



CHARITY No 1039897


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THE PUDDENECKS

HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

Secretary: Roger Moore MBE

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Spring seems to have definitely arrived with crocuses and snowdrops around and daffodils starting to push their leaves out of the ground and flowering while blossom is also appearing on trees; all that is missing is a spell of dry weather to cheer us up. Pam and I went to Bennington Lordship, a private house just north east of Stevenage recently to see the snowdrops and crocuses and if the sun had be shining it would have been beautiful.



MEMBER'S DINNER MEETINGS. The Chairman writes: I am sad to report that the Committee has had to conclude that holding monthly member supper meetings is no longer viable. Interest has declined significantly since Covid, and we simply cannot attract the numbers required to make them affordable or interesting. We have therefore decided to move to two fundraising dinners a year with speakers - which on past experience have proved very successful. In addition, we will organise a BBQ at Totteridge Millhillans Cricket Club as a thank you to members and volunteers for all their support in enabling **THE PUDDENECKS** to run so many events over the year.

Members and volunteers will still be kept in touch with the work of the Committee via the regular Newsletter and, of course, the AGM, held on the **second Tuesday in APRIL**, provides all members with the opportunity to discuss reports on the work we have done over the previous year and our plans for the future. In between times if anyone has any points, they would like to discuss please contact me (tel: 07939 246 857 or email harrisonbryan108@gmail.com) or one of the other Committee members.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. As you will know, the AGM provides the opportunity to appoint members to the Committee and so become Trustees of the Charity. Over recent years we have struggled to get members to take on this role and we have already had to change the Constitution to allow for a lower number of Trustees. Without new Trustees **THE PUDDENECKS** will not be able to continue, and I hope therefore that some of you will be willing to join the Committee at the AGM. The basic role is not onerous requiring attendance at only six Committee meetings over the year and I would be very happy to discuss what it involves with anyone who is interested. Please give this serious consideration if you want to ensure **THE PUDDENECKS** are able to continue to fulfil a role which is much valued by our guests and those we help.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM on **Tuesday 9th April** for supper at Old Fold Manor Golf Club starting at 7.00pm.

Bryan Harrison

Chairman

Following on from Bryan's letter you should soon receive an email from Greg Kraushar inviting you to attend the AGM on **Tuesday 9th April** and to choose your meal. I do hope you will be able to attend and air your thoughts on how the Club is run and where we go into the future! It will be the first time we have met, just as a club, for a long time, and it would be nice to see and talk to some of our newer members. A major challenge for the club in 2024 will be to further strengthen the committee, which is the lifeline of the Club, hopefully with some of our newer, younger members so we can ensure ongoing success, as we approach our Seventieth anniversary in 2027. If you think this fits your profile and would like to help shape the future of ***THE PUDDENECKS*** then please come to the AGM and/or contact the Chairman or Secretary to see where your talents can be best used.

ACT NOW.

ACT NOW.

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With this newsletter but by separate email you will receive the formal notice of the 2024 AGM, the 2023 Trustee report and the 2023 Chairman's report. As the 2023 accounts have only just been returned from the auditor (with another clean bill of health); members will have to wait for Rab's report to be presented at the AGM (another reason for attending!!!).

The committee has again reviewed the Rules booklet of the Club and this year there have been substantial changes to the **Governance section** which needed a rewrite, and this has been completed by the Chairman. Also, in the **GDPR section** the new 'Guest' contact details form we are asking all 'Guests' attending our functions to complete and has been inserted and the old form removed. The main change in the **Constitution section**, which will need approval by members at the AGM, is that when we made Andy Heath an Honorary member last summer, we noticed there was no sub-section in our Constitution setting out the criteria for Honorary members. This has now been corrected with an appropriate sub-section to be added and hopefully this will be approved at the AGM. If anyone would like an updated version of the Rules Booklet, then please let the Secretary know.

When Rab sent out the 2024 subscription notices, Ann Clifford and Byron Davis decided not to renew. Disappointing, but we fully accept people's circumstances change (Ann has moved away), and we thank them both for their membership and help given. Hopefully, all the remaining subs have been paid although when I last spoke to Rab, he was still five short. All members who had not

paid by the beginning of February have been sent reminders and I hope the outstanding persons (four female and one male) will renew to give us a paid-up membership of 45 with 5 honorary members.

Guest Events. Our first event of 2024 was our New Year Party on **Thursday 11th January**, and this was again a success with almost 70 'Guests' celebrating the start of another Puddenecks year. The meal was steak pie and mash, and Paul Ross provided the entertainment. Below are two photos of this event with the third photo being our very own Chairman, Bryan Harrison and Jos Lewis displaying their Puddeneck sweaters relaxing ahead of looking after and taking 'Guests' home. Similar sweaters and logo polo shirts are available to all members and wearing them easily identifies you to a 'Guest' which can give them reassurance. See below for purchase details.



On **Monday 18th March (lunchtime)** ***THE PUDDENECKS*** are looking for volunteers to take approximately 30 Guests to Belmont Mill Hill Preparatory School, The Ridgeway, London NW7 4ED where they will be musically entertained in the Chapel over the lunch time period by Belmont and Grimsdell School choirs. I gather Vic Valoti is looking for around 10 drivers commencing around 11am to pick 'Guests up' and returning them home about 2.30pm. We are not sure at this stage if there might be some 'Guests' who will self-drive, but I guess it will not be many. Vic says the standard of music and singing when his grandson attended Belmont was really very good. You are all welcome to stay and enjoy the concert if you wish.

The following day, **Tuesday 19th March** we will be holding a themed evening for 'Guests' at Old Fold Manor Golf Club starting at 6.30pm and being just two days after St Partick's day, Bernard and Vic have chosen an Irish theme and meal.

You should have received today an email from Vic requesting transportation help and assistance for these two events. Please see if you can volunteer as we have no problems filling the spaces available for 'Guests' but do have problems providing the cars to get the 'Guests' to Old Fold and home again. Remember even if you can only do one way that is better than no help.

Forthcoming 'Guest' events;

MARCH Monday 18th: Taking 'Guests' to **Belmont School** for lunchtime concert by Belmont and Grimsdell School choirs. **11am to 2.30pm.**

MARCH Tuesday 19th: **Venue Old Fold; time 6.30pm.** Themed St Patrick's Day event with Irish stew along with Paul Ross providing the entertainment.

APRIL Thursday 18th: **Venue Old Fold; time 6.30pm.** Fish & Chips.

MAY Tuesday 21st: **Venue Old Fold; time 6.30pm.** Bingo.

As the Chairman has indicated above the members June super meeting will now not happen but the committee is working hard to try and organise a buffet for members and helpers as an appreciation of your commitment to the Club. More details to come of the date, time, venue, and cost.

One future date for your diaries; please reserve **Friday 22nd November** and join us at Old Fold Manor Golf Club for a Fund-Raising evening dinner. All you need to do now is reserve the date in the diary that you are going out for a sumptuous meal and enjoy a highly entertaining speaker. Also make sure you tell your friends. Our speaker was the first female bomb disposal officer in the UK. So, get yourself prepared for some explosive actions as she recalls her days defusing bombs across the world. It will be an evening you will not forget.

Jack Williams' report on his **Movement to Music class:** 'We have a steady attendance of 15 to 20 members each week and their enthusiasm and friendship is always present. We frequently introduce new routines with occasional talks on blood flow and breathing. After each class we all enjoy the social hour with refreshments and chatting. The class was sorry to hear the sad news of Tony Mason's death who was a member of the class for many years and a number of members including myself attended the funeral last Monday. The class has now been running for 15 years and both Deborah and myself are pleased with the help that has been given to so many elderly people over that time and long may it continue'.

If you would like to receive a full list of members, please let the Secretary know and I can send this to you. Please remember this list is confidential information and on **NO ACCOUNT** must the details be shared with third parties or used for other purposes.

As I mentioned before, we now have a range of **Puddenecks polo shirts** which will be available at £20 each. The committee recommends wearing the Sweaters/ Polo Shirt when meeting 'Guests' as it clearly identifies you. If there is a demand for 'V' neck jumpers, the Secretary is happy to source these and make them available.

This stock is still residing in my house in a laundry size bag, and we need a volunteer to look after the stock so please can someone volunteer to help. If no one will offer a random member's name may well just be drawn to assist.

Our Friday monthly coffee mornings at Wesley Hall (the first Friday in every month) continues to be a success with over 30, 'Older people' attending most weeks and the Club would appreciate some members popping in to help. The venue is Wesley Hall, opposite the rear of the Spires Shopping Centre, timing is 10.30am start. It does not have to be regular commitment but if you can come even occasionally the team would be most appreciative.

200 Club. Would you like to join **THE PUDDENECKS** '200 Club' and maybe become one of our successful winners? It only costs £12 a year. Please contact Rab Butler for more details. The latest winners were: -

January 24: 47 Deb Jones, £20: 77 Alan Dennis, £20: 24 Janet Butler, £50.

February: 136 Greg Kraushar £20: 19 Neil Todd, £20: 125 Shelia Cook £50.

Amoner. Sadly, we learned in February that Tony Mason, aged 86, passed away in Cantelowes and his funeral was held on the **26th February**. Although Tony was not a Puddeneck member he was a great supporter and helper to the Club and of course, in Cantelowes, he kept a watchful eye on Ged Crotty. As mentioned above he was also a member of Jack Williams' Movement to Music class. Rab who went to the funeral and writes: -

'On Monday 26th February Tony Mason was laid to rest and the funeral service was held in St Steven's church, small, but close to Cantelowes House where he lived. He was predeceased by his wife, but his two daughters were there along with friends who stretched back to his boyhood.

Tony or 'Amph' grew up, went to school (Ravenscroft) lived and worked in the Barnet area. After school he worked on local farms, became a binman and eventually a groundsman at Old Fold Manor Golf Club. Throughout this time, he was a keen footballer

*Tony was an active supporter of **THE PUDDENECKS**. When the Club used local venues for our functions (Ewen Hall for instance) he would be the first there to help set the place up and one of the last to leave after helping to clear away. He was also a great assistance to the Treasurer –*

collecting in the money from the residents of Canteloves for the 200 club. Basically, he was just a very helpful guy and will be missed.'

Thankfully Bernard Woolf seems to be making good progress after his nasty heart scare in early January as is Peter Smith who was in hospital over Christmas. Please let me know if you are aware of any other member or other half who is not well. If you feel you could help the committee by taking on the role of Almoner, then please contact the Secretary.

Forthcoming events: -

MONDAY 18TH MARCH: Trip to take 'Guests' to Belmont School for a lunchtime concert.

TUESDAY 19TH MARCH: 'Guest' evening, Venue Old Fold Manor Golf Club; time 6.30pm

TUESDAY 9TH APRIL: Members supper meeting and AGM 7.00pm at Old Fold Manor Golf Club.

THURSDAY 18TH APRIL: 'Guest' evening, Venue Old Fold Manor Golf Club; time 6.30pm

TUESDAY 21ST MAY: 'Guest' evening, Venue Old Fold Manor Golf Club; time 6.30pm

DATES FOR DIARIES:

THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER Golf Charity Day

FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER Fund Raising dinner at Old Fold Manor Golf Club; time 7.00pm

Birthdays. When we had regular monthly meetings, it was the Secretary's job to report to members, birthdays, and length of memberships. Continuing this idea into this newsletter.

Birthdays in January/February/March. Peter Bennison, Ann Bunyard, Angela Casali, Marie Chapman, Alan Denis, Paul Kidd, Derek Roberts, Seema Shah, and Bernard Woolf. **I hope you had/have happy and enjoyable birthdays.**

Length of Service as of January/February/March: Seema Shah 1 year; Richard Bridges 2 years; Greg Kraushar 3 years; Mark Fricker and Peter Smith 6 years; Terry Barnes 7 years; Valerie Harrison 8 years; Will Harrington and Paul Kidd 10 years; Rab Butler, Bryan Harrison and Chris Marshall 11 years; David Brewer 12 years; Neil Todd 14 years; Alan Dennis 17 years; Robin Loader 21 years; Richard Davison 25 years; Mike Bishop and Stan Blackwell 31 years; Andy Heath 35 years; and Barry Cooper and Ged Crotty 39 years' service. **Congratulations to you all.**

