

# On The Bank

April, 2020

Newsletter of Malden Manor Bowling Club

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Manor Park, Malden Road, New Malden KT3 6AU

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Available electronically for members using email

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A poem found online by Dave Bygrave's granddaughter Charlotte which he and we thought sums it all up rather nicely:

**And when this is all over  
We'll knock on our friends' doors  
And go to every party  
And say "I love you" more**

**And when this is all over  
Through bad, we will see the good  
Because whenever we are together  
We'll appreciate it, as we should**

**And when this is all over  
And we are no longer in this pain  
We'll know to never take for granted  
Those little things again**

## By Way of Clarification

It was brought to my attention by one member that, depending on the way you read it, Dave McGrady's letter to members implied that we have assumed that all members have waived a refund on their subscriptions. This is not the case, and I apologise for any misunderstanding.

Some members however, when talking to Treasurer Brian, did indicate to him that they would waive a refund and David wished to thank those individuals.

**Mark Smith**

## MMBC Facebook Page

If you have a Facebook account, don't forget we have a group, just for members. Twenty-five have joined so far, exchanging thoughts, information, photos and the odd joke or two.

If you would like to get involved, search for 'Malden Manor Bowls Club' and then request to join.

**Mark Smith**

## By the Skin of Our Teeth ...

My wife, Iona, and I returned very recently from Cape Town having spent our usual 4 1/2 months there over the winter. We have a one bedroom apartment overlooking the back of Table Mountain, in a block of some 60 retirement apartments. I had enjoyed playing bowls at the Western Province Cricket Club which has some of the best facilities you could find anywhere (plus some very windy days in the season). It has 4 full greens tended by 2 full time greenkeepers and a consultant supervisor. These are used for many provincial competitions and were this year to host some of the Nationals which have sadly had to be deferred. The large clubhouse allows lots of social activities for all sections of the Club and is used on most weekday mornings by various bridge clubs, hosting up to 180 players and bringing in much needed funds.

We had booked our air tickets with BA last July and were due to return on the last of three daily flights on Thursday 26th March. Four days before we were due to fly, the State President came on TV and announced that the whole country would go into lockdown at midnight on the evening that we were due to fly. We had been checking the BA website every day because it had cancelled some of the later flights, but we seemed to be OK. The lock down is initially for 21 days and includes the total shutting of the airports to passenger aircraft. An email on the day before we left told us that BA would not be serving meals or alcohol on the flight because of Covid 19 rules and suggested that we take our own food.

On the evening of the 26th our younger daughter drove us, complete with face masks and gloves, to the airport over fairly empty roads. On entering the check-in area, we were greeted by a closely packed mass of people, many with small children, all with laden trolleys. It transpired that, in addition to our flight, BA had another 747 on the apron which would normally have flown out the next day. BA had managed to contact most of the scheduled passengers and so they were there plus several hundred others who had gone to the airport in the hope of being wait-listed. In spite of announcements that they would definitely not be able to fly, they still milled around. The crew for this flight had its stopover cut but were delighted to be able to return to UK, and since the 747s have a cockpit crew of two captains and a first officer, there was no problem with "hours". Iona is an assisted wheelchair passenger, so we were able to get to the somewhat more peaceful special waiting lounge.

We got to the departure area to find all shops, restaurants and bars closed and absolutely no place to buy water. After a fruitless search, I had an idea and went to the BA lounge for premium passengers and begged to borrow 2 glasses. We then filled these in the washroom and washed down our sandwiches. The glasses were then passed to various other parched passengers - before I returned them.

We boarded our plane, a swish new 747, on time but were delayed for an hour as they crammed as many passengers on as possible - probably using the crew's night seats. BA was very "virus conscious" and the un-masked crew very helpful but we were very surprised to see tattered 4-week-old in-flight magazines, in the pockets in front of us which had been through many hands and could easily be infected.

We were greeted by our elder daughter at Heathrow early the next morning and sat two metres away at the back of their people carrier. We were soon back in Old Malden - much relieved to have made it by the skin of our teeth!

**Andrew Peile**

## Quiz Corner

### The Magnificent Seven

List the Seven actors who played the title roles in the 1960 film

### Countries in Central America

Name the Seven countries in Central America (note that Mexico is technically part of North America)

## A Sign of the Times: Burglars' Haul was Jewellery and Toilet Rolls



On 20 March, a club member was called back to her home (she had been staying with a friend) as her very good neighbours noticed something amiss with her conservatory door.

Yes, she'd been burgled; her conservatory doubled glazed door and then the interior double glazed patio door had been smashed; a window handle had been wrenched off., on a front window; drawers and cupboards had been emptied and her Domestos spray had been used liberally (apparently to prevent finger prints to be lifted). The target was jewellery and as we all know, lots of items have sentimental as well as monetary value.

But what was unbelievable was that as well as jewellery, a packet of eight toilet rolls had been taken! (This is true!)

One piece of very good news, her very good next door neighbours have come into their own and been extraordinarily supportive.

Since the break-in, our member has been dealing with insurance and tidying up. Both are taking time. There is no news as to when the windows will be fixed as Anglian have stopped all activities. The claim for jewellery is in hand. To make things look a bit better she's been jollying up the conservatory by putting up posters on the boarded up windows. There is now a little art gallery of posters!



### News of Vera Whiting

Vera developed severe respiratory problems, last year. She has since been confined to her home. Beryl and Diana were making weekly visits to play canasta with Vera and another friend, but this came to an end once the isolation restrictions started.

The improved weather meant that Vera has now been able to spend time sitting in the garden. She says, "My son Philip (who came home, especially from Australia) has been marvellous, looking after me and doing the shopping. I have joined the Club as a non-playing member and hope to visit in the summer ...if and when play starts.

My daughter Fiona Kennedy (a taxi driver and writer of 'Pops, the Magic Taxi') is busy, as usual, and is currently a volunteer delivery driver for a local chemist."

### WWF and a Wonderful Surprise

Some of our ladies play words with Friends on Facebook. WWF is similar to Scrabble. It is quite addictive.

Maureen Longhurst is currently in the 'high risk' category so is currently confined to home. She became distraught when she was having problems playing WWF due to her iPad being on the blink.

Her granddaughter said she would fix the iPad. It was agreed that Maureen would leave the iPad in her garage, ready for Georgia's arrival.

When Maureen looked in the garage, she found a box containing a brand new iPad, with the iPad set up for action. Maureen couldn't hug Georgia due to having to keep two metres away. She felt so emotional. Maureen says the new iPad has helped to keep her sane and has ensured she is able to maintain contact with friends.

#### Quite Interesting?:

Alligators balanced twigs on their noses to lure birds looking for nest building material

With thanks to QI

## Survival hints, April 2020

- Find Radio 4 Extra on your digital radio or from the digital stations on your TV. Comedy hour, between 8.00 and 9.00, repeated at 12 noon and 19.00. Lots of great favourites like 'Round the Horne', 'Hancock's Half Hour', The Goon Show plus a few more recent shows (**Mark Smith**).
- **Start doing Jigsaws.** It was a shame about the two missing pieces in the first one. I'm going up into the loft to dig out my stash. How many jigsaws will I be able to complete in 12 weeks? (**Mark Smith**)  
 Jigsaws were always known as 'A piece missing' by my two grandchildren.  
 (**Maureen Longhurst**)  
 At Croydon Bowls Club, there was a jigsaw laid out for communal updating.  
 (**Phil Thomas**)  
 On a 'PuzzleKaddy' we have a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle which depicts a black and white photograph from our wedding in 1967. This was given to us by our son Simon at Christmastime 2018. Being in 'fifty shades of grey' we hadn't made much progress with it. We brought it down again this April, and still haven't made much progress, my visiting daughter looked at it and said, "it's the most difficult jigsaw I've ever seen."  
 (**Tony Josolyne**)
- To prevent your hands getting rough, use hand cream at night, and wear cotton gloves to retain the moisture and prevent bedding becoming marked.  
 (**Maureen Grimwood**)
- Try not to watch TV news in daytime, save it for 5 or 6pm. Rolling TV news can be repetitive and depressing. Numerous 'experts' (who decides when someone can be called 'an expert?') are given endless screen time. Instead of watching TV, play music from the radio.  
 Remember in 'Outnumbered' when Grandad told his grandson that there had been three train crashes in Kent, one after another. Grandson Jake replied: 'That's rolling news, Grandad.'  
 (**Maureen Grimwood**)
- Make a phone call to all those people to whom you wrote, 'Will be in contact in the New Year', on their Christmas Card. Maintaining contact with others is very important. (**Maureen Grimwood**)
- Don't shuffle around in slippers, all day. Slippers can be dangerous, especially for those climbing stairs. Wear shoes with support, such as trainers, indoors. Footwear can be changed should you go outside for the permitted walk. (**Beryl Jessett**).
- Try to vary the route of your permitted walk, to make it more interesting. Greet all not wearing earphones with 'Hello'. I've conducted some interesting 'shouts' with strangers, across a road.  
 (**Maureen Grimwood**)

*Ed's note: Please let Maureen or Mark have any further survival hints.*

## Recommended Food Deliveries

The companies listed have been recommended by members, who have been unable to do shopping:

**Ross the Fruiterer** in Worcester Park will deliver fruit and vegetable boxes costing from £10 and, in £10 increments, up to £60. Eggs, local honey and milk can be added. Payment by card. Phone 020 8330 7492.

**Parsley Box**, 0808 588 1365, supply a range of meals, which don't have to be kept in the fridge and can be kept for six months. Delivery takes 3-4 days.

**Wiltshire Farm Foods** have been established 25 years. They offer a choice of over 300 meals and desserts. Order online or call 0800 077 3100.

*Ed's note: Can you recommend a food delivery company?*

### Quite Interesting?:

The price the tooth fairy pays for a tooth went up by 42% between 2011 and 2013

The original BBC licence fee cost the equivalent of 50p

With thanks to QI

## A Virtual Quiz (1)

On 31 March, I joined Jo and a reluctant Colin in a virtual quiz. Other teams, consisting of six to eight members, were based in Turkey and Scarborough. All those participating had to have a connection with Kalkan, Turkey, a place I've often visited. I was based at home in Worcester Park; Jo and Colin were at their home in Sutton. Our team name was, 'Gin'll Fix it'.

Somehow my connection with the group via Facebook didn't work so Jo had to shout the questions to me via my iPhone and I'd shout back my suggested answers. Sometimes we had shouted discussions between the three of us. Jo then had to type our answers on Messenger, within two minutes of the end of a round. There were 10 questions in each of the ten rounds. We also had to identify the underlying theme of each round.

It proved incredibly boring and lasted over three hours! Watching paint dry would have proved exhilarating in comparison! I fortified myself with two glasses of gin and tonic.

I fell asleep (effects of the gin?) and missed the last two rounds. We finished last! Count me out of virtual quizzes with a Kalkan theme

**Maureen Grimwood**

## A Virtual Quiz (2)

On 26 March, Helena and I joined 'The Virtual Pub Quiz'. You can find it on Facebook of YouTube. Five rounds of questions and it was done in an hour. In total, 180,000 people joined in.

You are not competing virtually against other teams, but it appeared that plenty of people were completing amongst themselves in their own living room. It's back by popular demand, every Thursday.

**Mark Smith**

## Credit Card surcharges

Did you know that from January 2018 it became unlawful for retailers to charge a surcharge for using a debit or credit card?

I recently got charged an additional 50p for using my credit card in a small local grocery shop. They refused to return my 50p, however I have the credit card receipt which shows the 50p charge. I have raised the matter with Trading Standards. I advised my credit card issuer of the surcharge, with the hope that the retailer would be blacklisted if there were similar complaints. I was refunded the 50p!

**Maureen Grimwood**  
(alias Mrs Complaints)

## A Surprise Telephone Call from Fulham Football Club

On Monday, 23 March, I answered my landline to discover the caller was Nina, the secretary to the CEO of Fulham Football Club. The call was made to check I was all right and to see whether I needed anything. After a general chat, I was asked whether I would like a weekly phone call. I declined, expressing my appreciation and gratitude for the Club taking time to phone me.

I later discovered that the Club is trying to make telephone contact with all their senior fans who are season ticket holders. David Peck had a call, also Eric Darby. Eric wondered who was calling. I asked Jackie whether he thought they wanted to sign him as a player. Jackie replied, "In his dreams".

As yet, Brian Forster, another season ticket holder hasn't been contacted by the Club. His daughter Sarah, who lives near to me, assures me he's doing ok.

**Maureen Grimwood**

## A Freebie for Stamp Collectors

Jose Blainey has a pair of UK Victory stamps, in a packet, to give away. The stamps were issued on 11 June 1946, to celebrate victory over the Axis powers in the Second World War. The citation reads: The 3d stamp depicts a dove bearing an olive branch, bricks and a trowel and a square and compasses (the last two being symbols of Freemasonry, a movement the Nazis tried to stamp out).

Anyone interested should contact Jose.



## Clap for Carers – On the Ground Reports

### Corner of Alsom Avenue and Stoneleigh Park Road, WP (Gill Peck)

**26 March** – We were there with our Fulham clappers.

**2 April** – It was good down our road, more people than the first week. A brilliant touch was the person playing ‘Like a bridge over Troubled Water’ on a cd player. David and I used our Fulham clappers, again.

### Avon Close, WP (Maureen Grimwood)

**26 March** – I was out there so were the people on the corner of Kinross. I could hear clapping in either direction.

**2 April** – Could see 7 households joining in. More noise from further down Avon (my right) and Kinross Avenue (left). I followed suggested Pat Hall’s instruments and used a saucepan and wooden spoon.

### Blakes Lane, NM (Joan Ball)

**2 April** – We all clapped.

### Corner of Blakes Lane and Wendover Drive, NM (Maureen Palmer)

**26 March** – I was on my own.

**2 April** – A good turn-out. I heard fireworks at 8pm.

### Bodley Road, NM (Jose Blainey)

**2 April** – My little block of eight houses all joined in with everyone laughing to each other. A couple of neighbours banged pans with wooden spoons. Several neighbours asked whether I needed shopping or anything. It was all quite emotional.

### Brockenhurst Road, WP (Pam Humphreys)

**26 March** – Lots of people out clapping and cheering. Quite emotional.

**2 April** – A good turn out again. It sounded as if fireworks went off at 8pm, to start things off.

### Burleigh Road, Sutton (Annette Brown)

**26 March** – Great. Everyone was out clapping and cheering, Very emotional.

### Church Road, WP (Pat Hal)

**26 March** - Got carried away knocking a saucepan with plastic spoon. The spoon is now in two pieces.

**2 April** – It was much noisier tonight.

### Inverness Road, WP (Phil Thomas)

**2 April** – We used saucepans and wooden spoons. Some sort of horn was being blown down the road. It’s good to support the NHS but let’s not forget care staff, who are paid about a third of the wages of well-qualified nurses.

### Kingswood Close, NM (Tony Josolyne)

**26 March** - Numbers 4 to 7 were all outside, clapping and banging saucepans, the other end of the Close remained inside.

**2 April** - Numbers 4 to 7 were all there again, making plenty of noise, but the other end of the Close remained silent.

### Longfellow Road, WP, Central Road end (Carole Brough)

**2 April** – Lots more people out tonight. There was a good warm feeling.

### Lynwood Drive, WP (Maureen Longhurst)

**2 April** – There were more people clapping than last week. I used a tin plate and a metal spoon. I might use (son) Tony’s old BR whistle next week.

### Portland Avenue, NM (Patricia Bird)

**26 March** – Nobody out, I was in my own.

**2 April** – Four of us were out.

### West Barnes Avenue, Motpur Park (Beryl Jessett)

**2 April** – There were more people than ever this evening. Even the K5 bus tooted all the way down WBL.

*Ed’s Note: Let us know of the action in your road*

## Barbara Furness (1932 to 2020)

Liz Pope received a phone call in March from Alan, Barbara's nephew to say Barbara had passed away earlier that day, in the care home in Carshalton. For several years she had a live-in carer but moved to the care home a few months ago. Unfortunately, Barbara suffered from dementia and for the last few years she has not been the Barbara that we all knew.

Barbara was born in New Malden. Her primary education was at Burlington Road School and, from there, Wimbledon County Girls' School. Her only employers were Shell and she eventually became a computer-programmer and systems analyst. She met her husband, also a Shell employee, whilst on a short posting to Nairobi. Geoff died in 1993.

Barbara joined Malden Manor Bowls Club in 2003 along with Liz Pope, Wynne Slinger (d. 2018) and Joyce Dix (d. 2008). All four had previously belonged to the Lensbury (Shell Co.) Bowls Club. On the closure of Lensbury in 2002, Liz persuaded them all to join Manor Park Ladies.

Barbara took an active part in our club. She was a finalist in a number of club competitions but never a champion. She served as assistant treasurer on the former management committee. She was Manor Park Ladies' match secretary from 2009 (and, after amalgamation, Ladies' Section match secretary) for a number of years. Barbara suggested at an AGM that the morning roll-ups should be extended to Wednesdays, and this was then introduced.

She and Liz Pope enjoyed many cruises together. She was a keen canasta and mah-jong player.

At the moment it is uncertain whether there will be a funeral. Although Barbara has an older brother and sister-in-law living in Stoneleigh, Alan and his family now live in Cumbria, so travel is out of the question.

**Liz Pope**

## I've Hated Lifts Ever Since...

I was a student back in the late 60s. As I was short of money, I decided to apply for a job delivering the Christmas post. I was "lucky" enough to be accepted.

I got up at 5am and walked two miles to the sorting office at Loftus Road (opposite Queens Park Rangers football ground). My round was to deliver the post to the flats on the White City Estate.

The bag was extremely heavy and very hard work. I was told by one postie to avoid the lifts at all cost, except for Batman Close. Well, I gladly accepted his advice, got into the lift and pressed the button for the top floor. Ah! You've guessed it! The lift became stuck between floors.

Now being vertically challenged, I was in a bit of a predicament! Luckily, my sack was still full, so I carefully balanced on it and pressed the alarm bell.

It seemed like an eternity until the caretaker arrived. He shouted at me, apologising for the delay. He'd been eating his breakfast! He then told a colleague that it was all right as, "It was only the little post girl".

I've hated lifts ever since!

**Gill Peck**

## Wrinklies Wit and Wisdom™...

"Life is a great big canvas and you should throw all the paint on it you can"

*Danny Kaye*

"Life isn't measured by how many breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away"

*Chinese saying*

## A Warning...

Just be careful, because people are going crazy being in quarantine!

ACTUALLY, I've just been talking about this with the microwave and toaster, while drinking my tea. We all agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn't say anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not to the fridge as he is always cold and distant.

The Iron calmed me down coz it said all will be fine, as nothing is too pressing.

The vacuum ....very unsympathetic, just told me to suck it all in, but the fan was more optimistic, saying it will soon blow over!

When asked, the toilet looked a bit flushed and wouldn't give an opinion so did not say anything and the doorknob just said to get a grip.

My front door said I was totally unhinged.

LAST - but not LEAST, as you might guess, the curtains told me to PULL MYSELF TOGETHER!!!

PLEASE STAY SAFE, WELL AND INDOORS!!!!!!

Ray & Lyn Eden xxx



## April Fool

1<sup>st</sup> April came and went without incident this year, but it prompted Gill Peck to remember back one year...

“Naughty Roy Walton caught the Monday morning maintenance crew as they came to do their work. It was so funny. Caught me out”



## VE Day Memories

Please, do keep those VE Day stories coming in, to Maureen Grimwood (either your story, your parents' or memories about living in wartime). These will be published on 8 May, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day and a Bank Holiday

***The next edition of On The Bank will be published in a couple of weeks. We will be sharing photos of members' keep fit regimes, which didn't make this issue.***

***Please send us other material.***

***In the meantime, may your jet wash never lose its pressure, your paintbrush never go hard, and your garden trowel never bend.***

### Quiz answers

**The Magnificent Seven:** Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, Charles Bronson, James Coburn, Horst Buchholz, Brad Dexter, Robert Vaughn

**Countries in Central America:** Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama