

BRIGHTON SPREAD EAGLES

Barclays Group Pensioners' Club

Chairman – David Stedman, 8, Toronto Close, Durrington, West Sussex BN13 2TD – 01903 267479 (07928 935599)
Secretary – Cyn Fleetwood, 16, Winterton Way, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN43 5RE – 07789 807116
Social Secretary – Don Semmons, 47 Cecil Road, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 8HP – 01903 535587 (07989 120049)

April 2026

Dear Member,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and ready to join in with some or all the events that have been organised on your behalf by myself and other members of the Committee.

The coffee mornings continues at Café Quench, George Street, Hove, on the first Thursday of each month (excluding March & December) from 10.15 am.

The four upcoming events that are detailed below include the Ramble on Friday 29th May, the Afternoon Tea at Houghton Bridge on Wednesday 10th June, the Mid-Summer Lunch at Sussex County Cricket Ground on Thursday 23rd July and last, but not least, the visit to the Chichester Festival Theatre to see the production of My Fair Lady on Tuesday 18th August.

For this theatre trip, which is likely to be oversubscribed, the committee have decided to slightly change the method from 'first come, first served', to a ballot to be drawn on the 28th May, the date of our next committee meeting, in which applications will be put into one of four categories. In order of priority, they would be Committee Members, Members who regularly attend functions, all other members and then guests. The reason for this change is mainly to do with the postal system being so inconsistent, where a member could post their application to me and I don't receive it until a week or more later.

I hope you all agree that this is a fairer way of dealing with any over-subscription.

A full list of the events that have been arranged for you the remainder of the year appears at the bottom of this newsletter. It is also available on our website.

We would like to have more rambles this year despite the weather playing havoc with our best arrangements last year. Again, we would ask **if anyone would like to take on the role of organiser for one of these rambles, please let me know**

The next visit to Cineworld is likely to be in June and Dave will be sending out the details nearer the time.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO LET ME HAVE A NOTE OF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO SAVE ON POSTAL COSTS.

Don Semmons
Social Secretary & Treasurer.

Friday 29th May **Alciston Ramble**

This ramble, organised by Graham Clark, will be a circular walk over flat ground of around 3 miles, so suitable for those who don't like the steep hills or too long a walk.

We will meet at The Cricketers Arms Berwick (postcode BN26 6SP, large car park at rear) at 11:30 am for coffee (paid for by the club) and then commence the walk to Alciston following footpaths with some of the best views of the South Downs in the County, and back to the Cricketers for lunch around 1:30 pm. The Cricketers Arms founded in 1790 has a good menu with vegetarian options and is renowned for the quality of its food.

Members can choose their lunch at coffee time and pay individually; this will save time on our return to the pub after the walk. Guests are welcome as are dogs who are allowed in the pub.

The venue could be of particular interest to non-ramblers who can join us for lunch and could walk the short distance to the village church of St Michael's, famous for being decorated with stunning murals painted by the Bloomsbury Group of Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant and Quentin Bell from nearby Charleston Farmhouse.

This event is free for members and £4 for guests.

Wednesday 10th June

Afternoon Tea at the Riverside South Downs Café at Houghton Bridge, Amberley with Optional Boat Hire

We meet at the Riverside South Downs Café (BN18 9LP) at 11am, where if the weather is favourable, we can sit outside on the tables and chairs set out on the riverbank, or indoors should the weather be not so nice.

At 11.30am we will be served with their 'Signature Afternoon Tea' consisting of a large homemade scone, a selection of sandwiches and mini brioche rolls, a homemade sausage roll and a selection of mini cakes. Served with unlimited tea or coffee.

Please indicate in your application if you wish to have the plain, fruit, savoury cheese or gluten free scone.

After the tea will be the **option** to hire one of their self-drive boats for 60 minutes where you can explore the enchanting River Arun. The boats, which take up to 6 people are inflatables with an outboard motor and are very stable and safe. Whether you are a complete novice or a salty sea captain, they provide you with a short tutorial handover to enable you to navigate the river. They will assist us getting on and off the boats. The most capable person aboard each boat will be skipper! Life jackets are compulsory and provided.

Cost of the Afternoon Tea is £25.00 for members and £30.00 for guests.

Cost of the Afternoon Tea and Boat Hire is £35.00 for members and £40.00 for guests

Thursday 23rd July

Mid-Summer Lunch at Sussex County Cricket Club followed by Don's 'House of Games' Quiz.

This year we have decided to return to Sussex County Cricket Club for the Mid-Summer lunch; and following the success of last year's event, the lunch will be followed by a quiz set by Don. Coffee will be served in the bar from 12.30pm and the bar will be available for drinks before and after the lunch.

Car parking is available within the ground and parking vouchers will be handed out on the day.

At 1pm we will be served with a two-course lunch from the menu that will be sent to those attending shortly before the due date.

As before, the quiz will be based on the popular TV quiz, Richard Osman's House of Games, so you might like to watch a few episodes to get the hang of some of the rounds!!! Teams will be made up of the people on your table and prizes will be awarded to the winning team.

The afternoon should finish around 4pm

Cost of this lunch is £30.00 for members and £40.00 for guests.

Tuesday 18th August

My Fair Lady at the Chichester Festival Theatre including Lunch and Coach travel

We are booked in to have lunch at the Brasserie at 11.45am where we will be served with a two-course lunch. You will be able to make your selection of food from the menu that will be sent to you about a month before the event. The meal also comes with a soft drink, wine or beer and tea or coffee

Then to the theatre - Lerner & Loewe's glorious, evergreen musical **My Fair Lady** – with an overflowing bouquet of ravishing songs including The Rain in Spain, I Could Have Danced All Night, With a Little Bit of Luck and Wouldn't It be Lovely – has never been produced at Chichester. With its sparkling dialogue, brilliant lyrics, witty story and gorgeous costumes, this 20th century masterpiece has been described as the perfect musical.

Cockney Eliza Doolittle scrapes a living selling flowers on the streets of London. Her dream of being a lady in a florist's shop is out of reach unless she can speak 'proper English'. So, when she encounters Henry Higgins, a professor of phonetics, she seizes the chance to transform her life.

Higgins blithely takes on a bet to turn the woman he dismisses as a "squashed cabbage leaf" into a high society paragon. But his impulsive wager becomes a journey of discovery for both him and Eliza.

We have booked 44 seats that are in the balcony, but there are lifts to access these seats and therefore no stairs to negotiate.

Coach will depart from Hove Town Hall at 10.15am and St Helens Church, Hangleton at 10.30am and Lancing Manor Leisure Centre at 10.45am

We should be back in Hove at about 7.00pm

Cost of this event is £80.00 for members and £95.00 for guests.

The remaining events for 2026:

First Thursday each month (ex-Mar & Dec)	Coffee Mornings at Café Quench George Street Hove
June	Cineworld Brighton Marina
Wednesday 9th September	Visit to Michelem Priory with guided house tour and Cream Tea
September	Autumn Golf Meeting
Thursday 22nd October	Barnum at the Congress Theatre Eastbourne followed by tea.
November	Cineworld Brighton Marina
Thursday 3rd December	Xmas Lunch at the Alfriston Hotel

Below are the application forms for the next four events, with a reminder that if you wish to apply to go on any of them, you can **EITHER**:

Complete the attached application form and post it to Don, enclosing a cheque.

OR

Send an e-mail to don@brightonspreadeagles.co.uk giving the name of the trip and the number of places required, and then making payment by either internet banking transfer or by Bank Giro Credit to - Sort Code: 201275; Account Number: 20002038; Account Name: 'Barclays Group Pensioners Club',

If you chose to apply by e-mail, Don would acknowledge your application, and the money can be transferred at any time up to 3 weeks prior to the event.

A reminder that no refunds will be issued after you have booked an event unless no funds have been paid out in advance by the Club. In any event no refunds will be issued if cancellation occurs within two weeks of the event.

**ALL Application forms to be sent to:
Don Semmons, 47 Cecil Road, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 8HP (01903 535587)
Separate Cheques, payable to Barclays Group Pensioners Club, for each event please.**

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Friday 29th May

Alciston Ramble

I/We _____ would like to attend @ £00.00 each = £ _____

with _____ guests (Names please) @ £4.00 each = £ _____

Total = £ _____

Telephone Number _____

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Wednesday 10th June

Afternoon Tea at the Riverside South Downs Café at Houghton Bridge, Amberley with Optional Boat Hire

Hire

WITHOUT BOAT HIRE

I/We _____ would like to attend @ £25.00 each = £ _____

with _____ guests @ £30.00 each = £ _____

Total: = £ _____

WITH BOAT HIRE

I/We _____ would like to attend @ £35.00 each = £ _____

with _____ guests @ £40.00 each = £ _____

Total: = £ _____

Choice of Scone: plain, fruit, savoury cheese or gluten free (Delete as appropriate)

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS/ALLEGIES.....

Please delete as appropriate:

I/We would like to have for a lift to this event. I/We are happy to offer a lift to other members to this event.

Telephone Number _____

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Thursday 23rd July

Mid-Summer Lunch at Sussex County Cricket Club followed by Don's 'House of Games' Quiz.

I/We _____ would like to attend @ £30.00 each = £ _____

with _____ guests (Names please) @ £40.00 each = £ _____

Telephone Number _____ Total: = £ _____

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Tuesday 18th August

My Fair Lady at the Chichester Festival Theatre including Lunch and Coach travel

I/We _____ would like to attend @ £80.00 each = £ _____

Total: = £ _____

Telephone Number _____

I/We would like to get on the coach at.....

(Hove Town Hall – St Helens Church, Hangleton – Lancing Manor)