

THE GRASSHOPPER PENSIONERS' CLUB



**MARTINS
BANK**

Website: www.martinsbank.co.uk

© gut informiert!

SECRETARY: David Baldwin, 'Phone: 01535 358567 Mobile: 07957 855852

email: grasshoppers@btinternet.com

Sykes Head Farm, 1, Moor Street, Oakworth, Keighley, BD22 7EJ

CHAIRMAN: Bernard Lovewell

TREASURER: Alan Thomond

WELFARE OFFICER: David Baldwin

DATABASE MANAGER: David Baxter

FUNCTION ORGANISERS:

Sue Williamson (Liverpool) George Hamilton (Manchester) David Baldwin (Yorkshire & London)



Winter Edition 2025

WE'RE STILL HANGING ON WITH



IN THIS EDITION:

**OUR FIRST AGM IN LIVERPOOL
COVERAGE IN 'CONNECTION'
CARING FOR FARMERS**

but first of all

BREAKING NEWS!

(with thanks to Ro Murphy for forwarding this article)

**MIPIM | Karrev eyes 2028 opening
for Liverpool's Martins Bank**

13 March 2026 18:25 Julia Hatmaker



Credit via Kinrise

Work transforming the grade two star-listed bank into Grade A offices could start as early as this summer, managing director Julien Buronfosse exclusively told Place North West.

Sitting on the terrace of the North of England Suite, Karrev's Buronfosse was clear that he is ready to commence delivery of Martins Bank at long last. He insisted that a start-on-site would be imminent and that his team's focus was fully on breathing new life into the historic Liverpool building. Strip-out and asbestos removal for the Water Street building has been complete for more than a year, he said. "The building is ready to kick off as a construction site," he said. Now all that remains into appoint a contractor.

If Buronfosse can meet his 2028 opening goal, it will close a chapter of false dawns for the 210,000 sq ft Martins Bank, which has been empty for more than a decade.

While he may be French and based out of Geneva, Buronfosse has heard loud and clear the passion Liverpoolians have for Martins Bank – and their desire to see it reopen. He said he has purposefully kept hoardings up to show those in the city that something will happen and that change is coming.

When work does begin, the Buronfosse said he wants to throw a "first stone" celebration "to show the community that finally this building will be reborn".



Julien Buronfosse is the managing director of Karrev.
Credit: PNW

The History

Martins Bank had been empty for more than a decade when Karrev took ownership in 2021, working at the time with developer partner Kinrise. The cost of the acquisition was not revealed back then, but the property had been listed with a £16m guide price.

Prior to the Karrev purchase, Martins Bank had been the subject of two failed attempts to transform the space into a hotel.

But the Karrev/Kinrise offices scheme appeared to have traction. Liverpool City Council approved the duo's plans in 2022 and Lendlease was brought on board as the main contractor. All seemed to be moving well for a 2024 completion.

Then, the project hit snags. Asbestos was found, as well as issues related to the building's age. Karrev parted ways with Kinrise and Lendlease. Meanwhile, another project (the refurbishment of Sunlight House in Manchester) became the central focus, while Martins Bank sat on the backburner.

The £35m revamp of Sunlight House completed last October, giving time and space for Karrev to refocus its attention on the Liverpool project.

Buronfosse stressed that Karrev's commitment to Martins Bank has never wavered and that cost is not an issue.

"The issue is not the money, it is the time," he said, referencing his small team and desire to do the work the right way.

"Do it properly, one time," is his mantra.



Red Deer and Brock Carmichael were leading on design of the Martins Bank overhaul in 2022. Credit: via Ebury Comms

Karrev, Buronfosse said, is looking to own Martins Bank for decades. This is a long-term investment for the company, and so his team is approaching the project differently than a developer who may be keen to sell it on in a few years.

Accordingly, he said he wants to have everything perfect and thought through before work starts. He does not want to rush the

construction. Since he will own the building for 20-plus years, what is an extra six months? It is worth the time spent to make sure each decision is futureproofed rather than having to fix a problem again after five years or so.

"We prefer to make a good decision with all the information," he said.

When it does open, though, Buronfosse has zero worries that it will fill up.

Martins Bank is "a building without competition", he said.



A building without competition – that is how Julien Buronfosse views Martins Bank, pictured here in 2022. Credit: Kinrise

A Living Building

The glory of Martins Bank cannot be found in modern builds, Buronfosse pointed out. The details throughout the building, including the decorated cornices and the marble floors, would cost a fortune nowadays.

It is those details that make Martins Bank the veritable jewel box in Liverpool's property world.

But Buronfosse does not simply want to restore the building. He wants to bring it back to use. He wants it to have purpose once more.

"We don't want to create a museum," Buronfosse explained. "It has to be alive."

But it also has to make fiscal sense.

"At the end, it has to generate cash flow," Buronfosse said. "We are not a philanthropic [institution]. We choose a historic building because we want to keep the history and because tomorrow, when Martins Bank opens or Sunlight House if you want, it will be the only building of its size, refurbished top to bottom with brand new amenities with 2026 specification. We don't have any competition.

"Of course if you prefer a glass box, I can do nothing," he laughed.

You can view the approved plans for Sunlight House by searching reference numbers 22F/1712 and 22I/1793 on Liverpool City Council's planning portal.

Further information will be provided when it becomes available but it looks like we'll be having a celebration in 2028!

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our first ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING outside London was held on Friday, 12th December 2025 at The Racquet Club, in Liverpool, 56 years to the last working day as we existed as Martins Bank Limited.

The report follows from the Agenda items:

1. Welcome:

As Bernard Lovewell was unable to attend, his 'welcome speech and Report (Item 5 on the Agenda) was read by David Baldwin:

Marilyn and I are very sorry that we can't be with you in Liverpool this year and I am particularly sorry that I will not be there to chair the AGM as health issues, in the past 12 months, make it too risky to travel long distances and have overnight stays away. However, you will be in the very capable hands of David Baldwin.

I am very lucky to have two great colleagues in David Baldwin, our Secretary, and Alan Thomond our Treasurer. Our club could not function without the work they do and our other volunteers and I say a particular big thank you to David for the hours he must spend compiling the regular newsletter which I am sure we all look forward to receiving. I would also like to thank Sue Williamson for taking on the role of Liverpool Lunch organiser following the tragic death of Ken Quirk. A thank you, too, to Jonathan Snowden the webmaster of the fantastic Martins Bank Archive which has so much brilliant information at the everyone's finger tips with the click of a button. Although it is now 56 years today since Martins Bank sadly came to an end all this effort to keep its name alive is, I am sure, appreciated by us all. As the numbers of members attending our lunches in London, in particular, start to dwindle we will review how we organise it and them in the best way. But we want to keep them going as long as possible as I know how much our members enjoy meeting up like this every year and talking over great memories they have of working for Martins Bank.

Although numbers attending lunches are beginning to fall I have to say that club membership remains quite strong and that is down to Sue Williamson, Alan Thomond, David Baxter and others who are still on the lookout for new members! I wish you all an enjoyable lunch and both I

and Marilyn will be there in spirit if not in person.

Best wishes to you all, Bernard Lovewell

(Editor: I must apologise to everyone for the late delivery of this Newsletter as I am currently working on our new house)

In Bernard Lovewell's absence, David Baldwin chaired the meeting and Ro Murphy volunteered to take the Secretary's role.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Were received from Bernard and Marilyn Lovewell; David Baxter and Colin Skelton (*who asked to be remembered to everyone who remembers him and that, at a mere 94 years old, he's still with us and is sorry that he was unable to attend*).

3. Minutes of the 2024 AGM:

The printed copies of the Minutes had been published in the Summer Edition of the Newsletter and copies were made available at AGM and were accepted by all attending.

4. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report:

Bernard Lovewell's report has already been covered in **Item 1** of the Minutes.

6. Treasurer's Report:

I should start by introducing myself to everybody (apart from 'Caddy!'):

I'm Alan Thomond and I joined Martins in September 1967, starting at Oldham Street branch in Manchester city centre. Three Martin's branches and a merger later saw me on attachment at Heathrow Airport (1971) before returning once more to Manchester. A few more branches (all bar one now closed) and a stint as the district CWIP officer, saw me move to Radbroke Hall, firstly into the CWIP Tech Office (where I met Mike 'Caddy@ Cadwallader) and then as a Business Case Manager on a series of projects, before taking a (Voluntary Early Leavers' Scheme) 'VELS' package in 2000.

After leaving The Bank I then worked part time at a local golf club as the assistant to the Finance Director for 14 years before fully retiring.

With regard to the club's accounts for 2024, I am pleased to say that we managed to end the year with a loss of almost £600 and a bank balance just short of £17000, despite heavily subsidising the annual lunches.

A LOSS OF £600! is not something we ex-bankers usually rejoice in BUT, YES, as we are trying to reduce some of the surplus of £13k accumulated through the "Covid Years", due to Barclays generously maintaining the annual

per capita grant at the pre-Covid level throughout the pandemic.

I am also pleased to say that Admin costs, despite inflation rises, have remained approximately £2000, thanks in no small part to David's negotiating skills and his network of contacts.

The Accounts were accepted unanimously.

7. Secretary's Report:

The Secretary had nothing to report

8. Welfare Officer's Report:

The Welfare Officer had nothing to report.

9. Election of Officers

As the existing Officers were willing to continue in their existing roles and there were no other nominations, Bernard Lovewell, David Baldwin and Alan Thomond were unanimously elected to serve a further term.

10. Election of Auditor:

It was agreed that the Treasurer should find the Auditor in accordance with the Constitution of the Club

11. Any Other Business:

There being no 'Other Business', the Meeting was closed at: 12.20.

CONNECTION COVERAGE

In November, as Secretary, I received a circular email advising all Club Secretaries that Connection was going to be produced by a new company and articles were requested for their first production run. When such a request is received, there was only one thing to be done: Respond immediately. And I did, before enlisting Jonathan's assistance who provided some photographs of our Head Office building through the years:



An atmospheric view of our Head Office, building seen over the rooftops of Liverpool after its completion in 1932



The iconic 'Horseshoe' counter and enclosed workspace from above.



A ground-level view of the banking hall



Our impressive Head Office building at 4, Water Street, Liverpool, flanked by a Barclays branch and Liverpool Town Hall in the background. The impressive exterior of the branch is even exceeded by the interior, which we hope that as many of our members will be able to enjoy once again when the refurbishment has been completed.

Although all four photographs have been submitted for use, we are unaware of which will be selected; time will tell.

And now:

A PREVIEW OF THE UNEDITED ARTICLE

The Grasshoppers, or 'ex-Martians' as they are affectionately named, are a thriving national club for members who once worked for Martins Bank before it was taken over by Barclays in 1969.

If you've not heard of Martins Bank before, take a look at our website:

www.martinsbank.co.uk

The website is the brainchild of Jonathan Snowden. Although he didn't work for Martins, he did work for Barclays, and whilst on attachment to our former Head Office in Liverpool, he was immediately overcome by the grandeur of the building – something he'd never before witnessed. He went on to create the Martins Bank Archive in 1988, and with the blessing of Barclays the collection launched as a web site in 2009. It now numbers around 1340 pages of information, photographs and memories of Martins Bank. The Archive also looks after the personal collections of some of the key staff who worked for Martins, and it maintains the only digital database of staff. This combines photographs and career information for more than 25,000 Management, directorial clerical and non-clerical staff.

*After Martins Bank merged with Barclays in 1969, business continued at Martins' former Head Office Building until to operate up until April 2007. Now, 4 Water Street is in the process of being restored to its former glory. Thanks to Jonathan and his never-ending love of Martins Bank, our archive website has been deemed an essential record of **British social life** that's being saved for future generations by the British Library.*

[TEXT BOX]

Could you be a grasshopper?

Grasshoppers' membership is still in excess of 550 former Martins staff, with new members joining every month. If you once worked for Martins Bank, you're more than welcome to join. Simply contact David Baldwin, whose contact details are on page xx.

It will be interesting to see how the final version appears in 'Connection'.

NEW MEMBERS

And they keep on coming! Mainly thanks to the efforts of Sue Williamson, our new Liverpool Lunch organiser, who hopes to have yet another member (Susan Dolman), but also from Alan Thomond and David Baxter.

If any of our members are aware of any of their former colleagues who are still not members then please replicate the efforts of Sue, David and Alan and ensure that they join our Club like:

Val Broughton (nee Parry):

Joined Martins in 1958 at our Church Street, Liverpool branch where she worked until 1960 before moving to Canning Place and then Liverpool University branch in 1965.

Sheila Chambers (nee Hubbard)

Started her career at our Heywoods branch in 1965 where she spent her entire Martins career.

Tony Green

Joined Martins in 1967 at our Bingley branch

Sandra Lythgoe (nee Gaskell)

Started her career in 1964 at our **Little Sutton** branch then transferred to Higher Tranmere in 1965 before settling at Ellesmere Port in the following year.

Gordon Lythgoe

Started his Martins career at Liverpool City Office in 1961. to Wallasey Liscard in 1962 followed by Birkenhead Park also in 1962 then, in 1963 he was transferred to Liverpool Old Swan and finally Ellesmere Port in 1967.

Alan Swindells who writes: My wife and I had a pub lunch with Alan and Linda Thomond and, as usually happens at some time during our conversations we reminisce about the old days at Martins Bank. As a consequence Alan suggested that we join the Grasshoppers Pensioners Club, so I have attached a couple of completed application forms. I met my wife Pauline while working at Spring Gardens in Manchester and we both played in the Martins

Bank Table Tennis teams where we first came across Alan Thomond. We have kept in touch over the years and it would be nice to be part of the wider 'Grasshoppers' community.

Pauline Swindells, nee Ryder:



Pauline commenced her Martins career at our Deansgate, Manchester branch (left) in 1966 before transferring to Sale the following year and, in 1968, to Manchester Overseas branch

Mike Thompson

Mike started his career with Martins at Victoria Street, Liverpool in 1962 followed by Claughton Village in 1963, before Upton and West Kirby, both in 1964 then Prenton in 1965 and finally, Liverpool City Office in 1967

Alan Swindells (continued) Alan joined Martins at our Manchester Overseas branch in 1968.

THEN and NOW (in Halifax)

Members who have visited our website will be familiar with the photograph (below) of our original King Cross branch. It was recently published again on a 'Halifax' Facebook page with the following photograph of the same location as it is today. **Why do pubs always seem to survive and not banks?**



and **WAY BACK THEN!**



What a gem!

I was alerted to the fact that the photograph on Page 4 was part of a parcel of cricket photographs on an auction website by Robin Holland-Martin. The photograph had been discovered by Penelope Bossom, cousin of Robin Holland-Martin and the Martin family historian. I visited the website and discovered the photograph in question and discussed the matter with Bernard Lovewell and Alan Thomond but felt that the cost of purchasing the Lot (which contained other photographs which were of no interest to the Club) was not an option, but to maintain a watching brief; which I did. Once sold, I contacted the auctioneers and asked if they would contact the buyer and give them my details in case they had no interest in the photograph. An email arrived in my 'Grasshopper In Box' a few weeks later and the rest is history

Flashback . . .



Martins Bank Cricket Club, 1933
 Back row (left to right): F. Holland (umpire), F. H. Coote, H. G. Silvester, R. L. Charlesworth, H. A. Locke, J. H. G. Frost
 Front row: L. C. L. Dree, J. A. Raiba, C. G. Howard, W. D. Chambers, J. D. C. Thompson

Although the source of the same photograph (above) is unknown, published in the Spring 1964 edition of our in-house Magazine, we finally have an original print for our archive.

Gone Away

The last Newsletter, addressed to Mrs J Phillips, of Poole was returned with the note: 'Gone Away'. Does anyone know of Mrs Phillips' whereabouts?

Death Notices

With regret, we have to announce the deaths of the following members and non-members. I will be happy to share any memories of their former colleagues that anyone would like to send to me.

Ashworth, Margaret	2 nd October 2025 aged 90
Corner, Alan	
Hannah, Barbara	19 th October 2025
Mellor, Eric	10 th December 2025
Weir, 'Bob'	7 th January 2026 aged 77

Margaret Ashworth

An extract from a Martins Magazine article and our website follows:

Here come the inspectors!

Stepping out from Spring Gardens are Margaret Ashworth and Maureen Thomas, members of a Manchester District outside inspection team and the first girls in the Bank to take part in a full branch inspection. How have their male colleagues reacted? 'They've been very patient and helpful/ Maureen said, 'and soon accepted us—once they got over the initial shock.' 'We were apprehensive about breaking into what has until now been regarded as the males' prerogative/ Maureen remarked, 'but all our doubts were soon dispelled.'



Margaret is on the left in this photograph and Maureen on the right.

Thanks again to Jonathan Snowden for his continued work on our website which I am certain that everyone who visits it appreciates.

Bob Weir

Sue Williamson attended Bob's funeral on behalf of the Club where she met his son, Ric and has promised to forward a copy of this Newsletter to him. Bob was born on 21st December 1949 and joined Martins at our Blundellsands branch in 1968 before his

transfer to Formby in 1969. I'm certain that our Liverpool members will remember Bob, as I do from his Barclays days, when I used to visit Fred Samuels and Ossie Watson. What a great set of lads! All gone too soon!

Alan Corner

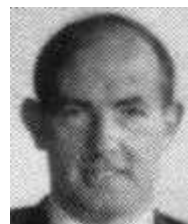
The following email was received from Brian Roberts:



I am not sure how you keep your records for widows but if Alan Corner was ever a member (he died some years ago and had been a Martins manager on the Wirral. His widow June Corner died last month so I thought I would pass it on to you. Best wishes Brian

Although Alan wasn't a member, I'm certain that many of our members will remember Alan, who joined Martins in 1946 at our Victoria Street branch and served in several branches in and around Liverpool during his Martins career, in addition to the Liverpool Inspection team.

Eric Mellor



Nigel Mellor emailed Jonathan Snowden to advise him of his father's death:

My father, Eric Mellor (left), used to work for Martins Bank many years ago, before it was taken over by Barclays. He worked generally in branches in the Manchester area and has been retired for many years but he enjoyed attending the Martins Bank reunion every Christmas, until last year. Unfortunately, my father died

last Wednesday, 10th December.

I would very much like to get in touch with the people that organised these

Christmas events so that I could firstly pass on this news to them, but also inform them of the



funeral arrangements once I know them such that anyone who wished to could attend and

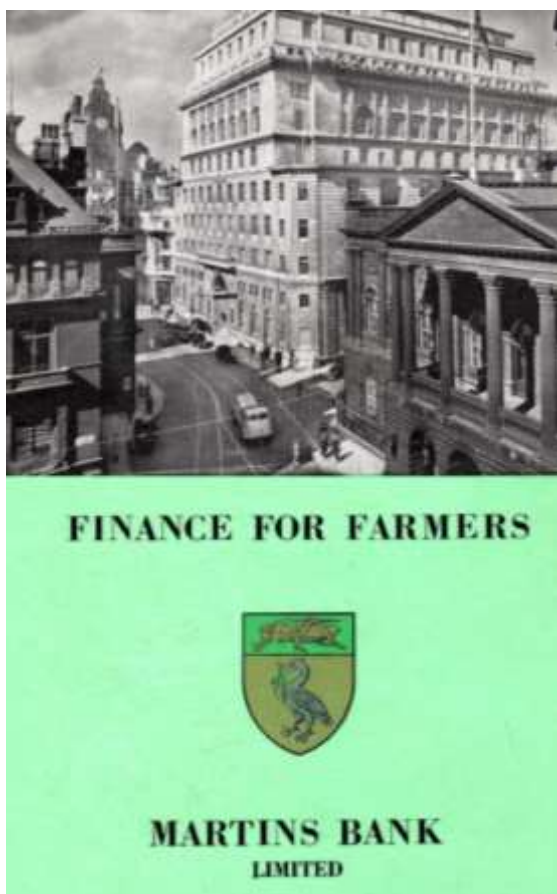
would be very grateful if you could provide the contact details of the relevant person.

Nigel was spot on with his comment: 'He worked generally in Branches in the Manchester area'; and here they come in chronological order, starting in 1950: Bury, Hightown, (National Service), Birchfields, Cheetham, Buty, Sudehill, Pendleton, Hightown, Manchester Relief and finally MossSide (above), where where we are grateful for a visit by the Martins Bank Magazine team who published the following report of their visit in the Autumn 1967 edition:



Eric is seen between Miss GK Skilling and Miss J Simpson and next to Miss J Simpson. Next to Eric is CJ Walsh and the final two members of staff in the photograph are the Clerk in Charge, F Sharples and Miss GK Fielding

ANOTHER MARTINS FIRST!



SEVENTY years ago this month, a little booklet appeared for the first time on the

counters of Martins Bank's Branches. Entitled "Finance for Farmers", it went on to be one of the most widely read banking publications in



England and Wales. The brainchild of **Raymond Creer**, Manager of Southport's Ainsdale Branch and was packed with facts and figures put together from a formidable amount of research. It included handy references to government rules and regulations for farmers and growers, and a wealth of tips and tricks, not least details of loans, overdrafts and other financial services available to the farming world. Much of this information was put together by Ray, with the assistance of the lady he married. Beryl Evans, of Martins Bank's Information and Advertising Department held the first female managerial role on the Bank's clerical staff. The booklet evolved, increased its number of pages, and became known as FINANCE FOR FARMERS AND GROWERS – a title that Barclays continued to produce each year after the merger until 1990. This makes it perhaps the longest post-merger link between Martins and Barclays, as the Companies Act of 1980 – when the familiar "PLC" began to be appended to company titles – meant that the "Martins Branch" Logo, was finally removed from the Barclays cheque book and statement stationery of former Martins Branch Customers. You can also see here one of Ray's early essays published in the Farming press, and, a handwritten advert for entry to Farmer's Weekly along with an image of a different advert "under construction" showing how meticulous he was in getting the details right. Beryl and Ray were both great assets to the

name of Martins, with Beryl at the helm of advertising campaigns that include the zoo animals accompanying their owners to the bank which sparked a national newspaper to send an elephant into York Branch to see just how unfazed the staff would be!

REGINALD HUTCHINGS

Isn't it a coincidence? After we covered Reginald's death in the last edition of our Newsletter, 'Connection' covered his death in their latest edition.



Our Archive on Facebook

Did you know that, in addition to maintaining our website at:

martinsbank.co.uk

Jonathan also maintains the Archive on Facebook?

If you weren't aware before, you are now! And it is well worthwhile a visit to see what's new.



and it's not only our 'Archive' page that you will find interesting; I was watching YouTube when 'Visit to NW England' suddenly came into view. You can also take a look at the short video by clicking on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/fCiDzR4bxUk?si=7BCaOS5W-fRxqh-Z>

If the link doesn't work then simply search: 'Visit to NW England' and take a step back in time to 1967



and look what you will see!



Yes, it's our Milnthorpe branch in colour, and as it appears on our website:



Thanks again to Jonathan, who has asked a favour. How could anyone refuse after he spends so much of his valuable time providing us with such great memories?

Some time ago, I copied the results of the April 1968 Institute of Bankers examinations to Jonathan in case they were of interest to him.



THE INSTITUTE OF BANKERS
Founded 1879

Associateship Examinations

Part I

April, 1968

PASS LIST

Helliwell, Peter
Huckin, Malcolm Godfrey
Hughes, David Alan
Hughes, Michael Anthony
James, Joseph William
Jardine, Ian Robert
Jarvis, Robert Peter
Jones, Alan Reginald
Jones, David William
Christopher
Kenwright, Nigel Willis
Lawrence, Ian Donald
Lincoln, Stuart Rodney
Long, Barry James
Maddrell, Andrew Douglas
Martin, George
Masterson, Dennis Richard
Vincent
McGivern, John James
McKibbin, John Sydney
Molyneaux, Keith
Moore, Frederick John
Moran, James David
Mossom, Madeleine Ann
Newson, Richard John
Oliver, David Arthur
Owens, David Anthony
Parry, John David
Pattinson, David
Pearson, John William
Price, Ernest Anthony Malcolm
Quinn, John
Riley, Peter Francis
Robertshaw, Colin Edward
Robertson, Howard James
Robinson, John Reginald
Saunders, Ronald William
Scott, Melvyn
Scrivens, Peter John
Smith, Colin David
Speight, Edward Alan
Starkey, Ian David
Steele, William
Steward, Rodney William
Stewart, Michael Edward
Taylor, David
Taylor, Paul Lloyd
Tompkins, Terence Ronald
Town, Ian Christopher
Unsted, Stephen
Warburton, Peter
West, Christopher David John
Whitehead, David Hedley
Williams, Charles Roger
Williamson, Jeffrey
Winkley, Ian Eric
Yates, Anthony Roy

**MARTINS BANK TRUST COMPANY
LTD.**

Armstrong, Barbara Ann
Johnson, Allan Stanley
Taylor, Beverley James

And they were, providing Jonathan with Christian names of former members of staff.

MARTINS BANK LIMITED

Andersen, Kristian Leif
Angell, Derek William
Armstrong, Walter
Ashman, Maurice John
Baldwin, David
Bartlett, Francis Murray
Baxter, David Ormerod
Bean, Derek Richard
Berry, Keith Eric
Birtwistle, Harry
Bremner, Stuart Alexander
Brierley, Darryl Eric
Brightwell, David Robert
Brooks, Richard George
Buchanan, Martin John
Butler, Roger
Carter, Ian Douglas
Cooper, Ian Paul
Coulthard, Ian
Davidson, William Alistair
Dickey, Alexander Stewart
Donaldson, Malcolm
Edwards, Alan William
Eves, Anthony Albert
Eves, David Victor
Fearne, Keith Clarey
Fearnley, John Graham
Fellows, Alan Geoffrey
Firmin, Derek Arthur
Gardiner, Colin Stephen
Goodlad, Keith Michael
Green, Anthony James
Green, Melbourne Torrence
Harland, Neil
Harvey, Graham Salter
Harvey, John
Hay, Frederick Gordon

Jonathan continued: I have added all the names to the staff database, which is looking much better for the addition of this information. It got me thinking, that if you

kept that list from your exam pass, whether or not staff who took their exams in other years also might have their own copies tucked away somewhere. Can you ask in the next newsletter if anyone has one from any year apart from the Summer 1968 exams? We might end up with many more first names being added!

Well, there you have it; **does anyone reading this Newsletter have a copy of the September 1968 Institute Examination Results, or any other years?**

If you do then you can either scan the Martins results send it direct to Jonathan or let me have the booklet and I will scan and return your booklet before sending the scan to Jonathan on your behalf.

BACK TO THE FUTURE?

Back to March 1929: This Liverpool Echo article shows another 'First' for Martins Bank,

THE MECHANICAL BANKER.

—◆—

AMAZING MACHINES IN MARTINS, LTD.

—◆—

" ECHO " ARTICLE.

Accounting machines, which not only add debits and credits, but throw out the balance and work out the accrued interest, have been introduced by Martins Bank, Ltd.

This local banking institution has been watching the evolution of machine equipment for years, and when last year a machine which fully reached their standard came on the market for the first time Martins were the first bank in the country to recognise its merits and adopt it.

The new model is a big advance on the older machine, and has, in addition to the bewildering array of keys and buttons of the calculator, a set of letters similar to the ordinary typewriter.

In the branches where the new system is already installed customers will receive, in place of a pass-book, a neatly typed statement showing deposits, withdrawals, and the balance.

and possibly a sign of the beginning of the end of the Branch Bank, as machines capable of doing the maths are adopted, and the Bank Statement became a reality. Thirty-seven years later, the statement is still pre-computer, but even this clunky-machine-printed version is little more informative, perhaps, than the handwritten passbooks of the past

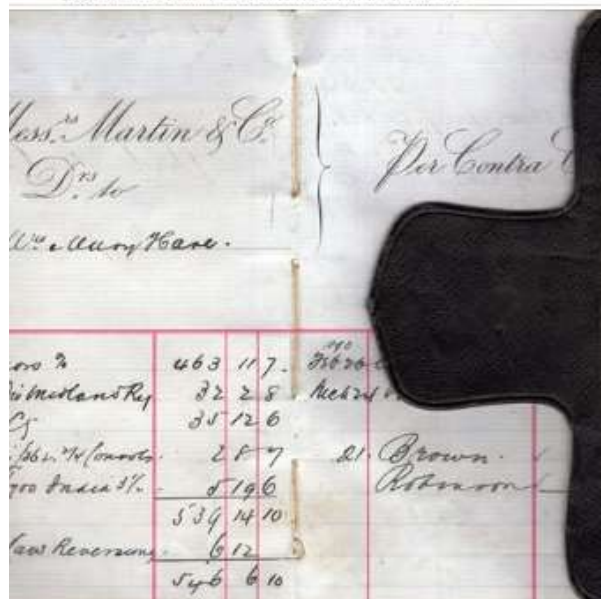
IN ACCOUNT WITH
MARTINS BANK LIMIT
100 WHITBY ROAD
ELLESMERE PORT

ROBERT JOHNSON, ESQ.

		DEBIT		CREDIT	BALA
56	FWD				4
56				BAL 54 5.9	8
56	003 1.5	15 0 0			7
56	007	5 10 0			7
56	008	1 5 7			7
56		7 0 0		DIV 3 10 0	
56	003	3 15 0			6
56	001	5 0 0			6
56	005	5 2 7		CSH 4 10 0	6
56					6
56	010	3 19 3		BAL 56 11 3	10
56	011	15 0 0			9
56	004	7 5 6			8
56	009	2 2 0			
56		5 10 0			

CGM. COMMISSION DIV. DIVIDEND S.O. STANDING ORDER
 CDB. CREDIT BOOK INT. INTEREST SUP. SUPPLEMENTARY LIST AS ENCLOSED
 CPM. CASH AND/OR CHECKS SAL. SALARY TRF. TRANSFER TO OR FROM
 C.T. CREDIT TRANSFER SDV. SAVING ANOTHER ACCOUNT
 (THIS PART LEGIBLE)

CHECKS ARE IDENTIFIED BY THE LAST THREE FIGURES OF THEIR SERIAL NUMBERS



MARTINS BANK AT WAR

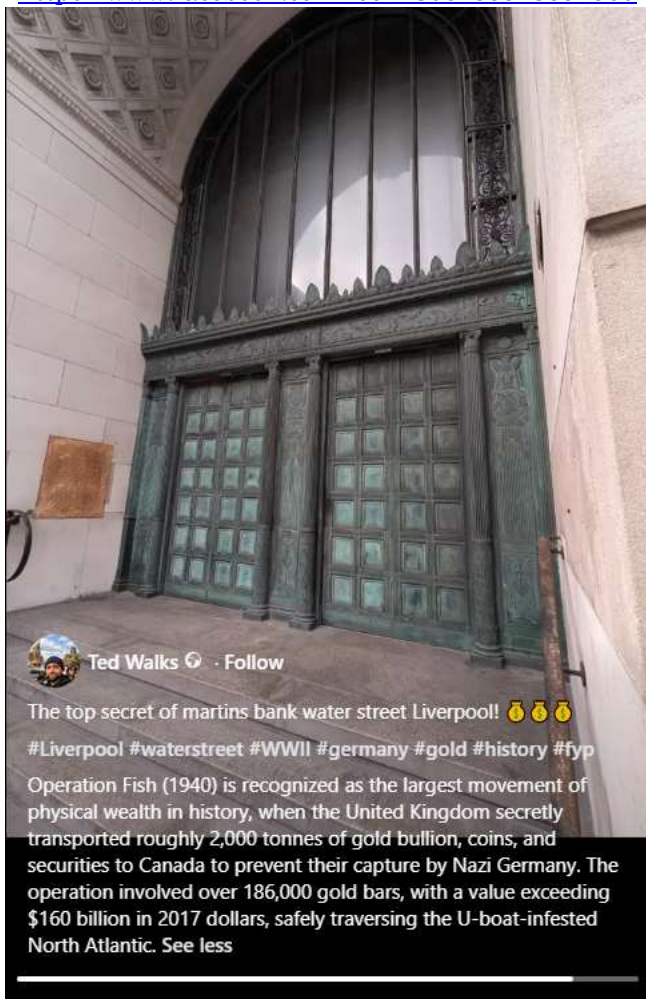
Thanks once again to our friends at the British Newspaper Archive for this picture and story. The three sailors pictured here find themselves in Springfield Massachusetts in 1942. The man on the right is **Leslie Pinnell** who worked at **Martins Bank Bacup** before the war. These men are feted by the locals, who have been raising money to help the war effort in the UK. Long before the matter of "tariffs" we are delighted to see that each of them appears to be making an appropriate gesture to their

American cousins. The reason is actually down to Winston Churchill, whose signature interpretation of "V" for Victory is to place the fingers facing OUTWARDS!



Not only do we have The British Newspaper Archive for providing us with memories but we also have Facebook:

After searching: Martins Bank Liverpool, I came across this interesting post by a local lad: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1806155913392560>



Although we are all aware of the significance of our former Head Office building, it makes you

wonder how many others are that don't, doesn't it?

THE YORKSHIRE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Was held at Shipley Golf Club on Monday, 15th



December when several interesting items of memorabilia were brought by members. These included Richard Brooks' framed Head Office photograph which he rescued from our Manningham Lane branch 56 years ago.

We have all seen the green Grasshopper notepads (or were they only available in the south?), it was good to see the grey notepad



which we used to have in the north. And what about this!
A



photograph (colourised by David Baxter) of our 1962 Park Row Leeds Netball team, brought by Rosalie Cook (ne Jackson)

Leeds 28 - 30 Park Row NETBALL TEAM Circa 1962
Back: Julia Kirby, Rosalie Jackson, ?, Judy Gill
Front: Patricia Graham, Bobbie Currie, Sylvia Burns.



Albeit a relatively small event, everyone still enjoyed the day.



A CONSULTATION FOR OUR LONDON MEMBERS

Although we will never discontinue any of our lunches, and especially our London Lunch, as is evident from our accounts, the cost of the room hire at the Union Jack Club is more than the meals provided. With attendances sadly diminishing we would appreciate your thoughts about possibly holding the November Lunch in an alternative venue, but still in a central location for ease of travel for everyone who intends to attend.

On that point, **could I ask those members who intend attending the 2026 London Lunch** to advise me, which will enable me to identify an alternative venue which is accessible for all?

ROBIN LUCAS' MEMORIES (continued)

After over two years at 88, Wigmore Street, London W1 branch, I had decided to return to my home town, Birkenhead, and I requested a transfer to the Liverpool District in late 1963 or early 1964.

On my first day there, I was sent to the Meols branch (sub to Hoylake, Wirral) on relief duties. I spent a very happy month there, whilst **Brian Constable** was the Clerk in Charge, and I was also sent to Hoylake branch for a week on relief. The experience in both of these branches was a complete change from a very busy London branch!

I then transferred to Lower Bebington (sub to Rock Ferry) - which was a three man branch. On my first day there, I arrived at the branch before 9am, knocked on the door, and there was no answer, and no sign of life. I would knock again every ten minutes, until at 9:50am a man walked up the road to the door and another person got out of a car. These were the Clerk in Charge **Mr T. L. Othick** and the "first" cashier. They rapidly opened the safe, removed ledgers, statements, and mobile tills and unlocked the door at 10:00am

It was here that I became the second cashier, and had my own till. I was at the counter during the 1st cashier's lunch hour, and on some Saturday mornings when we would only have two staff on duty. To make up for working two Saturdays in three, we each had a half day off during the week, once a month.

There was a system at the branch, where the waste sheet was kept up to date as vouchers came into the in tray from the counter or the post, and pencilled sub totals were kept both in the waste sheet and the cashier's cash book after every few postings. At three o'clock sharp, the door was locked, and a well-rehearsed system cut in. The tills were balanced, the waste sheet completed, the ledgers and statement posting completed, everything locked in the safe, and the H.O. and London bags sealed. On a very good day we could be out of the branch before half past three!

One day, I arrived at the branch at 09:45 as usual, and used my Chubb key to get in, but the door was on the security chain! Mr Othick came to open it, and in a loud voice chastised me for being late and asked me into his office.

There, he whispered that the Inspectors were there (I had been off the previous afternoon) and proceeded to tell me off again in a loud voice!

There were also times when I had to cover for absences at Higher Tranmere (sub to Rock Ferry) to post their statements and ledgers.

After almost a year in the branch, I was asked to go to H.O. Staff Dept. for an interview. I was advised by **Mr Othick** that it was for a position from which others had subsequently moved back into branches with limited signing authority and he suggested accepting it if offered. More next time!

After almost a year at Lower Bebington branch, with the luxury of early finishes, I had been able to attend courses at Birkenhead Technical College, and pass four subjects in Part 1 of the Institute of Bankers exams. I failed the fifth subject, but was preparing to re-take it. I was asked to go to Head Office Staff Dept. for an interview, which was with none other than Frank Gillham, who had first interviewed me at 68 Lombard Street when I joined the bank. He had also moved north and was now Head Office Staff Manager. I was asked to join Staff Dept. and I decided to take the job.

My daily routine included starting the day in Branch Clearing Dept. where the Head Office envelopes and packets were opened, and the contents sorted into destination departments. I would then collect all the Staff Department incoming items to take back with me. I can recall some of the staff names:-

Frank Gillham - Head Office Staff Manager,

Don Hall - Chief Superintendent of Branches (Staff)

Mr Shenton - I don't remember his position

Doreen Brown - Mr Shenton's secretary.

Bob Bethell was another.

Amongst my responsibilities were posting the monthly Superannuation Fund contributions to the records from the monthly lists sent by each branch, maintaining the record cards for joiners, leavers, retirees, deaths, transfers between branches etc.

Don Hall was a philatelist, and on the days when new stamps were issued, he would ask me to go to the Main Post Office to buy quarter sheets of stamps, gutter pairs, blocks of six from a particular part of the sheet, and to affix stamps and post a number of first day covers. I used to be rewarded with a few first day covers of my own!

At lunch time, I would sometimes walk to The Cavern Club in Mathew Street. It was 6d a

year to become a member, 6d admission at lunchtime, and there were groups every day who were booked for the evening. I saw many of the top Merseybeat groups as a result.

There was an amusing occasion when the Chief Accountant (**Ron Broadbent** I think) walked up to the Staff Department counter, and I got up to attend to him. He pushed a cheque across the counter, and jokingly asked for it in ten-bob notes. It was a cheque drawn by Cunard on Martins Head Office for £29,500,000 payable to John Brown Shipyard of Clydebank! It was the cheque used to pay for the QE2 liner.

There was a locked room in the sub-basement which was used for filing records that were no longer needed. There were some files down there which were referred to as "the naughty boys" files. These held details of the misdemeanours of ex-staff members who had been dismissed! I used to have a quick read of some of them whenever I had cause to visit that room!

Working in the Head Office building was a pleasure. The Staff Canteen on the 8th floor was a bonus, since we could go there for a 15 minute break each morning and afternoon! The Banking Hall was always awe-inspiring too.

Since I joined the bank, at every six monthly review I had said I was interested in "Computers in Banking". In the early 1960s, Computing was in its infancy, and when Head Office Staff Dept. was asking each region to supply people to go for training as computer programmers, I had asked why I was not being considered, and I was told "We've got better things lined up for you Mr Lucas". They never said what that might be though.

My parents lived in London, and one day my father told me he knew someone who worked as a computer shift leader and they were looking for a trainee computer operator. The salary was over fifty percent more than my salary at the bank, so I applied and was offered the job.

I left Martins and moved back to London. My career since then was entirely in computing, and mainly in banking! I worked for Hambros Bank, S.G. Warburg, Mercury Asset Management, RBS Trust Bank, and Bank of New York. Apart from Hambros Bank, the rest were all the result of demergers, mergers, joint ventures, buyouts, takeovers etc...

I'm certain that everyone has memories of their time working for Martins, so why not share them and ensure that they live on for ever? So don't be shy, let me have them!