



## SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

CHARITY No 1039897

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Secretary Roger Moore MBE

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Can it really be the 28<sup>th</sup> May that I last sent out a newsletter. Well, after a false start 'freedom' has arrived all be it with some provisos and lets all hope that lockdowns are a thing of the past but only time will tell. I do hope all members are keeping well and now enjoying being allowed out and restart activities while still being very cautious.

Pam and I have been busy, and we have already fitted in three holidays, Jersey with the family, Torquay with Rob and Jan Loader and an 'Islands on the Edge' cruise from Portsmouth to Aberdeen with just 67 passengers on board a Noble Caledonia ship. I cannot tell you how many birds including puffins and gulls of all descriptions we saw together with whales, sharks, and dolphins; all very exciting. In my absence for our last holiday, the Club organised several 'Guest' events. Firstly, we held two BBQs in July, a couple of coffee mornings and restarted a Movement to Music class.

**C**ommittee matters: We actually had a live committee meeting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August at which the main topic was how and when do we get back to normal meetings both for 'Guests' and members and this is reported in other sections of this newsletter. On finances, despite all our good efforts in looking after 'Guests' we still have over £24,000 in the bank thanks to numerous donations and generosity of Totteridge Cricket Club members not charging us for all their help. We have agreed to give £1,000 to Chipping Barnet Day Centre for the Elderly for two wheelchairs which they require.

Below are reports on the successful BBQs we organised in July and the coffee mornings. The Movement to Music class on a Tuesday morning at Wesley Hall started in July and quickly we had around 16 'Guests' attending so that now looks like becoming a permanent event for the Club.

For September the Club has booked the Bull Theatre to show a film for 'Guests' of the 'The Battle of Barnet' currently being produced by the Bull Theatre players for which the Club is donating some money to help produce and in October and November we hope to bring back 'Guests' for a fish & chips evening and Bingo. See more details below

We are planning to have our first supper meeting on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at Old Fold Manor Golf Club at 7.00pm**. Hopefully all members will have by now received a phone call from a committee member urging them to come back and reunite the Club as we try to return to a normal format. Once we know the approximate number attending the supper meeting Bernard or I will send out the usual booking in/booking out notice.

You should have also been asked if a lunchtime meeting might be more tempting during the dark winter months and we will make this decision once we have everybody's thoughts together with all dates for future events that appear in this newsletter.

The Club has been very lucky to have had many outsiders/friends step forward to help with our meal delivery, allowing us to vary the meal delivered and with running the BBQs and coffee mornings and we hope very much to be able to acknowledge this in the Autumn with an event for helpers.

***We took some time debating how the Club move forward and decided that we need to make a concerted effort to increase our membership. So, if you do have any relatives, friends, acquaintances or know one of our helpers then do try and encourage them to join and help the Club and gain a younger, active membership.***

We also decided at the meeting to continue to send birthday cards and flowers to 'Guests' but after some discussion and thought we realised that sadly, we could not expand this to 'Guests' residing in residential homes.

We still receive many thank you cards for all our help including:

*"To the very nice man (Francesco Giacon) who telephoned regarding the beautiful flowers delivered to me. They are still going strong six days later and bring me great pleasure every time I look at them".*

*"Please thank all members of **The Puddenecks** for a lovely time they gave us at the Cricket Club last week and the coffee morning last Friday. It was really nice to meet up with friends again, made possible by your kindness so thank you once again".*

**Welfare:** Paul Kidd writes from his new country retreat in Rustington Sussex: -

Two BBQs hosted by Totteridge Millhillians Cricket Club (TMCC) in July marked the last events of our 2020/2021 calendar. This was a wonderful opportunity for TMCC to baptise their new BBQ the Club had bought them as a thanks for all their contribution over the past fifteen months. The BBQ food bought, cooked and prepared by Steve Nicholas was marinated lamb and chicken kebabs and much enjoyed by the 'Guests'. Even the 'Krispy Kreme doughnuts' went down a bomb (who would have thought on a hot day!). In addition to Steve, we must thank Brad, a one-man dynamo in the kitchen and Sophie who served drinks, dished up, and moved furniture all within the same breath. It was fitting that our first event after the lifting of covid restrictions should be provided by TMCC who had proved to be such steadfast and generous friends through the whole of lockdown, and the committee would like to thank Keith Yearley for his unwavering support in mobilising so many of the resources of TMCC and Karen, his wife, for her determination to provide satisfying and enjoyable meals for our 'Guests'. It wasn't just what they did but their commitment to help older people that shone out.

St John Ambulance was in attendance at the BBQ and many thanks to them as on the Tuesday BBQ, one lady became overwhelmed by the heat and needed particular and lengthy support whilst on Wednesday Roger Hedgecoe (our ever-faithful St John member) was invaluable in helping some of our 'less' mobile guests and one wheelchair bound lady in particular.

## Our year's work

Since March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, when the first lockdown commenced, the Club has done sterling work in supporting the 'older' people of north Barnet who live independently. We have made a difference to many. To a few who have had the greatest challenges due to isolation, poor mental or general health, or lack of support we have made a much greater contribution. Along the way we have met some frustrations and anxieties ourselves but overall, there has been satisfaction to be found in volunteering.

Our volunteers have come from The Puddenecks, friends attracted to helping local older people, Bull Players and Totteridge Millhillians Cricket Club members. Regardless of what it was we attempted we succeeded due to the goodwill and efforts of us all.

*The stats are that we operated for some 16 months, made some **5,000** phone calls to our 'Guests', served almost **2,000** meals, made almost as many deliveries, produced **six** newsletters, **500** goody bags and **110** gift boxes.*

We are leaving lockdown as a much stronger unit that is already developing new events to prevent isolation amongst 'older' people. The work that **The Puddenecks** started is the continuation of what **The Puddenecks** has done since it became a charity some 62 years ago. We now have a platform to work with an enlarged group of volunteers and TMCC to produce a stronger community for 'older' people to thrive.

Below are some pictures of the BBQs.



**We also have held coffee mornings in July and August and Valerie Harrison reports: -**  
We held our first ever Puddenecks Coffee Morning at the Wesley Hall in Barnet on Friday 23 July. We can safely say that, like the barbecues, we had a success on our hands. Nearly 40 guests arrived under their own steam and very quickly settled into tea, coffee, a selection of cakes, pastries, and biscuits. Soon there was a great buzz in the room with people chatting and laughing together.

We had a great saxophonist playing live music and it wasn't long before there was an outbreak of singing. The tables looked lovely with table clothes and flower arrangements to welcome guests.

We had excellent set-up support from Carol Moeke at the Wesley Hall, and we had a fantastic team of volunteers from the Bull Players, the Barnet Coffee Club and **The Puddenecks** - all serving the tables, chatting with 'Guests' and collecting ideas for future events. Councillor Longstaff, deputy leader of Barnet Council, and his partner very kindly joined us to show their support. Neil Todd welcomed our 'Guests' and talked about future arrangements. 'Guests' were unanimous in wanting more of these events - and the next one was held on the 13 August, again at the Wesley Hall which proved to be just as successful and hopefully another will be held in September. Pictures below show our 'Guests' and our entertainer, and hopefully we will be able to repeat this event.



Sadly, Paul has decided that having moved to Sussex he would like to reduce, but not relinquish, in the near future his **Welfare** activities which he has starred at for the past three years. We owe Paul a great deal of thanks for not only seeing us through the pandemic and allowing us to look after over 100 'Elderly Guests' but also to modernising and computerising the way we set up the admin for 'Guests'. This has made the task for which 'Guests' could be invited to our events much simpler and easier to manage. However last-minute cancellations both by 'Guests' unable to attend, asking can my friend also come, to members and helpers suddenly finding they cannot help/drive, does cause him frustrations and phone calls.

However, this is a vital part of **The Puddenecks** and what our mission statement seeks us to do so, we need to find someone or a couple of members to take on this role. **Any volunteers???** The committee will review the situation at its October meeting and hopefully by then a member will have volunteered otherwise we will have to review the ongoing future of the Club and maybe a engage in a few telephone conversations.

**Fund Raising events.** We are back in business trying to raise money once more to support our activities. The first event is on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September** when we are holding our annual Charity golf day at Old Fold Manor Golf Club. Coffee and bacon rolls will be available from 10am and there will be a shot gun start at 11am. Lots of opportunities to win prizes at different holes; as well as prizes for the first six teams, plus for longest drive/nearest the pins on par threes. There will also be a ball sweep in case you should accidentally loose a ball on the course or in the water.

How can you help? By any of the following ways: -

- a. Enter a team now (male, female or mixed) the cost for a 4-ball team is £70 per player (£50 per player for OFMGC members). **Email John Connell at [john.connell14@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.connell14@ntlworld.com)**

*If you don't have a team but want to play then don't despair, contact John and he will help gather a team.*

- b. Helping on the day as a Marshall or in the club house. **Email Roger at [ri.moore@virgin.net](mailto:ri.moore@virgin.net)**

- c. Offering a very needed prize for the raffle. **Email Bernard Woolf at [Bernard.woolf@sqworkspace.co.uk](mailto:Bernard.woolf@sqworkspace.co.uk)**

- d. Buy a raffle ticket(s) for £20. Why so high a price? this year we are not having an auction so all raffle prizes will be 'high quality'. Please contact Roger **NOW** at [ri.moore@virgin.net](mailto:ri.moore@virgin.net)

- e. Just attend the dinner in the evening. Cost £25, wife's welcome. **Email Roger**



If you can help in any of the following ways listed above, then please contact either John Connell [john.connell14@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.connell14@ntlworld.com) or myself at [ri.moore@virgin.net](mailto:ri.moore@virgin.net)

**YOUR HELP IS VITAL TO THE CLUB**

Our second event is **RACE NIGHT** back by popular demand. The date is **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November** at Old Fold Manor Golf Club starting at 7.00pm. We will have lots of fun watching horseracing from a leading UK course but in the comfort of the Golf club lounge, the opportunity to sponsor a horse, place bets on all the winning horses and enjoy a very special fish & chips supper with coffee. Watch this space for more details but do put the date in your diaries.

**G**uest Events. We have teamed up with the Bull theatre production team who are currently filming, in full dress, a re-enactment of the Battle of Barnet which as we all know took place somewhere around Hadley Green on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1471 and saw a decisive victory for Edward IV over his adversary Henry VI. Our date is Saturday **25<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm at the Bull Theatre when this film will have its premiere with 70 of our very special 'Guests' present.** There will be a short interval where ice creams are hopefully going to be offered and there will be an input from Barnet Museum describing the battle. Under current Covid rules, The Bull Theatre will be hosting 70 'Guests' which is around 50% of its capacity. Hopefully it will be a very special and exciting occasion for our 'Guests'. While we are hoping most 'Guests' will be able to make their own way to the theatre there will be a few that will need transport so If you can help on that day by driving or being in attendance to help, please contact Neil Todd [toddneil@hotmail.com](mailto:toddneil@hotmail.com) who is organising this event.

On the **20<sup>th</sup> October** and the **17<sup>th</sup> November** we are planning for 'Guests' to return to Old Fold Manor Golf Club where we will run welcome back meals but in our normal format. Please watch this space for more details but we will need help to collect and return our 'Guests' to their homes.

One more date for your diaries is **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January** when we will be holding our New Year party for 'Guests' at Old Fold Manor Golf Club so please make a note of this date.

**D**on't forget to look at the Club's new web page [www.puddenecksclub.org.uk](http://www.puddenecksclub.org.uk). If you have any suggestions on its further improvement, please feel free to talk or contact Bryan Harrison.

**200 Club.** If you, would you like to join our '200 Club' and maybe become one of our lucky winners it only costs £12 a year, then please contact **Rab Butler** (email [rjbutler14@btinternet.com](mailto:rjbutler14@btinternet.com)) our Treasurer. The recent winners have been: -

**JUNE:** 112 John Cox £10: 116 V Culkeen £10: 137 M Homer £25.

**JULY:** 82 Ian Bowers £10: 81 Peter R Smith £10: 124 R V Sasin £25.

**AUGUST:** 110 Mrs Smith £10: 80 Freddie Roe £10: 65 Maia Nolli £25.

**A**lmoner. Does anybody have any news on any of our members who may be unwell? We send our best wishes to Rob who is currently under the weather and in hospital.

**M**ovement to Music. (Jack Williams). Hope this finds you all safe and well, also, after our long gap, I am so pleased to share the following welcome news with you all. We will recommence our Movement to Music classes on **Thursday September 9th, St Stephens Hall 2pm.**

Our first class will be a very gentle introduction to our exercise program with plenty of time for our much-delayed chocolate cake with our tea, while chatting and catching up on all the news. Windows will be open throughout the session and chairs will be spaced to allow movement for the exercises. Chairs may be moved closer, if you wish, for refreshments and chatting and wearing of masks at any time, is also down to you as individuals. If there are any significant developments in the next 3 or 4 weeks a prominent notice will be displayed on the entrance door when you arrive.

Deborah sends her warmest wishes, and we are looking forward to all being together again, please feel free to phone at any time. So, with blessings to every one of you see you all on **September 9<sup>th</sup>**.

In one of the news sheet Paul sent out he indicated that if any 'Guests' had good quality surplus clothes then Puddenecks could help dispose of these through **Thrift+**. Well, one of my ladies wanted to reduce her wardrobe and she managed to get 2 bags that I had delivered to her, filled. I then established that you have to get a code from **Thrift+**, send the bags off via Yodel (local shop) and then **Thrift +** aim to process the bags in around 2 weeks from receiving it at their warehouse. At busy times, it can take a little longer.

Once the items have been photographed, they will send an email asking to approve each listing before the items go live. You will be able to edit the listing price and item details. If you choose not to review your items they will be automatically uploaded onto their sales board after 5 days. Then hopefully we get 50% of any sales made. We will await and see how successful this will be. Please contact me if you get any requests for bags and I will guide you through the various steps.

One of our 'Guests', Kitty Drain reached a magical age in August and to celebrate such an important occasion **The Puddenecks** sponsored afternoon tea for her with Jennifer, on left, her neighbour and Lisa Rankin, one of our helpers at West Lodge on the 23 August and as the picture shows there was lots of cakes and scones and cups of tea. Lisa told us that 'We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and there was plenty of laughter. The weather was kind to us so we were able to walk around the grounds after tea'. Everybody had a wonderful time with Kitty reminiscing on her magical 100 years of life.



**F**orthcoming events. When did we last see a list as long as this?

**THURSDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER;** Jack Williams 'Movement to Music' afternoons restarting 2pm.

**WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER;** Charity Golf Day at Old Fold Manor. 10am start

**SATURDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER;** 2pm film on the Battle of Barnet at the Bull Theatre for 'Guests'.

**TUESDAY 12TH OCTOBER;** Supper meeting at Old Fold Manor Golf Club 7pm

**WEDNESDAY 20TH OCTOBER;** 'Guest' night at Old Fold Manor Golf Club 7pm

**TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER;** supper meeting at Old Fold Manor Golf Club 7pm.

**FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER;** Fund raising Race night at Old Fold Manor Golf Club 7pm.

**WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER;** 'Guest' night at Old Fold Manor Golf Club. 7pm

**WEDNESDAY 19TH JANUARY 2022;** 'Guest' New year's party at old Fold Manor Golf Club 6.30pm

*The committee look forward to meeting all members again soon and running 'Guest' and members events and enlarging our membership.*