



THE PUDDENECKS

HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSSETTER

CHARITY No 1039897

Issued 4th October 2025

Secretary: Roger Moore MBE

Having written the last newsletter in the heat and dust of summer this edition is being prepared around rain, wind and the cool of autumn setting in with leaves everywhere. Puddenecks have remained active throughout the summer although, as traditionally, we do not run any events in August when the teams have a well-deserved break. Our (Roger & Pam) break this year was a cruise around the Baltic, visiting some very interesting cities but the further East we went it was offset by getting closer to Russia and Ukraine, finishing no more than 100 miles from their borders and, in view of the recent drone incursions we are glad to have returned in one piece.

In July the Club organised our annual two BBQs for 'Guests' at Totteridge Cricket Club and with the weather kind everybody had a great time as **Neil Todd** comments below. As always, our grateful thanks to all the members of the Cricket Club who put so much effort in ensuring our 'Guests left smiling, well fed and feeling they have been well looked after'. Also below are some pictures of the event.

In committee, **Bernard Woolf** decided to resign as a trustee but thank goodness, he is happy to carry on running the Welfare events with **Vic Valoti**. We discussed and agreed that we would send to all members, a paper replying to some of the questions raised at the AGM defining Volunteers, Members and Trustees, and we also took the opportunity of updating (thanks to Neil Todd) and explaining the insurance we have in place for Public Liability and Trustee Liability. If anyone has not seen this paper, please let me know and I will arrange for a copy to be sent. Reading the note will, hopefully, allay many unsubstantiated fears which had been circulating. We also agreed on additional wording that now appears on the bottom of Vic's drivers' emails he sends out and again, I urge all drivers to read and take note of the committee's recommendations.

Although we have lost our Thursday afternoon Movement to Music class, the Tuesday exercise class goes from strength to strength with almost 45 'Guests' coming back after the summer holiday. We are trying to see if we can run an additional class given the class's popularity but finding a suitable and accessible venue and teacher are the difficult issues. Following **Bernard's** visit to Hope Corner Community Centre, Mays Lane we gave the Centre £500 to help expand some of their activities, and we are in discussions to get dialogue underway with the Centre on what other help we might possibly be able to give.

The club has been extremely fortunate to secure two sizable donations, the first was £2,000 from the estate of **Mrs Nora Johnson Dec'd**. Nora had been one of our regular 'Guests' for several years so although very sad to lose her, the club is grateful that she remembered us; her daughter contacted us with the news. Secondly, Bernard has been having discussions with a local, gift making charitable Trust and in August, **The Hadley Trust** offered us £5,000. Although there are some conditions attached to this gift **Bernard** sees no problems in meeting these conditions when running future 'Guest' events, so we thank the trustees of **The Hadley Trust** for their generosity. Hopefully as we progress forward, we will build up a workable relationship with the Trust which can flourish.

At our November 'Guest' evening we will welcome, **Yvonne Saunders** (the Community lead person at Waitrose Finchley) and **Sophie Dochery**, (the computer Manager of Waitrose Finchley) who are coming to join us. You may recall earlier this year **Waitrose** gave us £2,000. If you do attend this 'Guest' event, please make them very welcome so our relationship with the supermarket can continue.

Once again, we ask all drivers to ensure they wear their **PUDDENECK'S** lanyards when picking up 'Guests' and to please use common sense when help is needed getting 'Guests' in and out of the cars and doing up/undoing safety belts. Compromising situations can quickly occur and this could lead to embarrassing situations. If you need a lanyard, contact **Bernard or Vic** before agreeing to drive. If you can add Bernard's or Vic's mobile telephone number to the lanyard this will ensure that in the event of an accident, emergency services can contact someone from the Club.

The Club now also offers to deliver fish and chips to those 'Guests' unable to leave their homes and our next delivery is planned for early November, if you can help take three parcels of fish & chips to an elderly person's house, please let **Bernard** know and he will add you to the list of possible deliverers. Having a significant number of volunteers on his list will help him to manage this activity more effectively and we know from 'Guest' replies that it is very much appreciated.

Neil reports 'our annual Summer BBQ was a 2-day event which catered for 50 of our Puddenecks 'Guests' on each day. The weather was fine, not too hot or cold but temperate which was much nicer than an extremely hot day we had experienced in the past! Our BBQ 'King', **Steve Nicholas** was head chef who was assisted by **Karen Yearley, Sophie Moy, Nigel Coan and Tina from the Orange Tree**. **Steve** provided a meal of BBQ lamb chops, chicken, sausages with a salad which was made by Steve's wife **Elini**. This was followed by strawberries and cream which was very well received! On the floor we had our Puddenecks member **Peter Bennison** clearing up and delivering meals to the tables. Well done, Peter!! We had songs from **Macey Stone** who was also working behind the bar providing drinks for our 'Guests'. There was a fun raffle which had all sorts of prizes which had been obtained at greatly reduced cost by **Cassie Buttle**.



Our Summer BBQ which has become a stellar event at Totteridge and Old Millhillians Cricket Club resulted in many positive comments and letters of appreciation from a number of our 'Guests' which makes the event so enjoyable to organise and execute. **Wyn Bowen**, secretary of TMCC was also in attendance helping and serving behind the bar, thank you Wyn'.



A vote of thanks was also given to **Bernard Woolfe, Vic Valoti and Keith Yearley** for pulling out all the stops for providing transport and drivers for our event.



Our Autumn 'Guest' events started on Wednesday 17th September when once again we had a new but very lively entertainer to come and sing a mixture of popular well-known songs much to the delight of all guests. We had preceded the entertainment with another excellent meal from the Old Fold Manor Golf Club catering team and thankfully, St John Ambulance attendance, while very welcome, were not called into action. We had an excellent raffle generously supported by our 'Guests' and **Bernard and Vic** received many thank you notes for the evening.



Bernard and Vic have now chosen two more dates for Puddeneck 'Guest' events at Old Fold. As you know these evenings are greatly appreciated and enjoyed by our 'Guests' so please reserve the dates in your diaries as Vic will soon be calling out for drivers and Bernard for help on the night. The dates are: -

Thursday 16th October; Wednesday 19th November.

All these events will start at 6.30pm and should end at around 9.00pm

The 16th October's event will have an Italian theme although I hope you have all seen my email of a few days ago saying Vic is desperately short of drivers and the event is in danger of being cancelled.

Our Christmas party date for 'Guests' is set for **Sunday 14th December** at Totteridge Cricket Club where we will be running two party sessions starting at Noon and 5.00pm. The first party will run from 12.00pm to 4.00pm, then after a quick clean up our second set of 'Guests' should arrive at 5.00pm to be taken home at 8.00pm. We hope to have around 50 'Guests' at each sitting. The event is being co-ordinated by **Neil Todd, Karen Yearley** with **Steve**

Nicholas, our Chef and all his helpers and other Cricket Club members organising the entertainment. **THE PUDDENECKS** job is transportation, and we are going to need as much help as possible. Even if you can only complete one run during the day, still please volunteer as being so close to Christmas we will need as much help as possible to ensure all 'Guests' can attend and be taken home.

For the evening of **Thursday 16th October**, we are inviting **all members**, even if you are not involved with transportation of 'Guests' to join us around 7.00pm for a drink and light snacks as a social meeting. We tried this event in June and had a good response so we thought we would have another session. It is a very good way of getting to know fellow members, find out a little more about the Club and enjoy some downtime while watching our 'Guests' having a lovely evening. Make a note of the date and see us there even it is only for a short time, you will be more than welcome.

Thursday 16th October

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Golf Day on the 25th September was another great success with 23 teams entering and 100 people



at dinner. Even the weather was kind as the photo shows and as usual, we had a wide variety of members and guests playing. The benefits the World Handicapped Index meant that members scores are penalised/improved depending on golfing ability and this allowed the top six teams to be all closely bunched. After a delicious meal the prize giving. Runners up were **Steve Law, Mark and Leah Bretton and Robin**



Loader with 90 points while our winners also with 90 points but with a better back 9-hole score and, winning for the second year in a row, were

Adam Bunting, Kevin Dyer, Nick Chrysanthou and Paul Stevens. Below are the winners receiving their prizes although sadly Kevin and Paul could not stay to collect their winnings from our President, **Neil Todd**.



Runners up



Winners

I thought we should have one more picture as we had a very successful Ball sweep, Raffle with many generously donated prizes mainly alcohol, and our traditional auction under the control of our excellent auctioneer



Robin Loader. Again, we had some interesting prizes donated including meals in 3 local restaurants. A holiday let cottage in Cornwall the usual 2 signed shirts and 5 'paired up' golf day packages at local courses. We also had a very upmarket wine decanter and cut-glass wine glasses; thank you to all who made donations. Most members were generous in their bidding with several items being heavily bid and counter bid for and here are our worthy golf day winners, Adam and Nick who bought several auction items celebrating their victory; thank you, gentlemen.

A great big thanks go to **Greg and his committee, Robin Loader, Neil Todd, Neil Hill and Steve Nicholas**, for all their hard work to ensure that the day would be so financially rewarding and to members and helpers particularly **Derek Roberts, Sue Dodd and Jan Webb** in the halfway hut; to **Vic and Rab** who took the money on the 10th hole; to **Steve Law** who ran the tote; and to **Maria Kraushar, Pam Moore, Joan Daufel, Peter and Richard** selling the raffle and ball sweep tickets. Also, the Club is indebted to **Alex, Roz and Glen** and all the staff at OFMGC for their hard work in ensuring the success of the day.

The feeling, as we left OFMGC, was that it had been a very rewarding day for all the hard work put in, and the proof of this will come in a couple of weeks' time when all the bills have been sorted, and Rab knows the final net amount in bank balance, but the omen to dates look positive.

A date for the diaries is **Friday 14th November** when we have our fund-raising dinner at Old Fold Manor Golf Club. This year I have secured as our guest speaker, **Bill Hamilton** the former BBC overseas special correspondent talking about being a '**Man on the Spot**'.

This is a Broadcaster's view of how news and stories are unfolded by the BBC. Bill is 'an old-fashioned journalist and broadcaster, honest, humane and very loyal BBC servant'. If you enjoyed Lucy Lewis and her bomb disposal stories you will certainly want to come and hear Bill Hamilton speak. Please see the advert at the end of this newsletter of how to book in via **Roger Moore**.

We are again organising for Grimsdell School to come back to OFMGC for a Christmas lunchtime concert by the children on **Monday 1st December** so please watch your emails for more information. If you have not helped at this event in previous years, I thoroughly recommend correcting this by volunteering this year to see how the pupils inter-react with our 'Guests', not to mention listen to some very talented singing both by the choir and individual children all under the direction of a very talented music teacher. It's an event not to miss.

As I have mentioned before, we now have a range of **Puddenecks polo shirts** which are available at £20 each. The committee recommends wearing the Sweaters/Polo Shirts when meeting 'Guests' as it clearly identifies you. If there is a demand for 'V' neck jumpers, the Club will be happy to source these. All these clothing items are in the hands of **Mark and Cassie Buttle** (mark.buttle@buttle.co.uk) or (cassiebuttle@yahoo.co.uk) so please feel free to contact either of them if you want to be '**PUDDENECKS**' visible.

A **Imoner. Rab Butler** continues to make good, and steady, in his terms, recovery from a heart problem and he still awaits a decision on medications or a pacemaker but sadly, golf is definitely no-go at present. **Chris Marshall** went for what he thought was a checkup appointment for his eyelid problem at Moorfields recently, only to find he was immediately and successfully operated on and again, while recovering on drops and cream, another golfer is temporarily banned. Then last week **Steve Nicholas**, who was about to fly home from holiday to take part in our golf day suddenly found himself taken to hospital in Cyprus to undergoing emergency surgery for a gall bladder removal. We wish him a speedy recovery. Thank goodness Rob found almost 100 fit golfers for our Charity Golf day!!! I have not been made aware of anybody else not well, other than us all getting growing pains/aches! so that is good news.

J **ob Vacancies within the club.** *If anyone would like to take on this simple role of keeping the Club informed of any members not well then please let me know and I can organise how this role can be fulfilled.*

Also on the subject that sharing roles is good for a club's prosperity would anyone like to take on the role of Editorship of the newsletter, something I have been responsible for, for the past 14 years. I do feel that I need a rest from some part of the Secretarial role, and this can easily be produced by a non-committee member. I had put this in the May and July editions but sadly no one has come forward to take over or even bothered to ask me any questions about what is involved. I do wonder sometimes if anybody reads or cares what is written in the newsletter!!!

2 **00 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: -

July:	No 71, Tony Speroni. £20	No 120, Dilly Griffith. £20	No 83, Will Harrington. £50
Aug:	No 98, Lorna Gray. £20	No 150, Bernard Woolf. £20	No 34, Keith Embleton. £50
Sept:	No 121, Val Carter. £20	No 38, Paul Kidd. £20	No, 131 Val De Santos. £50

F **orthcoming events:-**

Thursday 16th October; 'Guest' evening at Old Fold Manor Golf Club
6.30pm till 9.00pm. **Members welcome for a social get-together at 7.00pm**

Friday 14th November; Members and friends fund raising supper evening,
with a Guest speaker. Old Fold Manor Golf Club 7.00pm

Wednesday 19th November; 'Guest' evening at Old Fold Manor Golf Club
6.30pm till 9.00pm

Monday 1st December; Guest lunchtime concert at Old Fold Manor Golf
Club 11.45am to 2.15pm

Sunday 14th December; Two Christmas lunches at Totteridge Cricket Club
Noon to 4.00pm and 5.00pm to 8.00pm.

Friday 6th February; Race night and meal at Old Fold Manor Golf Club
7.00pm

Birthdays/Service. When we had monthly meetings, it was the Secretary's job to announce, birthdays, and length of memberships and we now continue this in the newsletter.

Birthdays in July/August/September. Terry Barnes, Wyn Bowen, Cassie Buttle, Richard Davison Will Harrington, Greg Kraushar, Chris Marshall, Sophie May, Roger Moore, Bill Morris, Roy Purton, and Keith Yearley.

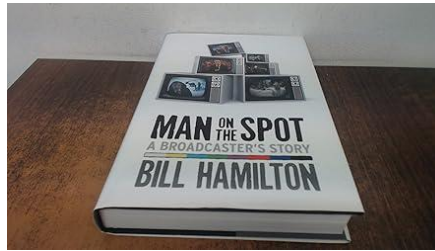
I hope you had happy and enjoyable birthdays.

Length of Service as of July/August/September: Ann Bunyard 3 years, Marie Chapman 6 years, Paul & Pina Griffin 6 years and Sean O'Connor 13 years.

Congratulations to you all for the work you put into making the Club so successful.

One more page to go!!!!

**JOIN US FOR DINNER PLUS OUR GUEST SPEAKER
ON FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2025
AT OLD FOLD MANOR GOLF CLUB STARTING 7.00PM**



Come and listen to **BILL HAMILTON**, a former special correspondent with **BBC TV News** as he talks to us about: **MAN ON THE SPOT**.

Tonight, **Bill Hamilton** will tell us about his humble beginnings as a Scottish cub reporter, via regional media, to special correspondent on BBC TV News, a role which took him to some of the world's worst trouble spots.

His assignments have included the war in Lebanon in 1982, AIDS in Africa, and the plight of neglected children in post-communist Albania. Nearer home he assisted in the rescue of snowbound train passengers in the arctic Scotland of 1978 and witnessed the aftermath of the IRA bombings in Brighton and inner-city riots in Brixton and Toxteth. The descriptions of these often tragic and harrowing events are unforgettable.

Bill Hamilton has the eye of a true journalist, passionately committed to the truth, yet always humane and sympathetic. You will not be disappointed by joining **THE PUDDENECKS** to hear his talk which he has entitled '**Man on the Spot**'

*We will serve our traditional Steak & Ale pie plus seasonal vegetables, with (Salmon or a vegetarian meal as alternatives) followed by profiteroles or fruit salad and cream and then coffee/tea. After the meal you can relax to listen to Bill's fascinating talk. The cost for the evening will be **£31 per person**, and we also to hope to organise a raffle.*

Please email me at roger.moore@puddenecksclub.org.uk or phone **07778 380 455** to book in and place your meal preferences and do ask your friends to join you as this event is open to all.

Name _____

Email _____

Another *PUDDENECKS* fund raising event to provide 'Help for Older People' in Barnet
