



THE PUDDENECKS

HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

CHARITY No 1039897

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Secretary Roger Moore MBE

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At last, there looks to be a strong light at the end of the tunnel, and it is getting brighter every day. Hopefully, all members have now had their first vaccine and a second dose cannot be that far away. With 'freedom date' set for 21st June (hopefully if all goes according to plan), the committee can soon start to plan for our regular supper meetings to return, as well as get-togethers for our 'Guests' although this may have to be a more cautious approach. However, it should be an exciting committee meeting on the 22nd of March. In the meantime, we just have to be patient and do as we are told for a couple more months.

Puddeneck's meal deliveries continue with Fish & Chips in late January, a lovely surprise basket of goodies in early February, a most scrumptious Roast Lamb dinner at the end of February and a trial run of flowers/bulbs to celebrate special occasions.

The January Fish & Chips was well received with 106 meals delivered by 18 drivers to 95 homes and while the weather was just about kind, although some deliverers did get wet, had it been 24 hours later we would have had to contend with snow and very cold conditions.

At the beginning of February, the Club delivered over 100 'Goodie' baskets containing cakes, biscuits, tea, hand cream and a Puddenecks mug. Paul received an excited telephone call from June Tucker, who had just received her special delivery of 'fantastic goodies'. It had arrived as June returned home from a difficult and unsuccessful trip to collect her medicines from the pharmacy. Not unusually the chemist blamed the GP, and the GP blamed the pharmacy as the items were not ready. So, the unexpected surprise of a lovely basket on her doorstep really lifted June's spirits and her day was made even more successful when a temporary batch of medicines arrived from her pharmacy.

A little later Paul received a call from another excited Puddenecks 'Guest', Gillian Woodman who had also received a special gift which she said had made her day.



It is amazing how much an unexpected surprise can be so uplifting to an elderly person living alone. Well done to **Bernard** for seeing the project through from start to finish.

Another letter received from Win Harris; -

'Hi Paul, it was a lovely surprise to be given the nicely presented Hamper from the Puddenecks, which I am enjoying, thank you, would you please, on my behalf, thank the Committee and all those who helped to give us all such a good treat.

I hope your family are well.

For the end February meal, Paul writes, *'so many thanks to **Totteridge Millhillians Cricket Club (TMCC)** again for the fifth meal they have cooked in their pavilion for our 'Guests'. Each meal feeds in excess of 100 'Guests' and was again funded by a group of TMCC supporters. **Karen Yearley** is the heart of the kitchen and on this occasion was helped by **Steve Nicholas** and **Seema Shah**. Karen and Steve started at 8.00AM and finished at 7.00PM. They must have been on their knees and we all owe them our praise and thanks. **Keith Yearley** pulled all the strings in the Clubhouse, re the organisation and sorted out the problems on the day in a way that kept the show rolling and to time. **Neil Todd** worked with the Mill Hill branch of **Waitrose** who once again gave us support in contributing towards the goody bag and thanks also go to **Bernard Woolf** for his help in shopping for the goody bag and helping at the TMCC Clubhouse'.*

The picture below was sent in by Pat Matthews and I am informed that the Roast Lamb was very tender and had a great flavour while all the trimmings were a fantastic bonus to the meal. No wonder TMCC meals are popular amongst our 'Guests'.



Inside the Waitrose goodie bag was not only cake, mousse, and fresh fruit, but Paul had put in a news sheet full of stories some written by 'Guests' and ending with a number of puzzles and quizzes.

Within half an hour of me returning from making my deliveries Linda Perry wrote:

I've just enjoyed a lovely roast lamb dinner with all the trimmings. I do not know how your cook does it but please say Thank You from me it's a real treat to get such a meal.

I also enjoyed the cartoons and puzzles in the newsletter. I've ordered the book on Trent Park as it sounds very interesting, I was not alive during the war so don't have any memories to share but enjoy reading others. Thanks again for all you and Puddeneck do for us.

Next Delivery date for a meal to 'Guests' is planned for **THURSDAY 25TH MARCH**.

We also started in February a pilot scheme with Flower Bank, a local florist and 10 guests received bulb growing kits in an attractive vase. Flower Bank is a social enterprise that has been operating for six years or so by distributing flowers that have been donated by wholesalers and supermarkets. The donations they receive are at their greatest following events such as Valentine's day. If you know of any 'Guest' who needs a lift, please let **Paul Kidd** know and we will get some flowers delivered. Delivery can be from some volunteers who are prepared to undertake such deliveries or by yourself. Costs are very reasonable and will average about £5 per arrangement payable by Club funds. It is the element of surprise and the reminder that our older people are not alone that is the key.



Hopefully, this year our Charity Golf day will go ahead and just to remind everybody that the day has been changed to **WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER** at Old Fold Manor Golf Club.

The Club has received a generous donation of £100 from the Bank of England as a result of a request from our newest member **Greg Kraushar**; the citation reading 'The Bank of England Court Awards recognises the dedication and support of Bank colleagues to a particular community or charitable cause'. Well done Greg.

April 13th should see the Club holding its AGM, but the committee has decided that this should be postponed until later in the year when we can all meet up again. However, the three main committee reports for 2020 (Chairman's; Trustees and Financial) are almost ready for circulation and will be sent out in about a week's time.

From an anonymous source but I thought you might all enjoy this poem.

*Everyone PLEASE be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home!
I was just talking about this to the **microwave** and the **toaster** whilst drinking my Pepsi and we all agreed that things are getting bad.*

*I didn't mention this to the **washing machine**, because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING!!*

*Certainly couldn't share with the **fridge**, because he's been acting cold and distant! I*

*In the end, the **iron** straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out!*

*The **vacuum**. however, was very unsympathetic.... told me to just suck it up!*

But the fan was VERY optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon!

The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion.

But the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip!!

You can guess what the curtains said: they told me to "pull myself together!"

We will survive!!

Our friends at High Barnet Good Neighbours have been in touch: -

'We have been lucky enough to have been donated a large quantity of good quality books and jigsaws. If any of your clients would like to have any please let me know ... authors include Lee Child, Robert Harris, Len Deighton, Jack Patterson, Sebastian Faulks, Michael Dobbs, Catherine Cookson, Margaret Dickinson, Ruth Hamilton ... they are mainly Crime/Thriller and Romance/Historical genres. The jigsaw puzzles are 500 & 1000 pieces.' If any 'Guest' wants anything, please let **Paul Kidd** know.

Also, **Marie Chapman** has some mobility aids that are no longer required and if any 'Guest' or indeed volunteer has any interest in the item shown in the picture below plus some other mobility devices please send Marie an email at mariemchapman@sky.com.



Rab Butler has sent out renewal notices for the 2021 subscription which has been maintained at £25 and for the 200 Club at £12. I gather we still have **eight members** outstanding and that **nine 200 club tickets** not yet renewed. So, to those who have not paid please can you remedy this as soon as practical as this source of revenue is one of the few avenues, we have of getting money into the Club at the moment.

I do hope you have read the excellent paper I sent out a couple of weeks ago from Valerie Harrison on *'What help is available for Older people'*. We have had a number of nice comments back saying how helpful this document was in a world which can be very confusing and difficult to understand.

We are again planning another and, if ease of lockdown measures goes ahead as planned, maybe the last in the current series, of fund-raising talk from Vicky Bailey. Given how popular and well received her last three talks have been I hope many of you will book in for this talk. The date will be **Monday 29th March at 7.00pm** and her talk will be entitled **The Blitz: Fires over London in World War Two**. Full details were circulated at the end of February 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. Book in via an email to **Roger Moore (ri.moore@virgin.net)**.

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: -

January

No 73 Jan Loader £10; **No 107** Mrs V Corr £10; **No 101** Douglas Wood £25.

February

No 21 Roger Moore £10; **No 49** Mrs Brown £10; **No 27** Shaun O'Connor £25.

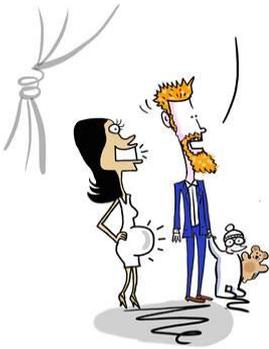
Armorer. Does anybody have any news on any of our members who may be unwell?

Movement to Music. (Jack Williams). Because of the changing Covid 19 restrictions we are in discussions with Deborah Cura our course teacher and Age UK to monitor the changes that will allow our class to recommence as soon as possible. Win Harris our eldest class member celebrated her 100th birthday on February 15th. Win received a beautiful bouquet of flowers with special chocolates from all the class members and from **THE PUDDENECKS** which arrived on her birthday. Win also received many telephone messages of congratulations. She was really delighted and was also aware of the special tea party which is arranged for her with all class members as soon as the class recommences. It is also worth mentioning that Win was top of the class in a recent revision and puzzle paper.

All class members have now received their final papers and the next communication will be by telephone giving them the date for commence of classes. If that sounds optimistic then so be it. The Class would also like to acknowledge the support that we have received from **THE PUDDENECKS** and the wonderful work they have been doing in so many other areas. Bless them.

WONDERFUL NEWS...

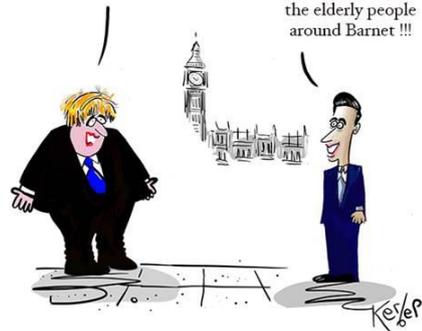
Nan,
Meghan and I
are so
excited !!!



I know !!!
The Puddenecks
are doing some
amazing things
for elderly folk
around
Barnet !!!



Rishi...
the nation
needs to hear
some happy,
exciting
news !!!



Okay Boris,
let's tell them about
the wonderful Puddenecks
and what they do for
the elderly people
around Barnet !!!

Many thanks to Neil Kerber for a couple of his cartoons shown above. Neil is a friend of Neil Todd and is a professional cartoonist who has worked for the Daily Mirror and continues working for Private Eye. I hope they can lift spirits as we all wait. These cartoons also appeared in Paul's news sheet sent to 'Guests' last week.

I did ask for any contributions from members about what you have been doing over the past twelve months but sadly none have been forthcoming save for **Greg Kraushar** sending me some of the daily jokes he receives from of his employer The Bank of England. So, I have selected a few with more to come!!!!

"I used to be an investigative reporter, then I worked as a chef. A publisher asked me to write a cookbook, but I wouldn't reveal my sauces."

"My postman keeps stopping work to tell me jokes. To be honest, his delivery is awful."

"I was on this fairground ride, and one minute I was laughing and the next I was crying. It was an emotional roller coaster."

Forthcoming Events

Monday 22nd March; Executive committee meeting 5.00pm

Thursday 26th March; 'Guest' meal delivery

Monday 29th March; Fund Raising Talk by Vicky Bailey 7.00pm

Wednesday 15th September; Charity Golf Day at Old Fold Manor

