



# THE PUDDENECKS

HELP FOR OLDER PEOPLE

## JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

CHARITY No 1039897

Issued 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

Secretary: Roger Moore MBE

## GOOD TIDINGS FOR 2026

*The Chairman and trustees wish all members and helpers a very happy New Year and all good wishes for a healthy, peaceful and successful 2026*

**H**aving written the last newsletter around the cool of autumn with leaves everywhere this letter comes to you with our house decorated for Christmas and the New Year but outside definitely cold and wintry and waking up this morning to a lovely snowy and frosty garden.



Autumn was a very busy period for the Club running about seven events and we are grateful to all the teams that ensured these events were successes for our 'Guests' and below are some comments we received.

Another New Year, and lots of exciting events to look forward to with **THE PUDDENECKS** over the coming months and below are some dates for your diaries and the committee look forward to meeting members at some of these. While we appreciate not everybody can make all events, we do urge you to try and participate and see the fun and enjoyment we can make to our 'Guests' lives.

The start of 2026 will also see Rab, our Treasurer, writing to you asking for your 2026 subscription and renewal to the '200' club. These are vital parts of our year's total income so, please do not delay on receiving Rab's note and let's see if we can collect all 46 paying members subscriptions in by the end of January. The cost is **£25 per member** and **£12 per '200' club ticket**, There are some numbers still available and if you would like to add to your chances of winning up to £90 a month just tell, Rab and he will organise this.

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. We would again like to reassure members and volunteers that, having consulted our insurance brokers last summer, we now have very adequate insurance cover for any possible eventuality. If any person wants to have even more comfort on insurance matters, then please contact **Neil Todd**.

The *Movement to Music class*, the Tuesday exercise class goes from strength to strength with almost 45 'Guests' attending and almost 60 'Guests' on our list. 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.

November saw the Club hold our fund-raising dinner with **Bill Hamilton** as the guest speaker. He was excellent as he reminisced through his career at the BBC, and the event was thoroughly enjoyed by the 70 members and friends attending. At the end of the evening, he generously donated his fee back to club funds. With a successful raffle we made over £900, a great night out.

Our Autumn 'Guest' events were again great successes despite the scares for the October event of not enough drivers and being very thin on actual help on the night. Please do try and come to these events as they are fun evenings and thoroughly enjoyed by all 'Guests' attending. The November evening was an Abba tribute and below is a picture of Agnetha (Anna MacDonald) entertaining our 'Guests' with some very lively Abba songs.



Typical of the comments and letters we received was this one saying; *'Back home safely. Another remarkable evening enjoyed the music, food and the birthday wishes. Also thank you for the lovely card. I feel very lucky to have such an abundance of good fortune from you and your colleagues. Good wishes and thanks to all - regards Dillenia whose birthday was the previous day.'*

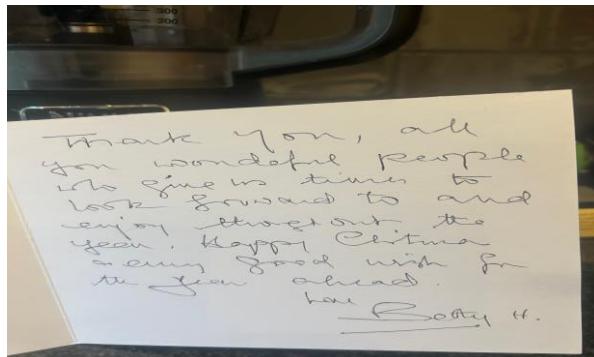
The November 'Guest' evening we were also due to welcome **Yvonne Saunders** (the Community lead person at Waitrose, Finchley) and **Sophie Dochery**, (the computer Manager at Waitrose, Finchley). You may recall earlier this year through all their help and support **Waitrose** gave us £2,000. Sadly, despite arriving in the car park Yvonne became ill and we agreed her best place was

tucked up in bed, so they departed although before they left Sophie donated the club 3 panettone cakes which we agreed to use at our Christmas lunches. We have rearranged for Yvonne and Sophie to return on the **18<sup>th</sup> February** at a 'Guest' evening as they are very keen to see how we run events. If you do attend this 'Guest' event, please make them very welcome so our relationship with the supermarket can continue.

In early December we had 2<sup>nd</sup> year pupils from **Grimsdell Primary school** come to Old Fold Manor Golf Club at lunch time to entertain over 30 'Guests' with their music and a quiz. Once again, the children's singing (about 45 in number) was excellent as was their overall behaviour and all seemed to be having an enjoyable time. Vic summed the day up as 'a very moving event' and I do urge members to attend our next event with the school in the summer, and you will not come away disappointed.

Their school cook again made some delicious scones and cakes which a number of the pupils took on trays around to the 'Guests' and helpers and these just melted in your mouth. The event is worth attending just for the cook's cakes! The pupils also helped 'Guests' in the Christmas quiz and seemed to know all the answers including how many reindeer Santa Claus had and the reindeers names.

December also saw us deliver over 20 fish and chips meals to 'Guests' unable to leave their homes and despite unpleasant weather all the deliverers reported how thankful these 'Guests' were at **The Puddenecks** remembering them. Again, we had several kind notes like the one below (sorry for the quality) but hopefully it is just readable.



If you can help take some 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.

Christmas party date for 'Guests' was Sunday 14th December at Totteridge Millhillans Cricket Club (TMCC) where we and members of the cricket club organised two party sessions starting at noon and 5.00pm. Another huge success with the collaboration of members of the Cricket Club and our very grateful thanks go to them for all the hard work in cooking and feeding our 'Guests' a traditional Christmas meal, supplying the drinks, and providing some superb entertainment. The event was co-ordinated by **Neil Todd, Keith and Karen Yearley** with **Steve Nicholas**, and supported by: **Seema Shah, Cassie Buttle (Raffle)** **Peter Bennison, Ella Yearly, Brandon, Sue and Angela, Bradly and Nibby Fisher, Nigel Coan and Sophie Moy** and her dad, **Simon**, President of TMCC and

his wife **Birgetta**. The entertainment was supplied by professional musicians, **Caroline Fitzgerald**, **Steve Broughton** and a young and very talented music student **Macey Stone**.

Further thanks to **Bernard Woolf** and **Vic Valoti** in co-ordinating the delivery and homeward journeys of 'Guests' and giving such positive feedback. **David Mills** produced a brochure all about **THE PUDDENECKS** for 'Guests' to browse at their leisure. A huge thanks to everybody in providing our 'Guests' with a truly memorable day.

This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year that **Alan Cox** assisted by **Peter Ciccone** and supported by **Richard Mason**, and **Byron Davies** have made a major financial commitment to this event, contributing £1,300 this year from their own Golf day which is a fantastic effort and greatly appreciated. Sadly, Alan has now retired from the partnership, but we hope **Sam and Stuart** who now run 'Cox Format' will continue to support us in the future.

Such is technology that if you click on the icon on the email, you will be able to actually view some of the event.

Again, many thank you notes about the parties including this one, '*a huge thank you from me for the hugely enjoyable Christmas lunch ... I congratulate everyone at Puddenecks... all the best Pat*'.

**Katie Mannion**, the landlady from the Monk held a Christmas raffle at the pub on 4<sup>th</sup> December. This was a well-attended affair and one where Katie supplies all the prizes. The raffle raised £920 which is a fantastic result. **Neil Todd**, our President emailed Katie our appreciation and hope that the letter contents are displayed in the Monk showing our appreciation to all their customers. Katie was given flowers by Neil Todd as a token of **THE PUDDENECKS** thanks and gratitude.

**Now to the future**. We enter 2026 in a strong financial position with a bank balance of around £25,500 having raised over £10,000 from the September **Golf Day**, £900 from our **speaker evening** in November, £920 from **The Monk** in December recently we received a generous gift of £2,000 from **Nick Shields**, a TMCC cricketer and now a full-time businessman, which is greatly appreciated. Our committee member, **Steve Nicholas** formally thanked Nick for his most generous contribution. We also had the very generous gift of £5,000 from **The Hadley Trust** in October.

We have a solid membership, a very eager list of volunteers to help and of course have over 200 'Guests' all wanting to come to our events.

*So, what are we going to organise in 2026?* Our first event is going to the Pantomime at the Bull Theatre, where we have secured 60 tickets to see Snow White and the 7 ????????? (you have to attend to find out what the 7 are) for the second weekend of the New Year. A traditional family panto starring some of our very own **PUDDENECK** members.

The first 'Guest' evening event on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January** when it will be a head's down for a bingo evening. With Bernard away we will have a new compère for the evening so please support Rob. As always **Vic** will be sending out an email about needing drivers, please do make his life easier by volunteering even if you can only do one way.

While we do have an option of using a taxi company, the committee believe this important role of delivering and returning 'Guests' should be carried out by a Puddeneck or volunteer member

# So please volunteer to drive

We also will need helpers on the night at Old Fold so, if you cannot drive, you can still be part of the team and help make sure all our 'Guests' are fully looked after at Old Fold.

# So please do come along to help

See also below in forthcoming events section for future 'Guest' evening dates for **February, March, April and May** all of which will have different themes, but all held at Old Fold Manor Golf Club which the 'Guests' all enjoy coming to.

Another important date for the diaries **is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026** which is our annual Race Night at old Fold Manor Golf Course Track, seating opens at 7.00pm, First Race 7.30pm prompt. Come and support **THE PUDDENECKS** for this exciting and fun evening. We will be serving a fish & chips supper plus coffee during the racing and there will be lots of opportunities to back winning horses, so you could go home richer than you came.

The entrance fee for this evening of entertainment is **£24** per head and betting tickets will cost just **£1** per horse. As I am away for part of January please book in and [name your horses and races](#) with Neil Todd on [Toddneil@hotmail.com](mailto:Toddneil@hotmail.com) [Tel 07795 010 574](tel:07795010574)

Attending or, even if you are unavailable to be there on the night, you can help **THE PUDDENECKS** by naming a horse (for just **£12 per horse** and we have 75 horses available) or sponsoring one of the 10 races (**£60 for a race**), again just contact **NEIL TODD at the above email address to organise**. This is a great way to support this event and if your horse wins, so do you.

## PLEASE LOOK AT THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

As 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** ([buttemark@btinternet.com](mailto:buttemark@btinternet.com) or [cassiebuttle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cassiebuttle@yahoo.co.uk)) so please feel free to contact either of them if you want to be '**PUDDENECKS'** visible.

As 2026 moves along it will soon be time for the Club to hold its AGM, this year's date being **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April** hopefully at Old Fold Manor Golf Club, at 6.00pm. This is your opportunity to come and hear what the club has been and is doing and you can also vote on any matters. You could even stand for election to the committee as we are very keen to get new members on board and help steer the club towards the end of the decade. We have a friendly, welcoming committee and would love some additional members to join and maybe take on one of the major roles within the club.

**Lots of events for you to participate in, please make sure your diaries are up to date**

**A**lmoner. *Rab Butler*, with his new pacemaker fitted, makes good progress as does *Steve Nicholas* following his emergency gall bladder operation in Cyprus. Our Chairman, *Bryan Harrison* has also been under the weather in recent weeks with heart problems and is currently undergoing various tests to find his best medication. We wish him well and hope for a speedy recovery. I do hope we have no other casualties. Within our supporters' group, *Karen Yearley* had the splint taken off her broken ankle just before cooking the 'Guests' Christmas lunch at Totteridge Cricket Club and this now appears to be well into recovery mode but sadly *Francoise Lewis* is back in hospital, and we wish her well for her recovery.

**J**ob Vacancies within the club. If anyone would like to take on this simple role of Almoner 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 15 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 know this appeal has appeared in earlier editions but sadly no one has come forward to take over or even bothered to ask me any questions about what is involved. Does anybody read this far into the newsletter!!!!

**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: -

Oct:	No 114, Pat Richardson. £20	No 61, Lilly Davies. £20	No 63, Derek Roberts. £50
Nov:	No 69, L Bayman. £20	No 93, P Griffin £20	No 49, Jan Parker. £50
Dec:	No 40, Stan Blackwell. £20	No 105, Linda Peasnell. £20	No, 49 Jan Parker. £50

**THERE ARE TWO MORE PAGES**

## **F**orthcoming events:-

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January;** 'Guest' Bingo evening at Old Fold Manor Golf Club. 6.30pm till 9.00pm.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February;** Race night and meal at Old Fold Manor Golf Club 7.00pm

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February;** 'Guest' evening with entertainment at Old Fold Manor Golf Club 6.30pm till 9.00pm.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March;** 'Guest' evening with entertainment at Old Fold Manor Golf Club 6.30pm till 9.00pm.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April;** AGM; 6.00pm venue to be agreed.??????

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April;** 'Guest' evening with entertainment at Old Fold Manor Golf Club 6.30pm till 9.00pm.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May;** 'Guest' evening with entertainment at Old Fold Manor Golf Club 6.30pm till 9.00pm.

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September;** Golf Day at Old Fold Manor Golf Club.

**B**irthdays/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 Oct/Nov/Dec** Rab Butler, Mark Buttle, Paul Griffin, Pina Griffin, Andy Heath, Bryan Harrison, Jos Lewis, Steve Nicholas, Peter Smith, Tony Speroni and Vic Valoti.

**I hope you had happy and enjoyable birthdays.**

**Length of Service as of Oct/Nov/Dec:** Bill Morris, 1 year, Mark and Cassie Buttle, 2 years; Peter Bennison, Wyn Bowen, Neil Hill, Sophie Moy, Steven Nicholas, 3 years; Paul and Pina Griffin, 6 years; Keith Embleton, 10 years; Roger Moore, 16 years; Jos Lewis, 18 years and Derek Roberts, 22 years' service. **Congratulations to you all for the work you put into making the Club so successful.**

## **PUDDENECKS RACE NIGHT**

# Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

at OLD FOLD MANOR GOLF CLUB



**Track seating opens at 7.00pm, First Race 7.30pm prompt.**

Come and support **THE PUDDENECKS** for this exciting and fun evening. We will be serving a fish & chips supper plus coffee during the racing and there will be lots of opportunities to back winning horses, so you could go home richer than you came. The entrance fee for this evening of entertainment is **£24** per head and betting tickets will cost just **£1** per horse.

For more information or **to book in** contact

Neil Todd on [Toddneil@hotmail.com](mailto:Toddneil@hotmail.com) tel 07795 010 574

or Roger Moore [roger.moore@puddenecksclub.org.uk](mailto:roger.moore@puddenecksclub.org.uk)

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**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR INDOOR RACECOURSE**

**BOOK IN NOW WITH NEIL TODD**

**And have you booked and named a horse (£12) or a race (£60) yet???**