



CHARITY No 1039897

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THE PUDDENECKS

HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Secretary Roger Moore MBE

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*The Chairman wishes you all a Safe and prosperous
New Year and hopes that life can soon return to some normality.*

I do hope you are all keeping well, enjoyed Christmas in whatever way you were able to celebrate this festival and that the latest Tier 5 (Lockdown) restrictions will not cause you too much hassle or complications (we have been here before after all), only frustration. I am now even more thankful that I am not working as it must be a nightmare running a business, but the virus has to be beaten. Thank goodness the vaccines are now being distributed and there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Looked up, just before this newsletter is being sent out and I see that there are now only *5.17 million people in front of me for the vaccination!!* so I must be patient for a few more days/weeks. As I said last month, the virus has no holidays, no financial worries, no social graces, has transformed itself so it can be more highly transmissible, and its only concern is to survive so it can cause more chaos and sadness. However, as more people receive the vaccine and hopefully have no side effects, the virus can be conquered, and life can gradually return to some normality. Roll on Easter.

But sadly, this will mean a few more weeks of tight restrictions but this surely must be worth the wait and hopefully by late April/early May we can look forward to planning supper meetings again and for us to start looking forward to holding fund raising and 'Guest' events to help the Older People of Barnet.

As always it would be nice to hear from any of our members with stories, comments on how Christmas was for you, and what you have been doing since we last met in March 2020. You still have the chance to be the first correspondent.

We have a new Club member, **Greg Kraushar** who joined us on the 1st January. Greg is a member of Old Fold Manor Golf Club including the TOFFS section and heard about us when Trisha Leonard – General Manager at Old Fold, very kindly sent out a flyer about Vicky Bailey's Charles Dickens talk in December. From there I have had several conversations with Greg explaining how Puddenecks works, played golf with him and yet he is still keen to participate in all our good works!! So, welcome Greg and I hope golf members will welcome him if they meet on the course and hopefully you will all have the opportunity of welcoming him into the Club when we resume meetings.

Rab Butler will soon be sending out renewal notices for the 2021 subscription which has been maintained at £25 and for the 200 Club at £12. By asking 'Guests' if they would like to join in the '200 Club' this fund-raising method has increased its membership by over 20 names, but this still leaves spaces available if members and/or supporters would like to join. Please can you pay your subs promptly if possible, this year as this source of revenue is one of the few avenues, we have of getting money into the Club.

Chairman's Remarks (Bryan Harrison). Looking back on 2020, it seems hard to believe that at about this time last year **THE PUDDENECKS** were looking forward to a full programme of events; running a second Movement to Music Class; and, thanks to our strong financial position, setting up a sub-committee to consider new ways of spending money.....and then came **Covid19**.

It would probably have been easy to sit back and wait for the virus to run its course. Instead, I think the year has proved to be **THE PUDDENECKS** finest hour. As the pandemic took hold, we rapidly adopted new ways of supporting our 'Guests' through regular telephone contacts; the delivery of meals; help with shopping; and other measures of support. We also help fund the Open-Door Centre initiative of supplying lunches to Older people in need and have stayed in touch with other charities to see where mutual assistance might be of benefit.

This leads me on to thank all those who have made this possible. Firstly, **Paul Kidd** whose drive and determination initiated and sustained much of the work we have done. Secondly, our members and volunteers who have established and maintained the links to those of our 'Guests' who live on their own and have also taken part in the regular delivery of the meals we have delivered. Thirdly, to **Neil Todd** and his sub-committee, who rapidly revised their role to thinking of new ways we could help Older people. I am sure a number of their ideas will become a regular part of **THE PUDDENECKS** programme in the future.

Thanks, must also go to **Totteridge Millhillians Cricket Club (TMCC)**, who have been great supporters of **THE PUDDENECKS** throughout 2020 and have very kindly lent us their Club for some of our subcommittee meetings and for the use of the kitchen. I must make special mention of **Karen Yearley** who has, singlehandedly, prepared a number of meals for over 100 guests culminating in a superb Christmas dinner. We also need to thank again the generous donation of £1,000 from **Alan Cox, Richard Mason, and Byron Davies** which made this Christmas meal possible.

Finally, my thanks to my colleagues on the Committee for all their support. I started the year never having heard of Zoom and ended it having to chair virtual committee meetings via that route. The Committee members have behaved impeccably and made chairing the meetings easy. I suspect, however, that will not continue once we are face to face again!!

May I wish you all a Happy New Year and a return to normal as soon as possible.

THE PUDDENECKS would like to thank everybody for all the donations that have come in over the past month to help us continue to do our pastoral work, be they from our 'Guests' in thanks for all the kindness we are showing; Puddenecks and TMCC members, helpers who allowed us to raise almost £1,000 from the raffle; Waitrose; members of TMCC for generously funding the Christmas

meal; certain committee members and to friends of the Club who joined us at our fund raising Charles Dickens talk. Also to the Ye Olde Monken Holt and their customers for a very generous donation following their appeal for help. **A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYBODY.**

Welfare. (Paul Kidd). I think we exceeded all expectations with our Christmas meal delivery. For the first time we also provided meals to some blind or partially sighted members of Torch, this being a further joint partnership led by Neil Todd. 111 guests over two sessions in one day, across 99 households using 21 drivers but only one chef. The menu was roast turkey crown, stuffing, Yorkshire pudding, sprouts, roast parsnips, roast potatoes and gravy. Dessert was mince pies and cream.

The meal was accompanied with a tin of chocolates and an envelope containing a brochure with lots of amusing stories, jokes and puzzles produced by **Richard Mason** and **Dave Mills**, a Christmas card personalised with guest's name and some crib sheets relating to warnings on the increasing threat of scams. We received much positive comment from 'Guests' for this brochure.

Twenty-six prizes were funded by volunteers to provide a free raffle for 'Guests' and prizes were distributed at the same time and provided an extra surprise to 'Guests'. A volunteer driver from TMCC established that one of his 'Guest's' had a birthday on the day of delivery and so an extra present was included and accompanied by a singing driver!!

A couple of the prizes donated were very large hampers and these were retained and raffled off amongst volunteers and supporters of Puddenecks and TMCC. Proceeds came close to £1,000 so thanks to all who bought tickets. The winners were: -

1st prize; A very large food and wine hamper - **Pam Moore**; 2nd Prize; A large food and wine hamper - **Pina Griffin**; 3rd Prize; A magnum of Prosecco - **Marie Chapman**; 4th Prize; A bottle of Champagne - **A friend of Seema Shah**.

We received lots of kind cards, phone calls and even emails thanking the Club and its members and supporters for all the kind efforts shown to them in making sure that all 'Guests' are safe and well. I have shown below just three messages which sets out the thoughts of all our 'Guests'.

Hi Paul

Thank you so very much for the wonderful, tasty turkey meal brought to me by Pina. I very much appreciate all the care and the work it entails that the Puddenecks put in to keep us Oldies safe, warm & well fed. We are so very lucky. The tin of Quality Street was well received too & will be thoroughly enjoyed. And I was absolutely thrilled to win such a fabulous prize in the raffle. I feel very spoilt. So much selection in the hamper box. With all good wishes for a very Happy Christmas & hopefully a Better New Year.

Pat Matthews

Hi Paul

Again, many thanks for the wonderful Christmas dinner, truly lovely. I would like to thank all your little elves and helpers for giving their time to organize such a lovely treat, not only now but through difficult times throughout this year in particular. I wish you Health and Happiness, with Christmas festivities of your choice. I drink a toast to you all, with many, many thanks.

Dear Puddenecks

I felt I must write to thank you for all the meals and extra treats brought to me during this difficult year. To have someone call with a tasty meal, especially during the lockdowns was the real highlight of my life and very much appreciated. Thanking you all for your care and concern.

With Best wishes.

Pam Miles

Paul said *"that for me, the most rewarding aspect of the whole event is that ownership of the day was spread far and wide"*. The Club must also thank **Neil Todd** who not only continued to twist arms to find a sponsor for the tins of chocolates (thank you **Peter Bennison**) and mince pies (thanks to Waitrose) and to **Bernard Woolf** (for organising the cream to go with the mince pies). Neil also led the Committee that decided to raffle the largest hampers. For these ticket sales, **Seema Shah** was head and shoulders the most influential ticket seller.

Also, to be included on the thanks list is **Valerie Harrison** who donated the top two 'Guest' prizes, collected them, wrapped them beautifully; arranged the draw and then labelled prizes so that they could be incorporated with delivery of meals. **Bernard Woolf** arranged, funded, and then addressed the Christmas cards. He also managed the aggregation of cards, brochures, and scam avoidance leaflets into personalised envelopes. Without this planning and execution, the production of goody bags would have taken several hours longer. **Keith Yearley** provided about 50% of the drivers from TMCC members and he managed the flow of meals so that they were presented to drivers timely and hot. Our 'Guests' are deeply in debt to Keith and the other members of TMCC who contributed so much to make the event successful.

However, the last word of thanks must go to **Karen Yearley** who planned, shopped, and then cooked up the meal. Karen was aided by **Steve Nicholas** who carved turkey crowns for hours and **Neil Hill** who assisted in packing. **Karen** cooked from 9.00AM to 6.30PM and the greatest clue to her capability is that she was as even tempered and calm at the end of the day as at the beginning. Paul says *"I have now worked with **Karen** on four meals for Puddenecks 'Guests'. In the summer, her meals saved the Club some £1,500 against the cost of fish and chips. Cooking for large family groups is something many do but I do not know of anyone else who cooks for in excess of one hundred and then repeats the exercise! **Truly our Head Girl!**"*

Paul also comments *"The overall offering gave our 'Guests' a lift, made them feel looked after and part of a community when so much of the current national advice in effect says, 'You are on your own. Stay isolated'. The combination of the number of volunteers, their competency and desire to do a good job for 'Guests' produced an excellent result of which all those who contributed can feel justifiably proud"*. Well done **Paul** for all your organisational skills. The next meal delivery date is planned, hopefully subject to checking on rules within lockdown, is for **Wednesday 20th January** when 'Guests' will also be in for a surprise but more details nearer the date.

We are again planning another Fund-raising talk from Vicky Bailey given how popular and well received her last two talks have been. The date will be **Thursday 4th February at 7.00pm** and her talk will be entitled **Lawless London: villains and victims in the old City**, some of you may even feature in it. More details later about booking in but please put the date in your diaries now. This is one of the few opportunities all members have of supporting the Club's fund-raising efforts without having to leave the armchair.

Please remember that we are now registered with **Smile Amazon** which will allow the Club to receive cash donations of 0.5% of the net purchase price from anyone shopping online at Amazon. To register is extremely easy using the steps Rab has set out below: -

1. On your first visit to: smile.amazon.co.uk

You are prompted to select a charitable organisation from the list.

The Puddenecks is on the list - **SELECT**

You can change at any time.

2. To change charities (if you already support one)

Sign in to: smile.amazon.co.uk

Go to: Your Account and select the option to: Change your charity. Then change to Puddenecks.

The most important part when shopping is to initially sign in to [Smile Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), not go direct to Amazon.com. Good luck if you have any problems setting this up please feel free to contact Rab or myself and we will try and help. **Go on, it is easy and could provide us with some needy funds.**

200 Club. If you would you like to join our '200 Club' and maybe become one of our lucky winners, then please contact **Rab Butler** (email rjbutler14@btinternet.com) our Treasurer. The recent winners have been: -

October

No 37 George Grimes £10; **No 102** Dorothy Flitney £10; **No 95** Jack Williams £25.

November

No 45 S J Barnes £10; **No 119** Dorothy Lindley £10; **No 116** Valerie Cukeen £25.

December

No 14 Rab Butler £10; **No 104** Doreen Unwin £10; **No 39** Paul Kidd £100.

A **Imoner.** The good news is that Don Robins has recovered from his fall and catching Covid while in hospital and is now back home. Also, Peter Roy Smith is back home having spent many weeks in hospital with Sepsis and Covid. We send them both good wishes and hope they can make a speedy full recovery. Does anybody have any additional news on any of our members who may be unwell?

M **ovement to Music. (Jack Williams).** All class members were pleased to receive their December copies of revision paper and Christmas quiz papers. Those members living alone and without support have already been referred to Paul to receive the evening dinner deliveries. They were truly delighted to receive their special Christmas dinner just before Christmas together with all the extras and I have already informed Paul of how much they all appreciated this wonderful Puddenecks event. I do believe in the very near future we can all begin to look forward to a much better year 2021.

Do look at our web page as John Connell, with Richard Stell's help has updated the site with the latest newsletter and hopefully later this year we will looking at updating all the pages on the site. **Any volunteers?**

Four pictures of the Christmas meal and raffle prizes being prepared at TMCC and lastly a caption to cheer us all up.



KEEP SAFE AND WELL AND LET'S HOPE THAT WE MAY SOON MEET AGAIN

HAPPY NEW YEAR