

THE GRASSHOPPER PENSIONERS' CLUB



**MARTINS
BANK**

Website: www.martinsbank.co.uk

© gut informiert!

SECRETARY: David Baldwin, Lower Windle, Windle Royd Lane, Warley, HX2 7LY.

'Phone: 01422 832734. email: grasshoppers@btinternet.com

CHAIRMAN: Bernard Lovewell

TREASURER: Alan Thomond

WELFARE OFFICER: Susan Sutcliffe

Database Manager: David Baxter

Function Organiser: Ken Quirk

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OUR FORMER BRANCHES CONTINUE TO BE CLOSED BUT THERE ARE



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- 'Pure Gold'! Of a different type.

OXFORD CIRCUS BRANCH, 251 REGENT STREET

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE several members who used to work at 'Oxford Circus' branch



Images © Martins Bank Archive Collections: From "The Victoria Line Report No 2 - Down and Along" British Transport Films, August 1963 Images © BFI National Archive

(also known as 251 Regent Street), including my former Barclays Branch Director Fred Walker, but we still do not hold any 'decent' photographs of the entire branch. With this in mind, I wonder if any of our members actually have any photographs that they are happy to share with Jonathan Snowden, so that they can be uploaded to our website? If you do then please don't hesitate to contact me.

I recently came across this photograph of Regent Street (below) in which I believe that our



branch was captured (but only just). Can anyone confirm that the building featured (Right) from the top left-hand corner of the photograph, is actually 251 Regent Street?

Looking at the design of the cars and London Transport buses the photograph appears to have been taken during the late 1940s or the early 50s.

Over to you yet again and I look forward to receiving your thoughts, comments and more memories, not only from this but any and every branch in which you worked.



YOU STILL LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY!

Initially, an email from Jonathan triggered my interest in our former Hellifield sub-branch,



where I worked (albeit for a single morning) whilst on relief at Settle. However, it wasn't our most-recent sub-branch (left)

about which Jonathan was emailing but the original sub-branch, which was located diagonally opposite, on the other side of the main A65, Keighley to Kendal 'Turnpike'.



Jonathan writes: *"Busy with queries at the moment, including another branch at Hellifield. A man whose family ran the sub branch until 1960*



sent in an image and details, which I am padding out with confirmation from Barclays before I add another page to the web site. It looks like the house in Main Street was used until the early 1960s, before moving to the shop front you see on the current Hellifield page. It seems that

when this original front room branch was open, the house it was part of the local Auction Mart, and the Bank used it on Auctions days." from Ken to Jonathan in which Ken conveyed his personal

thanks (below left) to Jonathan for creating, what everyone must admit, is an

(Editor: From the 'arrowed' Frith photograph, the Post Office is now a domestic dwelling and our former sub-branch the second pink house on the OS map).

"That now makes a total of 1007 buildings used



between 1928 and 1969 as branches and offices of the modern day Martins Bank Limited!"



Could this shop (previous column, top right) be one of our former Hellifield sub-branches?

And our original Hellifield 'sub'. (above)? Although the Post Office is long-gone, with both the Post Box and walled-in shop window being clues to its former location. However, it does appear that 'No. 2', with its narrow

doorway, is a perfect match for the original photograph.

Should you be interested in searching for old Ordnance Survey Maps of your area then simply click on the following link to commence your search:

[Ordnance Survey Maps Six-inch England and Wales, 1842-1952 - National Library of Scotland \(nls.uk\)](http://www.nls.uk/ordnance-survey-maps-six-inch-england-and-wales-1842-1952)

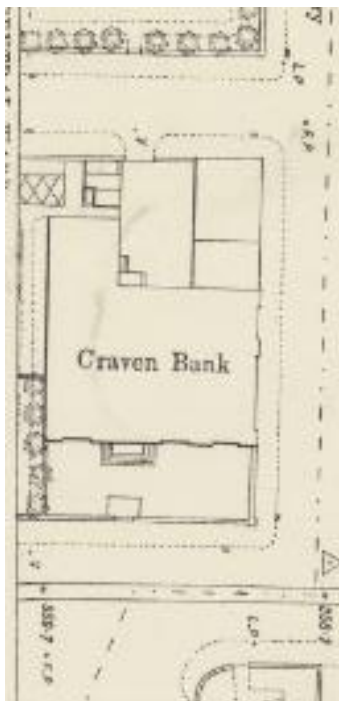
HISTORIC PRAISE FOR JONATHAN SNOWDEN

Ken Bromley's son, Peter, recently discovered



yet another piece of memorabilia: An email from Ken (left) to Jonathan in which Ken conveyed his personal; thanks

(below left) to Jonathan for creating, what everyone must admit, is an



constructed earlier, with the railings, which are evident in Julian Taylor's photograph along with the Post Box in the bottomleft hand corner.

Also evident, carved into the stone tablet in the centre of the building, are the words: 'CRAVEN BANK'.

However, the original Craven Bank branch was opened in 1840 and there is no sign of our building in the

'O.S' map of 1852, which was surveyed in 1849

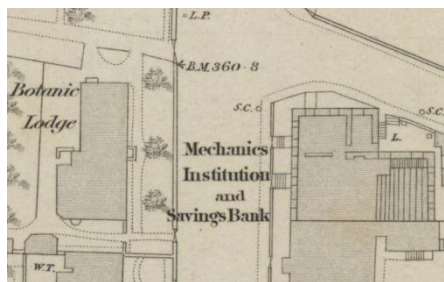


and the site then occupied by a 'Botanic Lodge'.

Just as in other towns and cities; how times have changed!

I took the photograph (above right) a

few years ago but the branch hasn't changed since, apart from the front door badly needing a coat of varnish. And, finally; a Craven Bank cheque (above right) copied from Wikipedia drawn on Keighley branch, but when? **Could George Martin help to identify the date?**



YOUR HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED

I am always searching for interesting anecdotes of your time in Martins and realise that the majority of our members worked for our Bank for far longer than me and you must have many memories of the great times that you had working for Martins. With this in mind, and to help me to make the Newsletter interesting, can I urge you to contact me with your memories so that they can be shared with our members?

DEATH NOTICES

I am pleased to be able to advise you that, since the last edition of the Newsletter, I have not been advised of the deaths of any of our members

Although not members, we have two former colleagues to remember:

MIKE KELLARD

I see from the latest "Connection" magazine that we lost Mike Kellard last year. He was already at Chief Overseas in Gracechurch Street, London when I joined the Bank in 1960 and then went off to Barclays Southampton International branch on integration. After that he worked in other "international" jobs around the country (including Edinburgh) before finishing his career as Assistant Manager at Pall Mall International in the West End of London. John Jones

DAVID PINNELL (27th July 1942-10th April 2023)*David started his career with Martins in 1966 at our London Office, 68 Lombard Street, working in*

Registrar's Department, dealing with the shareholders' register for the Bank, and for other companies on whose behalf the Bank acted as Registrar.

Following the takeover, in 1969, in 1972, Barclays announced that they would be moving the Registrar's Department to their new centre at Radbroke Hall. When Barclays closed Registrar's, David transferred to Barclays National Records Centre in Wythenshawe, where he worked until he retired.

Looking back on his long career, he enjoyed recalling the more unusual experiences, including: The time he had spent doing a daily commute by plane from Southend to Liverpool to work in our Head Office; his involvement in finding records relating to high-profile criminal cases, and the time he was drafted in to work through the night at an airport branch when a number of international flights were diverted there, creating something of a rush on the foreign exchange till.

David answered the call for volunteers to work in the Bank's archives, jumping at the chance. The work involved inputting customer names from 19th century ledgers into a database and David excelled at it. He loved to set himself a target for how many pages he would get through in his two-hour session, and would frequently turn up early to sneak in a few extra pages. When other volunteers were unable to attend through illness, David would volunteer to do extra sessions, and at the start of this year he started to do a whole day on a Friday. His obvious excitement, at the age of 80, at doing a full day in the office was touching.

(David was known as Andrew by most people outside Barclays, but he was always David at work.)

Maria Sienkiewicz, Barclays Group Archives

WE WELCOME OUR FOLLOWING FORMER COLLEAGUES

Brian Hatcher: Ludgate Circus



Is Brian able to name any of his former colleagues from Ludgate Circus branch? We can identify Don Evans (third from left) but what about anyone else

Brian?

MENTIONING 'DON EVANS', recently, another email dropped into my 'In' box, from Don's son, Mervyn, in which he



advised me that Don had recently celebrated his 100th Birthday! **This made me wonder if Don is our oldest member? Is he? Does anyone know of any older member(s)?**

Gill Hatcher (nee Robinson): Tyrrel Street



With no staff photographs available from Tyrrel Street, we have to rely on the 'Mug Shots' of our members; (Sir) Brian Pearse (left) and Peter Hole (right).



'THEN'

and

'NOW'



Although some cosmetic changes have been made, the Liver Bird remains in its original position above the front door. Yet again, can Gill provide us with more names of her former colleagues with whom she worked?

Christine Kent: Allerton Road, Liverpool



As our website does not hold any photographs of the branch during its Martins days, do you?

Our branch used to occupy one of the premises featured (left), which are now part-

occupied by **'GREEN LANE PHARMACY'**.

Michael McMinn: Otley
Michael joined Martins in 1951 at our Otley branch and has provided a wealth of information about his career with Martins which, with Michael's approval, I will share in future editions of our Newsletter as I am certain that some of our members will remember the names of his former colleagues.



Bill Pickup: Brighton



the manager of the Blackpool branch of Martins Bank: (Enoch Pickup), persuaded me

After leaving school, an uncle of mine, who was



that a career in banking might be 'just the job' for me. As a result, I duly applied to join the staff of the bank, and started my career at the Brighton branch (previous page left and right, as it is now) at 26 North Street on Tuesday the 7th August 1962 (Monday the 6th was a bank holiday). After about 4 years, I was transferred to the chief London Office at 68 Lombard Street. I saw in the 'merger' with Barclays (plus Decimalisation) before moving on around various offices in the City of London, including, Treasurer's Office, and ending my working life under the regime of B.Z.W., from where I took early retirement at Christmas 1996.

So, having now reached the age of 77 years, I thought - having been prompted by the article/letter, I ought to get round to doing something about joining the Grasshoppers. So here I am!

David Weaver: Preston Fishergate.



I wonder if David can put any names to the faces of his former colleagues? Please let me know if you can David.

Editor: If Brian and David would like larger images to enable them to identify any of their former colleagues then just let me know and I will forward them to you by email.

A TIMELY REMINDER

If it's out of the BLUE, then it's not for you!

Please remember that this applies not only to

From: grasshoppers@btinternet.com

To: broad; report@phishing.gov.uk;

RE: bill is ready to view

Originated by:

ba73wx@bma.biglobe.ne.jp

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: broad

Sent: 05 July 2023 13:31

To: grasshoppers@btinternet.com

Subject: bill is ready to view

Your latest bill is ready

Hello,

You can view your bill online or use the My BT app. To log in, you'll need your BT ID (it's at the bottom of this email).

[Log in to see your bill](#)

emails but also to unsolicited 'phone calls, as I continue to receive emails addressed to our Club and can only assume that, at least, one of our members has been 'hacked'.

Should you receive an email please be cautious before clicking on a link, unless you are happy that it originated from a 'Trusted Source'. If it isn't then it should be forwarded to:

report@phishing.gov.uk

(Left) is a typical example of an email, purporting to be from BT, that I receive on a regular basis. But check the originator's email address:

FORTHCOMING LUNCHES

Although still some time away, in order to ease the administrative burden, we believe that we should provide the dates of our forthcoming Lunches for which we would like you to express interest in attending. By so doing, it will enable us to plan but, don't worry if you do not express interest at this time as there will be another chance when 'Last Orders' are called in a future edition of our Newsletter. However, your assistance, as always, would be appreciated in assisting us to assess potential numbers.

LONDON **Thursday 23rd November**

BINGLEY **Monday 11th December**

MANCHESTER **Wednesday 6th December**

LIVERPOOL **Friday 8th December**

For the LONDON and LIVERPOOL Lunches you should register your interest with Ken Quirk at: kenneth.quirk@sky.com

For BINGLEY, I am your contact:

grasshoppers@btinternet.com

and for MANCHESTER, it is George Hamilton at: georgehamilton57@gmail.com

We continue in our attempts to identify other locations where our members, who find travelling becoming more difficult, can meet and any suggestions of such locations would be welcome. I realise that some of our members have already made suggestions but would like them, and anyone else who is interested in attending a new and alternative 'local function' to make contact with me so that we can identify interest in that area by publishing details in future editions of the Newsletter.

Although the standard menu will be available at all of our planned lunches, as always, for members who have special dietary requirements, alternative menus will also be available.

With this in mind, we hope to see as many of you as possible at our forthcoming Lunches, later this year.

The Paddle Steamer Waverley Liverpool - Llandudno Cruise:

We were picked up last Tuesday morning by taxi, very early for us, to take us to the embarkation point at the Liverpool Pier Head

Landing stage. I previously had seen the Waverley cruising the Solent some years ago and had always wanted to take a trip myself, if the chance arose.

What we had not allowed for was a dramatic change in the weather before we completed the ticket check, to gain the shelter of the departure lounge, as the monsoon conditions became biblical. The 925 passengers were shoehorned on board to depart on time, bearing in mind the other decks were a no go area because of the rain, and the lower decks struggled to accommodate a wandering band of drowned rat seat-less passengers.

Yet as we approached Llandudno by which stage we had all dried out the sun broke through and Llandudno looked magnificent, with the Great Orme looming over the Pier. There was plenty of time for a good lunch, and to visit Penderyn Whiskey Distillery which we had found a reference to on Google, and we had a jolly time.

The return 3 hours trip was delayed a while as the increasing level of the tide meant the angle of the gangplank was unhelpful, and the Captain had to request all passengers already on board sitting on the Starboard side to switch to Port. Otherwise we got back to Liverpool in very good shape on a beautiful evening. We wouldn't have missed it for anything.



Photograph: Paul Williamson

Although fewer members than anticipated accepted our offer of discounted fares, in fact only four members and their wives finally sailed, we wonder if more members would be interested in future 'Waverley' sailings from London, and the South Coast later in the year, once timetables have been finalised?

Thames departures will be between Friday 22nd September and Sunday 8th October

Friday 1st September and Wednesday 20th September.

However, we cannot guarantee that preferred sailings and locations will be available and hope that you will understand our situation should you wish to sail.

Waverley Excursions – The world's last Seagoing paddle steamer

THEN and NOW in DURHAM



At least our former Durham branch continues to be almost used for its original purpose by the Nationwide Building Society.



and TODMORDEN (THEN (below) AND NOW (below right))



Although not quite for its original intended use, but our former branch is still handling Deposits and Withdrawals (of sorts) I suppose.



UPDATE ON OUR FORMER HEAD OFFICE BUILDING

You can check the progress by clicking on the following link:

[Martins Bank Building \(@martinsbankbuilding\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

In recent postings you can: 'Meet Tommy', who has been ever present in the building since 1989! (far longer than any of us I would imagine, other than our Messengers and other Non-Clerical staff).

Meet Tommy; keeper of Martins since 1989

"I must have about 2000 keys in this building, of every door."

Tommy is so much more than just our head of security, but a core part of our community.

Anyone who has met this extraordinary man will be able to speak of his care, knowledge and love of this iconic building. We're not sure anyone could top his passion!

Tommy's connection with Martins is both fascinating and inspiring. So we have created a short film to share his excitement for the building getting ready to welcome the people of Liverpool once again.

Tommy, on behalf of Martins Bank Building and all the people you have served over your 34 years of service, thank you!



Likewise, if you intend coming to our Liverpool Lunch in December then you will be able to 'Meet Tommy' in person as he will be one of our special guests, along with Cal Taylor who is overseeing the restorations.

And still they come from Ken Bromley (via Peter)

Were any of our members present at this function? Could it have been the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Martins Bank, especially as everyone appears to be wearing the same item in their lapels?



A 'Martins Unicorn' Board Meeting?

Can anyone suggest what this was? The only easily-identifiable person in the photograph being the 'Unicorn' founder; Edward du Cann



Once again, if anyone would like larger versions of either, or both, photographs then please contact me and I will forward them to you.

ANY MEMORIES TO SHARE?

As far as amusing anecdotes go, my favourite would probably be when Donald Mallinson at Sunbridge Road Branch asked me to post the ledgers, I explained that I couldn't use a machine, he agreed that that was no problem as they didn't have any machines and he gave me a pen, having come from London where we were fully automated with NCR machines with punch tape attachments this was a bit of a shock! Brian Hatcher