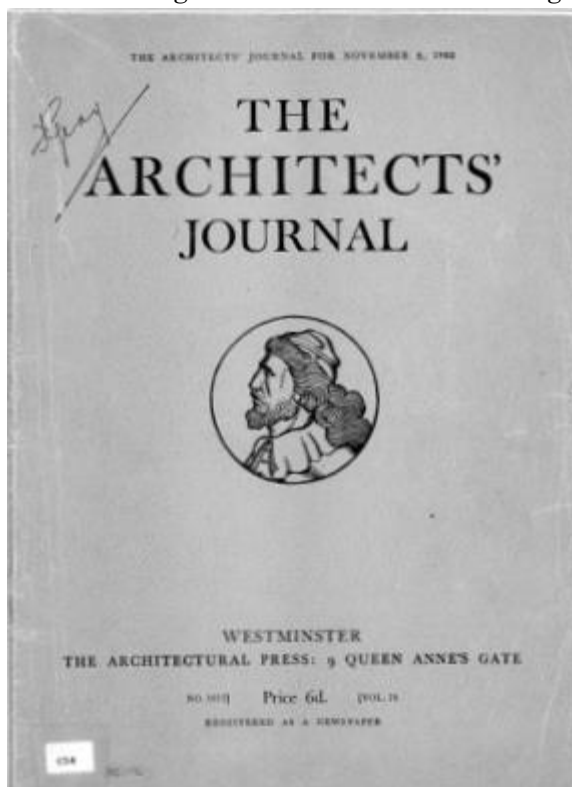
Although our numbers are holding up reasonably well, there are many more of our

former colleagues who could still join our happy band. Do you know anyone who is a 'Martian' but has yet to become a member?

Should this be the case, can I ask you to encourage them to become members?

90th Birthday of the Grand Old Lady of Water Street

In late August, Jonathan Snowden reminded me that 24th October marks the 90th anniversary of the opening of our former Head Office building. It is also interesting to



remember that the opening was celebrated, a fortnight later, by The Architects' Journal issuing a 6d supplement dedicated to the building. We can only live in hope that we will still be around on 24th October 2032 to celebrate its 100th Birthday! Another major Lunch looming? Make a note in your diaries.

LUNCHES

First, a **REMINDER**: The **DEADLINE** for the London and Liverpool Lunches is looming large! Your Reservation Slips must be received by Ken Quirk by **SEPTEMBER 30TH**.

The reservation slip for the Northern Lunch in **Bingley** is included with this Newsletter and the deadline for receipt of your reservation is

SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

Please don't forget George Hamilton's **Manchester Lunch** on **Wednesday 7th December** at the Pinewood on Wilmslow Hotel. George can be contacted at: georgehamilton57@gmail.com

MORE MEMORIES

27, MARKET PLACE, HUDDERSFIELD

On 1st September another letter, from **Raymond Prior**, dropped into our letterbox. On this occasion it contained a cutting from the

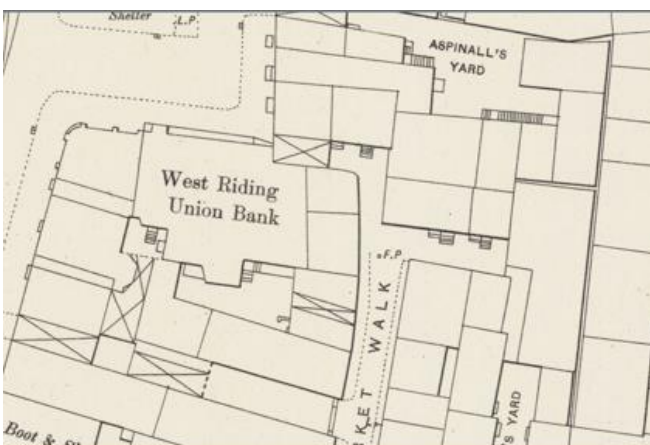


Huddersfield Daily Examiner with sale details of our former branch which state:

The former bank dates from the early 19th century and is effectively an end terraced building that , The first (right)benefits from an additional frontage onto Market Walk. The ground floor contains a banking hall, cashiers' area and office. The first floor contains a mixture of small and larger open plan offices, W.Cs and a small kitchen. The second floor comprises former office space and third floor attic has been mothballed. The basement contains a saferoom, stores, W.Cs and a staffroom/kitchen.

Benefitting from two separate entrance and internal staircases, there is significant potential to convert the upper floors to residential use subject to the necessary planning consents. Sale Price: Offers in the region of £450,000

As is evident from the following photographs, nothing much *has* changed since it was first constructed for 'The West Riding Union Bank', although it is now yet another Grade II listed building owned by the bank. The following extract has been copied from the Ordnance Survey 1:1500 map published in 1890 but



actually surveyed in 1888. Although we do not have any photographs of the branch during its



early days, we do have some post-initial merger in 1902 as a branch of The Lancashire & Yorkshire Bank. Then, following the final

name-change to Martins, we have the branch seen in the right-hand photograph. Searching the internet for other photographs of the branch, I



discovered two more from different periods. In the first (left) tramlines are evident as well as the 'L&Y' Bank name, which dates the image

as being between 1902 and 1928. In the second image (right) the tramlines have disappeared and trolleybuses are evident, which dates the image as being post-war.



BEXLEYHEATH CLOCK TOWER BRANCH

And a few days later, John Butler emailed me with some of his memories of Bexleyheath branch:

I was most interested to see in your latest newsletter a photograph showing the demolition of Bexleyheath (Clock Tower) branch of the old Martins. From up-to-date pictures of the distinctive clock tower and surroundings on Google Street View, it seems to have been the start of a complete new development extending along that part of the street. The pictures show a new branch of Barclays which in my time was much further down the "Broadway" main shopping street.

Walking to the old Barclays branch was part of the regular "local clearing" exercise I undertook as a junior clerk in about 1953, calling also at each of the local branches of the other "big five" banks, i.e. Lloyds, NP and Westminster.

From time to time, the local bus company would transport its cash takings on one of their buses to the Bexleyheath branch of Martins. Piles of £5 coin bags then had to be stacked away into the vault by yours truly and others. Once a week a bank security van then took all the cash up to Lombard Street.

Aged 90 now, I only wish I had a fraction of the energy required for such exercise as a banking career required in those days!

Yours, John Butler, Kidlington

Many thanks for your email John; I also remember Monday mornings in Keighley when our local bus company, 'Keighley West Yorkshire', where *Arnold Boddy's father worked in the finance department and would pull-up outside their bank, National Provincial, at around 11 am to unload their



coin from the back door of a 'single decker'. Then, as the 'junior clerk', like you, I would accompany our messenger, Jack Roberts, along North Street to collect our weekly coin requirements before stacking the bags on our 'Slingsby' trolley and pushing it into our strongroom. In those days, we could and would carry four bags; two on our right shoulder and two in our left hands. Great memories John.



*Does anyone remember Arnold Boddy, or worked with him, apart from me? *Arnold started his Martins career at Keighley branch in 1954, then came his National Service followed by a stint at Cross Hills, then back to Keighley before Bingley and finally Silsden, where he was at the time of the takeover: All of these branches being less than 5 miles from Keighley.*

Now, here's one for you, and anyone else who can help to identify some of your former colleagues. In the following image (provided to Jonathan Snowden by P. A. Raymond) of **Bexleyheath** staff attending one of the London District Dinners in the 1950s. If you can identify



anyone in the above photograph, will you please let me or Jonathan know? You can also visit the Bexleyheath webpage by clicking on the following link: www.martinsbank.co.uk/11-66-02 Bexley Heath.htm

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER Delyth Nur?

On the Barclays UK Friends and Memories facebook page, Delyth Wrote:

(53 YEARS AGO TODAY, 2nd September 1969), This is the day I started work at Martins Bank Limited, Charing Cross, Birkenhead.

I remember Mr Blake the Manager and Rosemary Rivers, who are on the photo below. I think I spent most of my first morning down



in the basement kitchen making coffee for everyone. I remember there was a little electric Baby Belling cooker to

heat up this huge pan of milk for the coffees, no making coffee with boiled water & a splash of cold milk in those days! (I'm not even sure there was an electric kettle) I worked here for a few months & then moved to 2 Liscard Village, Wallasey in the December.

A little digging and Rosemary Rivers' outside interest is revealed in the 1968 Summer Edition of our Magazine: *Rosemary Rivers (Charing Cross Branch, Birkenhead), recently played the part of Mimi in the Wallasey Operatic Society's production of*



'Can Can'. A keen member of the Society, her ambition is to play the leading role in South Pacific. Her image recently appeared in the Liverpool Echo in their "Echo Girl '68" series...

And Mr Blake? Well, he started his career in 1944 at **Heywoods** branch, before starting his National Service in 1946, passing Part I of the Institute's examinations during that year before being demobbed and allocated to **Head Office Relief** in 1948. 1952 saw him transferred to **Head Office Secretary's Department** after passing the Intermediat examination of The Chartered Institute of Secretaries and Part Two of the Institute of Bankers examination in 1952. 1955 saw a transfer to **West Kirby** followed by his marriage to **Miss HAM Barton** of his former Department.



Two years later it was **Great Crosby and Liverpool Inspection** in 1960 before **Liverpool District Office** in 1962. His first appointment, as Pro Manager at **Formby** branch, followed in 1963 and, finally as **Manager of Charring Cross** in 1968.

During my research, I noticed **Russian Convoys**. How far from a banking career could that be, I wondered, remembering another Keighlian, Keith Jessop, but more about Keith later.



This initial reference to **Russian Convoys** were from **GT Blair's** staff record, who started his career at **Botchergate, Carlisle** branch in 1924 before joining the Royal Navy during

the **Second World War** and being posted to the **Russian Convoys**, What a change from **Martins** in **Carlisle!** Returning to 'Civvy Street' in 1947, he was transferred to **Penrith**, from where he retired as 'ProManager' in 1967.



Returning to our customer, Keith Jessop. But before we get to Keith, some of you might remember a lad from Wigton; one **Robert Lindsay Mason**, ex **Head Office Relief** (1947), **Ulverston** (1948), **National Service** (1949), **Carlisle, English Street** (1951), **Skipton** (1959) and **Keighley** (1965) where I first knew Lindsay after starting my **Martins** career at **Keighley** branch in 1966. It was with a small band of we 'Martians', led by **Lindsay Mason**, including **Donald Wilding, David Fryer and Roy Hutchinson**, used to adjourn to Keighley's **Conservative Club** after balancing on a Saturday morning for refreshments and to play the 'Bandit'. **Keith** was one of the first divers in the early days of the **North Sea Oil Boom** who, during the winters researched the demise of **HMS Edinburgh** and her cargo of **Russian Gold**. **Keith** was nothing but meticulous in his research, and tracked-down survivors of **Edinburgh's** sinking and his stories about his research were legend.

Keith's Wikipedia entry follows: *It was not, however, until 1981 that Jessop was involved in one of the greatest deep-sea salvage operations in history. One day in April 1981 Jessop's survey ship called the Damtor began searching for the wreck of the cruiser **HMS Edinburgh** in the **Barents Sea** in the **Arctic Ocean** of the coast of **Russia**. The ship had been sunk in battle in 1942 during the **Second World War** while carrying payment for military equipment from **Murmansk** in **Russia** to **Scotland**. His company, called **Jessop Marine**, won the contract for the salvage rights to the wreck of **Edinburgh** because his methods, involving complex cutting machinery and divers, were deemed more appropriate for a war grave, compared to the explosives-oriented methods of other companies.*

In late April 1981, the survey ship discovered the ship's final resting place at an approximate position of 72.00°N, 35.00°E, at a depth of 245 metres (804 ft) within ten days of the start of the operation. Using specialist camera equipment, the Dammtor took detailed film of the wreck, which allowed Jessop and his divers to carefully plan the salvage operation.

*Later that year, on 30 August, the dive-support vessel **Stephaniturm** journeyed to the site, and salvage operations began in earnest. Leading the operation undersea, by mid-September of that year Jessop was able to salvage from the wreck over \$100,000,000 in **Russian gold bullion**—431 bars out of 465—making him the greatest underwater treasurer in history.*

*His autobiography **Goldfinder** written in 2001 tells the story of Jessop's life and the salvage of such underwater treasures as **HMS Edinburgh**.*

AND FINALLY:

Our Club continues to support **Jonathon Snowden** and his excellent work in keeping our memories alive for future generations via our website. We hope that you will continue to visit it on a regular basis, as I do, at:

www.martinsbank.co.uk

If you do not have a computer, please ask someone to access the website on our behalf where, as **Jonathan** says:

"It is always a few minutes before 12th December 1969"

MARTINS BANK
ARCHIVE 

Where it is mostly just
a few moments before 1969
Still going to **extremes**
to be helpful!
More than 1200 pages of nostalgia!

RESERVATION FOR THE 2022 NORTHERN LUNCH

To be held on WEDNESDAY 7th DECEMBER 2022
at OAKWOOD HALL, BINGLEY Lady Lane, Bingley BD16 4AW

MENU

TO START: Salmon Prawn Salad
MAIN: Sirloin of Beef, Yorkshire Pudding
VEGETARIAN ALTERNATIVE: Spinach and Ricotta Tortellini
DESSERT: Treacle Sponge and Custard
Freshly Filtered Coffee/Tea and Chocolates

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

Diabetic	Gluten Free	Vegetarian

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

Cost: £20.00 for each Full Member and Associate Member and co-habiting guest of each Full Member and £20.00 for each Guest who does not fall into one of these categories.

Maximum 1 Guest per Member. These prices include table wine or fruit juice and gratuity.

Please state your preference to ease administration: Red, White, Fresh Orange Juice



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RESERVATION FOR THE NORTHERN DECEMBER LUNCH

Please return your Reply Slip to arrive before the closing date of 7th November 2022 to:

Mr. D Baldwin, Lower Windle, Windle Royd Lane, Warley, Halifax, HX2 7LY

Contact details: grasshoppers@btinternet.com

Please reserve me place(s) for the Lunch at **The Oakwood Hall, on Wednesday, 7th December 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 tick this box to confirm

Names of those attending (capital letters please)

(Member/Guest) (Member/Guest) My contact number:

..... My email address: Seating

preference (This cannot be guaranteed but I will make my best effort to ensure that it is.) Name(s): I

would like to sit with

.....

..... To assist with catering do you have a wine

preference for yourself and guest(s)? Numbers: Red White Fruit Juice

ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN PAY DIRECTLY TO OUR ACCOUNT DETAILS OF WHICH FOLLOW:

Account Name: [Grasshopper Pensioners Club](#) Sort Code: 20-31-52 Account number: 80540137

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY IN RESPONDING AS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF OUR BOOKING, WE REGRET THAT **CANCELLATIONS OR REFUNDS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER AS YOUR CHEQUES WILL BE PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT ON MONDAY 28TH NOVEMBER**