

THE POSH PAPER



CRAWLEY CLOSE UP

ANNIE KEEPS US UP TO SPEED WITH ALL THE NEWS FROM CRAWLEY OVER LOCKDOWN

GROOVY GOLDEN GIRLS GET DOWN AT GLITTERING GARDEN PARTY!



The gardens of Barley Close were jumping on Saturday when The Posh Club paid the residents of Walsted Court a visit.

Our dancing queens got jiggy with it to the likes of Obviously Elvis and The Bees Knees and were both moving and grooving for a large part of the day.

The epsom salts would have come out that night for sure as the long distance bumping and grinding showed no let up late into the afternoon.

Hopped up on a cocktail of scones and orange juice, our band of babes burnt up the dance floor and left Dicky from Duckie for dust in a dance off. Go-go on girls, you've got this.

Full story inside



DID YOU SEE POSH CLUB TELEVISION?

It's not too late to watch our internet TV shows PC*TV. Four live shows recorded in Hastings, London, Brighton and Crawley. Hosted by our resident pretty boy in a bow tie, Dicky from Duckie.

Go to theposhclub.co.uk on your computer, phone or tablet to catchup.

HELLO!

Here is a warm welcome, and introduction to The Posh Paper from Annie!

Well haven't we had a time of it?

Coronavirus has taken over and restricted our lives for the last few months.

What a strange time it's been ... and it's not over yet.

Although a lot of the restrictions have been lifted, we still have to be careful, and can't hug or kiss our friends and family - unless you're in a bubble of course.

But, you know what? We are getting through it - we are surviving - and looking after one another.

So, what do you say - let's look on the bright side - and get on with it!

Slap on a smile, get your glad rags on and get socialising again.

(Socially distanced of course)

I've had some lovely conversations with many of you over the last few months and heard some wonderful stories about your lives. It has been so heartwarming hearing the stories behind the faces that come to The Posh Club each week.

We hope you enjoy The Posh Paper. You'll see that the team have all had some input into bringing our new rag to life.

It's full to the brim of hunks, glamour and fashion tips as well as your stories and pictures.

Happy Reading and I'll see you at the end of the paper for a few more words!



If you would like to keep in touch please contact Annie on 01293-451056, email annie@theposhclub.co.uk or send us a letter to: The Posh Club, 28 Wakehurst Drive, Southgate, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6DH

MOTHER'S PRIDE

Now we couldn't have The Posh Paper without mentioning mine and Simons' fabulous Mum could we?

Here is a photo of Me (Annie) my mum Renie is on the right of the picture (her real name was Florence Irene) but she never liked the name Florence, so people always called her Irene, Rene, or Renie. She is pictured with her next door neighbour Esther, who would come around for the famous tea-parties.

This photo was taken by a photographer from the local paper, to advertise the fact that we were starting up a new club, this was in the days of our first venue St. Mary's Church Hall



in Southgate - we were called 'The Tuesday Club' back then.

This was in my Mums house, and is such a lovely memory for me.

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PAGE 3 STUNNER

PAGE 3 🌟 BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT.

Our Page 3 Girl is our very own Posh Club volunteer Ann Arnold.

You will find Ann on a Tuesday at The Posh Club Crawley taking your coat, welcoming you at the door, then gracefully wafting between tables, serving you our sumptuous delights.

Ann is a stunning woman.

She has poise and she has grace.

She is one CLASSY act!

Please nominate our next Page 3 Girl with a few words, telling us why you think your nomination is worthy of this title. Remember it's just for fun!

Send your nominations to Annie, The Posh Club, c/o Broadfield Community Centre, Broadfield Barton, Broadfield, Crawley, RH11 9BA or email : annie@theposhclub.co.uk



ELVIS IS OUTSIDE THE BUILDING

The Posh Club Crawley Landlady Annie Bowden interviews Obviously Elvis about performing after COVID-19, working with his parents and dodging knickers in nursing homes.

You have been out and about with The Posh Club singing on doorsteps and serenading care homes. How does it feel to be performing again after lock down?

It's been amazing performing again after lockdown, especially with The Posh Club. A performer is only as good as their audience and this crowd are amongst the best. I have missed the live interaction more than anything and so grateful to be back.

Do you have any favourite moments from your post lockdown Posh Club tour?

My favourite moment so far has been singing on a front door step in Hove, to a lovely lady and her next door neighbour. There were so many positive vibes from passing traffic and

people walking by who stopped to join in the fun. The tooting of horns and waving after such a long period of being locked away felt incredible.

When did you start performing as Obviously Elvis?

I started performing as Obviously Elvis 10 years ago and initially worked pubs and restaurants etc. until I discovered the joy of performing for the older generation and its since become my favourite part of the job. I've always said that if I won the lottery I'd still go to work every day, I'd just do it for free.

I remember that your dad used to come to your gigs with you as tech support. Do you have any stories from your father and son performance days?

My parents have been amazing and as you know my dad used to come along to do my sound. One of the funniest moments I recall was when we turned up to do a gig and the clients genuinely thought that my dad who was 75 at the time was the Elvis Tribute... the look on their face was priceless and the relief when they realised he wasn't, was even better! My mum has also been wonderfully supportive and gave me one piece of advice when I told her I was going to impersonate Elvis - to just be myself! Obviously not what you want to hear when you need to be someone else! But actually, it was a great piece of advice as she really meant 'don't change my personality' as that's the part that makes people smile.

What is the biggest surprise you have ever had at a gig?

The biggest surprise at a gig was arriving to find out that the client the party was for had

passed away a week before. But they still wanted to go ahead as a celebration of his life, it turned out to be a lovely evening and I think he'd have loved seeing his friends and loved ones enjoying the music that was such a huge part of his life.

Do you have a lot of groupies?

I have a few ladies that like to consider themselves my groupies and I love it, I always try and turn up early when I know I'm going to see them and we all sit around drinking tea, eating cake and chatting (very rock n roll eh!)

Has anyone ever thrown their knickers at you?

The one time I had knickers thrown at me was by the staff at a nursing home! I ended up wearing a pair over my jumpsuit and a pair on my head.

Do you go to any of the Elvis conventions?

I have never really been into the whole convention thing as believe it or not I'm quite shy and like to spend all my free time on my canal boat.

Have you been to Graceland?

Graceland was on my list for this spring but for obvious reasons had to be cancelled but on the plus side I did manage some gardening at my own home that I like to call 'Wasteland'.

Do you remember where you were when Elvis died?

Yes, I remember exactly where I was when he died. I was a child and had spent the day at my dad's allotment when one of the other men there broke the news. It really was as if royalty had passed away.





THIS IS ME ENA EDWARDS

I was born in St Andrews in Jamaica in 1931

Every morning I have Weetabix for breakfast – why change after all these years?

It's like a hotel where I live, it's called Walsted Court, very nice, and my sister lives just up the road.

I bought a giant TV when I moved in here, the one I was given was too small, my favourite programme is 'Songs of Praise'

I moved to England in 1956, I was in my early 20s and it was a new life.

I have been married 3 times in my life – to Tomlin, Cyril & Edward – and I have outlived them all!

I love reggae music and my favourite thing is to dance.

I have 2 brilliant, healthy loving sons, both quite local – Errol works in computers and Jason works for Coca-Cola. Errol does my shopping in Asda every week.

The food is good here - Sunday lunch is my favourite, I like the roast potatoes.

I miss going to church, it hasn't been open since lockdown, my friend Janet used to drive me there, St Mary's in Crawley where The Posh Club used to be based

I like all of the musicals, the shows with singing and dancing, one of my favourites is Chicago.

I will celebrate my 90th birthday on the 1st January 2021

BRIGHT LIGHTS OF BROADFIELD

Viv Evans and Tracey Frake are our hosts at Broadfield Community Centre who welcome us with open arms each week as we arrive with cupcakes, Prosecco and a soupcon of style. The Posh Club founder Annie Bowden asks Viv and Tracey a few questions about what The Posh Club means to them.

Annie: You are on the frontline - you are both so kind and helpful and people across the local community come to you for an array of guidance, help and advice. How does that make you feel?

Viv: You are right – people come to us for all kind of things. Sometimes we signpost people for help elsewhere, sometimes we sit and have a cuppa with someone in distress. I appreciate that there are so many local people supporting the community - from dance teachers inspiring youngsters to ladies' groups giving a listening ear and teaching new skills. It makes me very grateful for the depth of community, creativity and compassion that I see day in, day out.

Tracey: It makes me feel good because if I can help someone, even in a small way then I've made a difference and that's what being part of the community is all about.

Annie: How do you like being part of The Posh Club?

Tracey: It's amazing, it's one of the highlights

of the week! It's so nice to see the older generation enjoying themselves and being taken care of.

Viv: I love to welcome people to Broadfield Community Centre, sometimes that means helping to get 30 cars in the car park that only normally holds just 15! I am touched by spouses that come together when one has a physical or mental disability that limits their activities. The love and patience demonstrated by partners is humbling and moving.

Annie: Do you have any new hobbies you've taken up since the lockdown?

Viv: Yes, I've taken up cycling which culminated in a cycle ride to Paris. I got on my bike, improved my fitness, dispelled any ideas of adding an electric motor to my pedals and rode to France! I then enjoyed a couple of days seeing the sights without the crowds.

Tracey: No, but it has given me the opportunity to spend quality time with my baby grandson - watching him grow has been such a blessing.

Annie: How do you unwind after a long day?

Viv: I go home and prepare dinner for our household of six, my husband and I and four young adults. Having dinner together, exchanging stories and laughing renews us.

Tracey: Exercising then a glass of wine whilst watching the TV.

Annie: If you were an act at The Posh Club, what would it be?

Tracey: A very bad one I think!

Viv: I love to sing. Singing is good for the soul. Music and singing create a connection

from your innermost being to the stuff of life and beyond. Unfortunately, whilst it's OK in the shower or riding my bike, my voice is not for the stage.

Annie: If you could live anywhere in the world where would it be and why?

Viv: I haven't yet visited anywhere better than my little piece of paradise called home. I feel truly blessed.

Tracey: I would have said America but now my grandson is here, so anywhere he is, is good for me.

Afternoon tea or roast dinner?

Tracey: In the summer, afternoon tea and in the winter, roast dinner.

Viv: Roast dinner, I love to share a hearty meal.

Modern or vintage?

Tracey: Modern

Viv: Vintage

Annie: Champagne or Bucks Fizz?

Viv: Both

Tracey: Oh, definitely Champagne without a doubt!

Annie: Tell us what your perfect day would look like, from start to finish?

Viv: Good food shared with family and friends after a long walk in the countryside with my husband.

Tracey: Wake up in my own time, take my dogs for a long walk, spend the day with my husband, daughter and grandson - then relax in the evening with my husband and friends.

TWO KEN PLAY THAT GAME

We are ramping up the Kenneth. Not one but two Ken's, both musicians, both super talented and both as posh as they come. Get up close and personal with Ken Francis and Ken Birch.

KEN'S CAPERS

Ken Birch is The Posh Club's roadie, sound man and all around technical whizz. Here he takes us down memory lane to when he formed his first band The Barracudas when he was 12.

The winter of 1962/63 recorded the coldest average conditions across the UK since records had begun. By January, as the country huddled around paraffin stoves, we endured constant power failures whilst the sheer weight of snow caused power cables to collapse. The sea had frozen for over a mile from the coast of Herne Bay and from Dunkirk in France, the ice continued for four miles.



As we shivered in the darkness, preparing for the next bitter trip to the ironmongers for another gallon of precious paraffin, the lights in the house suddenly once more flickered into life. It was the 19th of January the day after my 12th birthday.

Determined to make the most of any brief respite from our candlelit misery my mum turned on the electric fire and switched on the television. We were just in time to catch the end of a popular music show from the BBC called *Thank Your Lucky Stars*. The compare was Keith Fordyce and I just caught him introducing the bizarrely named 'The Beatles'. There they were raucously tearing through their new record *Please Please Me* and in an instant, the cold was forgotten. Even the mist of my own breath in front of my face danced to the sound of this brand new and exciting music.

By the next day, having battled through the snow drifts for another freezing day in class, most of the boys had abandoned their brylcreemed Billy Fury hair styles in favour of a Beatle style fringe, whilst the girls mooned over rough books writing I love Ringo, Paul, John or George in multi coloured ink.

My future was set, being able to play a guitar was a minor detail - the important thing was to look as if you could. A few adjustments from my mum soon saw my old jacket collarless and, at a distance, looking vaguely 'Beatlesque'. With a mock Liverpool accent and a shiny plastic mac this 12-year-old was nearly there. What next? It was obvious my friends and I had to form a band.

The Barracudas were born.

Every week for a couple of years the *Crawley Observer* dedicated its centre pages to the myriad of budding Crawley wannabe pop groups and we were no exception.

Here follows a copy of the article which they published. Even as 12 year olds we found the printed version of our words embarrassing but it did us no harm with attention at school and we were soon enjoying an ill-deserved fan club.

Job done!

"Spring approacheth - and with it the thoughts of Crawley boys turn to success in the charts. Latest Little League group to score the scene is a 12-year-old trio going by the fearsome name of The Barracudas.

Decked out in mock croc waistcoats, and with more rings on their fingers than Starr ever dreamed of, these three - all from Langley Green, have their sights set on nothing less than stardom.

The Barracudas were formed just after Christmas by lead guitarist Roger Radhanauth who goes by the stage name of Roy Andre. He was joined by Ken Birch (Tod Hunter) and Patrick Frankum at drums and rhythm guitar and this week, they announce, they are ready to start.

"We don't want many local gigs" said Roger "we just want to go up fast".

When Patrick finishes the electric guitar, he is making, the action will start full blast.

They already have *All My Loving* and several Shadows numbers in their repertoire, and have each written a song of their own.

What's more, The Barracudas have a manager - one of their mothers!

"Actually she's more than just that" admitted Patrick, "she makes all our costumes as well".

Already proficient these lads should make their mark on the Crawley scene as the years roll by. The name The Barracudas is a souvenir from Patrick's stay in Jamaica - and the beat they produce is aptly original and exotic."

Fame indeed!

Of course, the fact that we could not play and owned only broken or toy instruments did nothing to curb our enthusiasm or growing notoriety. Undaunted, we set about trying to mimic our heroes and, as the snow finally thawed, we spent long hours practicing in the back room of my mum's house.

Next time I'll tell you the story of a journey that eventually saw me travelling the country and sharing the bill with the likes of The Hollies, Marmalade and The Kinks.

CATS AND COCKNEYS

MEET KEN FRANCIS •••••

I grew up not far from Elephant & Castle and Oval. I've played ukulele on and off since I was a teenager. Then I learned electronics in the air force and worked in that and gave up the music for a long while. I still listened to it. In the 1950s and 60s, before hi-fi's, I used to get the old ex-government electronic components for a couple of quid on Lisle Street and build my own equipment. I had the best set-up in the area.

Then when I got made redundant at 60, I picked up the playing again. My late wife organised a band and I played the drums and sang as well. I do all sorts of singing. My dad was a real old Cockney and my mum spoke the Queen's English so I can sing either way.

Annie's brother Simon from The Posh Club books acts. One time he told me, 'I need a Cockney act for a wedding but I can't find any'. I actually sang *Lambeth Walk* in a pub in Lambeth Walk when I lived near there. So I did a session for Simon and now all they let me do is the Cockney stuff! Sometimes if

it gets a bit low after some classical music I get up and lead a Cockney singalong – but I do ballads too. And I can do a bit with the ukulele as well. I can sing all the 1940s and 50s ballads but I don't think the audience want an 89-year-old up there. They want someone the age they were first singing those songs.

I saw a programme that said, if you're a musician, to stop getting dementia in your old age, try to sing at least two songs a day. I've got an old PA in my sitting room, a microphone and music stand, so every day I get out the backing tracks and the ukulele or guitar and sing a couple of songs to the cats. It does work. You feel better afterwards! I do a lot of old George Formby numbers and when Vera Lynn went, I did some of her songs. My fingers are too clumsy to do all the chords now but I do my best. I do some Carmen Miranda too, and Barry White. Maybe finish off with Marlene Dietrich. *Falling in Love Again*. The cats seem to like that.



KEN'S TOP 10

Music aficionado Ken Francis selects his favourite tracks of all time. He explains, 'I love all styles of music - ballads, rock'n'roll, old cockney singalongs ... even Pink Floyd'

1. JIMMY ROSELLI - *When Your Old Wedding Ring Was New*

He was Italian-American, from the same stable as Frank Sinatra, but less famous, they called him 'the singer's singer.'

2. ROLLING STONES - *Honky Tonk Woman*

How long will Mick Jagger go on for? He is in his late seventies and still rockin' - what a legend. I used to cover this track when I was singing in Tenerife.

3. LOUIS PRIMA - *I'm the King of the Swingers*

Walt Disney films often have good songs, this one is from *The Jungle Book*, a classic.

4. MARIO LANZA - *Granada*

Another Italian-American from the 1940s and 50s, but Mario was an opera singer, a tenor. His crowning glory was when he played the title role in *The Great Caruso*.

5. CHET ATKINS & MARK KNOPFLER - *I'll See You in My Dreams*

This is the only instrumental I have chosen, by two brilliant guitar players, country and pop perfection.

6. ELVIS PRESLEY - *The Wonder of You*

It's sad the way Elvis died so young. I think his manager Colonel Tom Parker pushed him too hard and put him under too much pressure. But his star really did shine so brightly.

7. BING CROSBY - *Temptation*

I preferred his early voice – it was less smooth than it became in later years. His brother Bob Crosby had a jazz band back in the day.

8. NAT KING COLE - *Unforgettable*

We all loved Nat – he was a legend, wasn't he? What a balladeer. But despite all his success, he suffered terrible racial prejudice at the height of his fame. He moved to a predominately white area and faced lots of horrible racist abuse from neighbours, they even poisoned his dog.

9. FATS WALLER - *I'm Going to Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter*

A great entertainer and pianist with a lovely voice. They made a Broadway musical of his songs. Another one with a sad ending - he contracted pneumonia and died on a train when he was on tour in 1943.

10. CARMEN MIRANDA - *Chica Chica Boom Chic*

The lady with fruits on her head! Nicknamed 'The Brazilian Bombshell' she was actually Portuguese born. She starred in a very lavish spectacular Busby Berkeley musical film and was great fun to watch.

POSH NOSH

A recipe from Posh Wendy

By Annie Bowden

Wendy works in the kitchen alongside me and is a reliable and organised worker – I honestly don't know what I'd do without her.

While I am making the sandwiches, Wendy and Enid lay the tables with beautiful vintage crockery before setting up the cake stands with delicious cakes, scones, and treats.

Before we turn to Wendy's mum's recipe, let me tell you more about Wendy.

She was born in 1943 to Doris and Ralph in Southampton. Wendy's dad was a Canadian soldier stationed in England when he met and later married her mum.

When Wendy was 2 years old, she and her mother emigrated, boarding the Aquatania Ship, which was transporting wounded soldiers back to Canada.

They settled in Summerside on Prince Edward Island, with her Grandparents, where they stayed until Wendy was 17, when she and her mum returned to England.

Wendy still has a real love for Canada and this recipe is a traditional Canadian desert that her mother made for her many times.

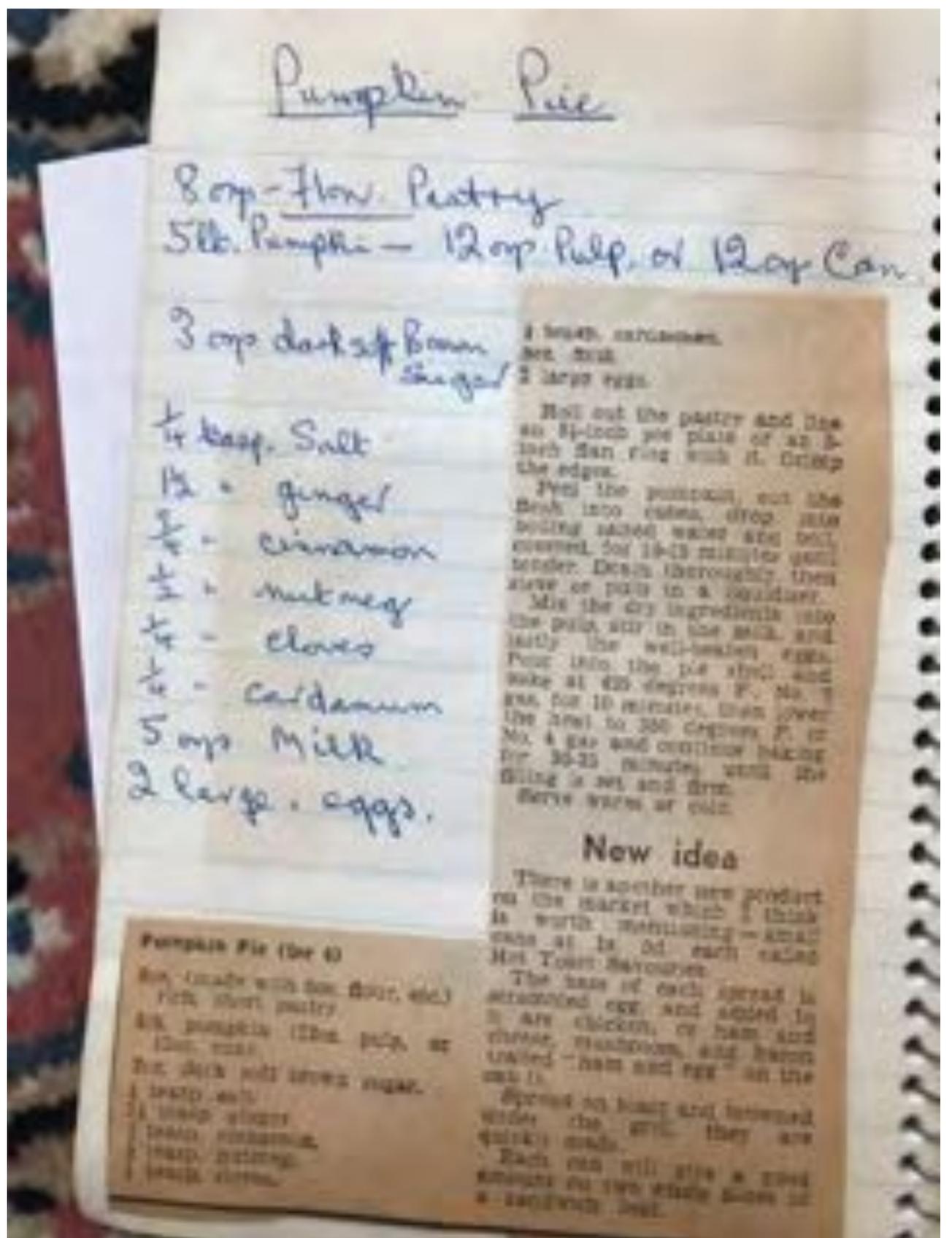
Pumpkin Pie

8 oz flour pastry
5lb pumpkin or 12 oz can
3oz dark soft brown sugar
1/4 tsp salt
1/2 tsp ginger
3/4 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp nutmeg
1/4 tsp cloves
1/4 tsp cardamom
5 oz milk
2 large eggs

Roll out the pastry and line an 8 inch flan ring. Peel and boil the pumpkin for 10 minutes and then sieve or pulp in a liquidiser (or open the can). Mix the dry ingredients and add the beaten eggs and pour in to the case.

Cook at 425/gas mark 7 for 10 minutes then 30 minutes at 350/gas mark 4.

Serve warm or cold



LUCKY LUKE

Luke Rapson is The Posh Club DJ and sound man.

Here are 5 facts about the Crawley home boy.

Favourite colour: Red

Favourite food: Spagetti Bolognese

Favourite football team: Arsenal

Favourite artist: Elvis

Favourite TV show: Open All Hours



BRIDIE'S POSH FASHION TIPS!



Our Queen of style Bridie, brings you her tips on how she keeps Posh and vintage in the lockdown and beyond.

Bridie is one of the most stylish people you could ever hope to meet. She has an outfit for every occasion. But it's not just any outfit, it will be beautifully coordinated, by colour and style - with jewelry and petticoats to enhance the look.

Here we get an insight into Bridie's Fashionable World.

"Hello everyone at The Posh Club!

I hope you are keeping well and happy!

I have been quite busy during lockdown - still keeping glamorous, although my diamonds & tiaras have not had much wear, so I will have to polish them before we meet again at The Posh Club!

I have also been dressmaking, which I started before lockdown and altered a dress into a skirt. It looked nice but unfortunately

the night I wore it I had to abandon the dance floor, as the seams were falling apart! Perhaps I'm not a seamstress after all - I'm glad I didn't take any orders to make the new dresses for The Posh Club from Annie & Simon.

So, I have now progressed to face masks, which have been more successful, Mick & I resemble "The Lone Ranger", I need to decorate them with a few diamantes though, as you can't let standards slip darlings.

We also have an allotment at the bottom of our garden, which is growing by the hour. I feel like Margo from The Good Life. However, I draw the line at chickens and any other livestock, and you can only boil so many beetroots before the fun wears off.

I have had the builders here for the last few weeks, so keeping my hand in serving tea and coffee, but I may need a refresher course on "The Cake Dance" before we meet again.

Take care until we all meet again, as we all miss you and our lovely Tuesday Afternoons.

Love Bridie"

POSH PALS

Looking for Friendship or Love?
You've come to the right place.
Check out these posh personals!

HE'LL HAVE YOU IN A SPIN

Brian - is a snazzy 82-year-old who is looking for love with someone who likes caravanning, gardening, shopping and classic cars. If you have a good sense of humour and fancy a spin in Brian's vintage motor, get in touch on the details below.

A FRIEND FOR FUN

Wendy - is a fit and active lady in her late 70's, she's looking for a male or female companion to share fun filled holidays and trips to the theatre and cinema. Wendy likes eating out and is looking for someone to enjoy the fun things in life with.

LOVES LAUGHING

Alan - is an easy going 60 something, searching for companionship or love with an intelligent non-smoking lady of a similar age. Alan is an animal lover, and enjoys socialising, current affairs, football and history and would love to meet a likeminded lady to laugh and bring some fun into his life.

DANCING QUEEN

Rosemary - is in her 70s, tall and young at heart and would love to meet a man 65+ to enjoy her many hobbies with. Her passions are ballroom and line-dancing and she hopes to find a partner to trip the light fantastic. Rosemary is also a keen artist and enjoys walking, holidays, days out and gardening.

A GOOD SPORT

Jim - is a youthful 87 would like to find companionship, with a lady 70+ who shares his interest in sport. Jim loves football and once played as an amateur for Fulham but these days just watches from the sidelines or the comfort of his armchair. As a former ITN Correspondent, Jim would love to meet a lady with a good sense of humour and who likes having a chin wag about football or current affairs.

To respond, please send your details by email to annie@theposhclub.co.uk or by mail to The Posh Club, 28 Wakehurst Drive, Southgate, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6DH

ALFRESCO DISCO

The Posh Club moves to courtyards and doorsteps

By Ben Walters

Kate Conway tuned up her violin, Obviously Elvis sprawled on a chair and Dicky from Duckie wrestled with a bit of furniture. It could be a familiar backstage scene from such regular Posh Club venues as St Paul's Church or Broadfield Community Centre. This being summer 2020, however, things are a bit different – and it took place in the little garden of a retirement housing and care complex on a quiet suburban street in Crawley, called Walstead Court.

These were the preparations for a new version of The Posh Club designed to avoid the coronavirus infection risks that sadly the traditional format might involve. In this version, producers Duckie bring a potted version of the Club to care homes' outside spaces. They call it 'courtyard theatre'. There's an even more stripped-back 'doorstep' version too, for those who are shielding alone or restricted to a single household.

"The Posh Club started as an anti-isolation project and lockdown saw so many people go into intense isolation," said Dicky. "So it's amazing to be able to try this. Everyone's mad keen."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER ROBERTSHAW
TOP LEFT - KATE CONWAY, GUESTS AND SIMON CASSON.
BOTTOM LEFT - THE BEES KNEES AND GUESTS
TOP RIGHT - GUESTS AND STAFF DANCING
BOTTOM RIGHT - OBVIOUSLY ELVIS SERENADES GUESTS
FAR RIGHT - ESSENTIAL KIT

IN THE MOOD FOR DANCING

Ben Walters interviews Posh Club Guest Joan Izard

At 96, I can't move around too much but I try to get out and about. At the moment, I'm still locked in, of course. And it's so hot! I lay horizontal with the fan on, that's my afternoon. Very nice too.

The lockdown is hard. I came through the war – doodlebugs, landmines, you name it. We slept in the air-raid shelter in the garden for four years. But nothing like this. In some ways, this is worse – but at least we're not expecting bombs dropping on our head. It's a different kettle of fish.

There wasn't much social life then. Tiny village halls opened up for a dance for servicemen at the weekend, that was it.

Life was a bit boring in 1951, when I moved from London to Crawley, into one of the first commissioned houses in Northgate. There was no entertainment then, nowhere to go. Having two children made it hard too. You had to go to Horsham. When they extended the town centre there was somewhere else to go. And when they opened the swimming pool.

I used to go dancing with a friend of mine once or twice a week – very active. Life's too short to stay at home and moan. They don't come to you, you've got to go to them!

I used to go swimming once a week but not since March. And we are missing The Posh Club very much. It was very sociable, somewhere nice to go, see the acts. You'd get different entertainment every time, and music to get up and have a bit of a jig to. I love dancing!



DOORSTEP DELIVERIES

The Posh Club has delivered the goods with a string of performances and gift giving around the neighborhood. Spreading joy, confetti, bubbles and some smooth tunes - super cool military style Scott Elvis and classy soprano Jennifer Coleman brought some serious fancy to the proceedings. On a hot July day, Annie, Simon and Dicky took their whirlwind tour of socially distanced joy to Posh Clubbers Jane Rossier, her friends and neighbours (left) Isabelle Nugent, Annie Carter and Celine Purdy (top right) and performed a special red carpet show just for Ken Francis.



POSH CLUB TV



While the doors to The Posh Club are closed, the team have been exploring different ways to stay connected, including 'courtyard' and 'doorstep' versions of the Club, gifts in the post and of course your own Posh Paper.

Now you can also turn on and tune in to Posh Club TV – a new series of four shows broadcast live from the Club's regular venues and available to watch afterwards on The Posh Club's website.

Internet whizz Kirsten will be on hand to make sure anyone who wants to get online to watch can do so.

There will be one show from each Club, co-hosted by Dicky Eton from Duckie and local compères, each with a special local guest star.

In Crawley, the ever-glamorous Annie is joined by guest star Rod Stewart (or someone who looks and sounds just the same – or better). In Hastings, Spaghetti Oops & Beans on Toast are joined by jazz musician Liane Carroll. In Brighton, Coco DeVille and Becca are joined by local legend Chris from Seaford. And in Hackney, co-hosts Rhys's Pieces and Azara are joined by guest star Black Elvis, who'll be whisked all the way from Brixton in a stretched limo to avoid being mobbed by fans on the tube.

The shows will be filmed inside each Club's regular home, hopefully offering a little reminder of the classic Posh Club get-togethers even though they remain off the table for now.

In each Posh Club TV show, local Clubs will provide their own televisual twist on a range of programming ideas.

For instance, each show will also feature a specially created musical lip-sync number. In Hackney, Rhys and Lorraine will share a very special choreographed and socially distanced version of 'Summer Nights' from the musical Grease.

Every episode will include a singing vicar delivering some personal favourites, ranging from music hall in Hastings, where Father David has a personal connection to Marie Lloyd, to indie pop in Crawley.

There will also be a 'local quiz for local people', with teasers related to the history of each town where the Posh Club takes place, and keep-fit routines from each Club's regulars.

Other bespoke features will include a round of Posh Bingo – have your cards at the ready – and another gameshow format – watch out for Twerk Pong in Hackney!

Some Posh Club TV stars will contribute to all four programmes. There will be cookery tips from Fanny Craddock – better known to Hackney regulars as Tracey.

And the Pink Suits will beam in spectacular dance routines from around the beaches, kitchens and warehouses of Margate. Some bits might get quite steamy – which won't come as a surprise to those who saw Pink Suits member Lennie doing his legendary ballet routine on stage.

Each venue will also have its own unique material. In Crawley, for example, superstar hair and make-up artist Darren Evans will be coiffing local volunteers' hair with an audience phone-in vote to decide the best 'do.

Producers also promise some cutting-edge avant-garde experimental arty content, possibly involving live potato-peeling. They promise it must be seen to be believed.

And what TV format would be complete without an Andrew Marr-style newspaper review? Only this time, they'll be reviewing what's in your very own Posh Paper. Perhaps they'll even tell you what they think of this article!

All four posh club TV shows can be viewed online at theposhclub.co.uk

HOW TO WATCH PC★TV POSH CLUB TELEVISION

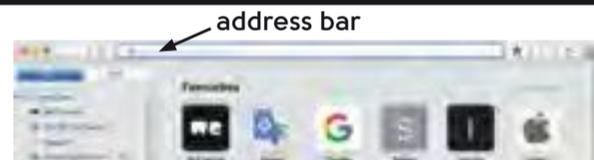


Kirsten

On your ipad, tablet, phone or computer, click on one of these symbols.



2 Click your mouse or tap your finger in the address bar at the top of the window.



3 Using the keyboard buttons, type www.theposhclub.co.uk

4 Press the return/enter key. This key can look different depending on the device or keyboard, look for the button with the words Return, Enter or the arrow symbol printed on it.

5 The Posh Club website will open as shown. Click on the button where it says "CLICK HERE TO WATCH PC★TV" and it will play the show.



Still having trouble?

Call our help line and speak to Kirsten on: **07305 351 797**

A LOCAL QUIZ FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

This quiz was written by The Posh Club Crawley's own swanky senior Geoff Prior, who is a fount of information on Crawley and its history of airports, transport, murder and intrigue.

Test your local knowledge in his quiz below – the answers can be found on the back page.

1. What was the terminal building called at the old Gatwick Airport?
2. What took place at Gatwick Airport, before the new terminal was built?
3. Which shop vacated its premises in The Broadway before Wilkinson's moved in?
4. Who was the Acid Bath Murderer in Crawley?
5. What Town is Crawley twinned with?
6. Name a building that was pulled down to make way for Morrison's?
7. What was the year the movie 'One Good Turn' was filmed in Crawley, starring Norman Wisdom?
8. What was on the site of County Mall, before it was built?
9. What was the all-electric train called, which ran between London & Brighton?
10. In which year was Crawley designated a New Town?

ONE MAN WENT TO MOW

Ben Walters Interviews Posh Club Guest Ron Morse

This lockdown is a terrible thing but we're among the more fortunate, having a garden. My wife knows ten times more than me about plants but I mow the lawn and do what I'm told.

We haven't been out much but we've been able to have friends visit in the garden. We had some family over for lunch recently too. We sat as far apart as we could on a big outdoor table but it was wrecked by some persistent wasps. My wife ran indoors with her dinner! Our daughter has an allotment a few miles away so we can go and have a dig around and end up with a few runner beans, if we're lucky.

The Posh Club is a place people go for an afternoon of frivolity and nonsense. You don't see live entertainment every day of the week, do you? And the sandwiches and pots of tea, and the time to talk to people. I remember

one week, as an act was singing, a lady was taken ill and passed out. She was all right, thankfully, but the ambulance men arrived to a darkened room full of elderly people singing *Roll Out the Barrel!* You don't expect that, do you? They look after people at The Posh Club and it's a very worthwhile thing. I call it a geriatric youth club. It's so sad it's had to stop – particularly for people on their own, I imagine.

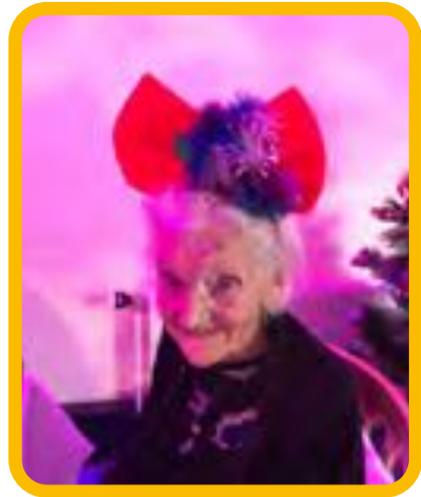
When you switch on the news, it's always bad. It gets people down. I do fear it's going to become a tougher world, like when I was a little boy and you had to pay for the doctors. I hope I'm wrong. Who wants to see it getting tougher?

I'd like to see a programme with some good news, even if it's silly little stories. It builds your spirits to know there are people about who are still interested in helping.

We over-came the air raids in the war and we will overcome this. We'll come through.



ROGUES GALLERY



QUESTION TIME - WITH SIMON & DICKY!

We don't see enough of these two at The Posh Club, so I thought you'd like it if I asked them some questions on your behalf!

We all love the music at The Posh Club, but what type of music do you like listening to at home and why?

Simon: Rod Stewart is the best. You can't beat Rod the Mod.

Dicky: ABBA, Beyonce, Nina Simone, Kate Bush in that order!

Name one of your favourite acts at The Posh Club - if you dare?

Simon: I like the weird ones. The woman who threw the biscuits, the man who thought he was a tree, the funny dancing acts. That's my taste.

Dicky: Elvis....all of them!

Are there any ambitions or dreams you haven't achieved, but would like to by the time you are 60?

Simon: I want put on big shows outdoors in the park.

Dicky: I'd love to visit Russia and take in Moscow, St Petersburg and then fly to America and drive down Route 66.

What's your ideal holiday location and why?

Simon: Spain. Because I'm addicted to sunshine and tapas. I heard that the rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain ... but is this true?

Dicky: Floating along in my canal boat that I am doing up. Other than that, one of the Greek islands.

We all have fears, spiders, heights etc. - name 3 fears you have?

Simon: A fear of failure, a fear of funny feelings and a fear of flip flops.

Dicky: Cockroaches, rats and COVID-19

Tell us your middle name and how you got it, if you know?

Simon: Peter. It's from the Bible.

Dicky: My middle name is James. All the boys in our family have James as their middle name, after my Grandfather.

Do you have a pet?

Simon: No, but me and Yin-Wai (my boyfriend) have been wanting to get a dog for ages, but we haven't taken the plunge yet. I'm a fan of cockapoos.

Dicky: We always used to have dogs at home. Two sausage dogs (Kinky and then Lottie) then two miniature Yorkshire terriers (Rosie and then Sophie) then a miniature poodle (Sam). We also had one Siamese chocolate pointer cat (Moses) that thought it was a dog and would go for walks. I'd like to get a dog when we sort out our garden - a rescue greyhound would be perfect.

When I was young, I thought that when you grew up, you had a different grown up name. When you grow up, what would you like to be called?

Simon: I would definitely change my name. I hate my name, it's poofy and naff. I would prefer an old fashioned more masculine name like Albert or Charlie. My Dad was called Jack, that's a good name.

Dicky: When I trained to be an actor I couldn't use my real name (Richard Barnes)

as there can't be two people in Equity (the actor's union) that have the same name. I changed it to Richard Eton, that then got shortened to Dicky Eton as it's more showbiz.

Suit or casual?

Simon: Suits. I am a mod and I hate rockers.

Dicky: Suit every time. I like to dress up whatever the occasion.

Top hat or trilby?

Simon: I would like to wear a trilby at a jaunty angle. My Dad wore trilby nearly all of his life, he grew up in the 1940s but my face looks funny with a hat on.

Dicky: I'm not great with hats, but I suppose a top hat would be best - or as I'm from up north a flat cap!



THE POSH CLUB ROYALTY

By Annie Bowden

The Posh Club Crawley opened its doors in 2013 and is now entering its seventh year of bringing a little fun and magic into our lives. The entertainment ranges from opera sopranos to pub bands, from fire eaters to avant-garde performance artists. Over the years, some acts have performed only once, whilst others return again and again. Introducing the crème de la crème - The Posh Club Royalty. So, sit back, grab a cup of tea (or something stronger) and lose yourself in nostalgia as we hear from old timers The Bees Knees, The Victory Sisters and Wrench and Franks about what being Posh Club Royalty means to them.

THE BEES KNEES

The Bees Knees have been performing at The Posh Club since its inception in 2013 and their 1920's high energy flapper dancing is a huge hit with the guests. They always look fabulous and their costumes transport you back to an age of fun, frivolity and decadence. The Posh Club Royalty title, is so deserved by this act, as they are really something special.

"What an honour to be Posh Club Royalty! The Bee's Knees have always been treated like queens by the guests, staff and volunteers at The Posh Club. They make me feel so special, with huge applause and loads of compliments, whilst always making us comfortable on and off stage. Every time I come away from the Posh Club I feel amazing, it its truly an honour to keep being asked back, it is absolutely my favourite gig. I hope it's still going when we reach the age of the guests - not just so we can just be guests mind - I'd still like a spot on the stage too!

Long Live The Posh Club! Holly xx"



THE VICTORY SISTERS

WOW! These girls blow me away, every time they perform at The Posh Club. They were born to be Posh Club Royalty! Beautifully turned out in their many vintage inspired dresses, their hair coiffured to within an inch of its 1940's life, and the voices of angels ring through our ears, as they perform to the very grateful guests of The Posh Club! I aspire to be a Victory Sister!

"We are so honoured to be dubbed Posh Club Royalty! These glorious events are joyous from start to finish, for everyone involved. It's such a treat to bring our music to audiences that we otherwise might not reach, and ones which are so enthusiastic. Annie, Dicky, Simon and all the other countless people who make Poshies so special are an incredible bunch, and we can't wait to be back to see everyone singing and dancing along to us again! Long Live The Posh Club! If we're royalty, does that mean we can wear crowns when we perform?! ;) Liz, Marcia and Karen."



WRENCH & FRANKS

Wrench and Franks have a lovely way about them, everyone feels comfortable in their presence. They have a warm and natural manner and an abundance of gentlemanly charm. Wrench and Franks' Posh Club home is in Hackney where they gently sing to the guests as they arrive each week. They occasionally roam further afield to the other Posh Clubs and are always warmly welcomed. If only we could all have you crooning outside all of our doors! Posh Royalty indeed. We love you Wrench and Franks.

"It is a uniquely scrumptious honour to find ourselves included in this Regal Posh Club company. Wow! Everyone who comes to Posh Club either as a guest, or as one of the fabulous team putting the show on the road are all human beings of exquisite calibre and are already part of one great big hilarious Royal Family. We are utterly chuffed by this description, and shall go and buy some diamond encrusted ermine underpants to celebrate. Thank you Poshers! Kevin and Andrew xx"



I wonder who will be next to join the very exclusive club that is 'Posh Club Royalty'? Watch this space ...



ASK ANNIE

Got a Problem?
Why not 'Ask Annie'?
The Posh Club's resident Agony Aunt.

Dear Annie,

What should I do?

I'm at my wits end, I have been isolating with my husband, the whole of the lockdown, and even though I am used to spending a lot of time with him since retiring, it really has been too much! And I am at the point where I may do something drastic!!! - No I won't commit murder, but maybe a lesser crime, like assault with a deadly vegetable - like a marrow or something should do it, I dare say! Contrary to what I've just said, I do Love my husband, but I just need a break!

Wits End, Bewbush

Annie's reply

Oh dear! Right this is what I suggest and very quickly, I might add, before you have the chance to use that marrow!

Tell your husband, that you would like him to do some work for you in the garden - there must be something he hasn't done yet - like make a little plot to grow some vegetables!

You could grow some marrows (you never know when they may come in handy) - and in the meanwhile you can have some quality alone time - paint your nails - soak your feet or read a good novel in a hot bubble bath, with something fizzy! Or relax and think up other hobbies or jobs to keep your hubby occupied, so you aren't constantly under each other's feet! Good Luck xx

Dear Annie,

I have been shielding all through the lockdown, as I have a very serious condition and have been very frightened of catching coronavirus.

The thing is, I am now allowed out for exercise, and to see some of my friends. But I am afraid that if I do go out, I will catch it and die - I know I am being very dramatic, but it's a real fear and I can't shake it off - will I ever feel brave enough to go out again? Annie, please help me!

Isolated, Southgate

Annie's reply

I'm so sad that you feel this way, and I know that you are not alone in feeling like this. But you need to take baby steps to getting back to some sort of normality for you, and this would be to set yourself goals, just little ones to start, like walking to the end of the street and back, then gradually walking a bit further. Also making sure you are doing all you can to feel safe - like wearing a mask, if going into shops - washing your hands frequently and keeping a social distance from people. Also keep in touch with friends, and talk about your fears with them, it'll make you feel better! If you do this your confidence will slowly return, and you will get back to your normal self.

Good luck with everything, Annie xx

If you would like to contact Annie in complete confidence, write to her at:-

Agony Annie C/o The Posh Club, Broadfield Community Centre, Broadfield Barton Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 9BA

RADIANT

Ben Walters interviews guest Ann Nicola



I was born in 1936, the third child of 11, and brought up near Coventry, nearly the centre of England. Plenty of space to run around - very poor but an idyllic life. Not much happened till I was 22 and decided to hop off to London. I got a job at Finsbury Town Hall and in July 1960, they did a show called The Finsbury Story for two weeks at Sadler's Wells theatre. I was a countess in one scene and an urchin in another and the Evening Standard took a front-page picture of me as the countess. I've still got it!

In 1970, I was in a TV commercial. It was like Jukebox Jury for Radiant washing powder. Robert Keegan from Z Cars was the main performer. It took four days to do this 30-second commercial and I got paid £100, which was a fortune in them days.

I married a Greek Cypriot and we came to Crawley in 1972. In 1977, he joined the Crawley Barbershop Singers and the following year they decided to buzz off to Canada and America. We went for three weeks and had a wonderful time. They were on television in Toronto and we went to Niagara Falls.

My first husband died, unfortunately. I married again and we worked for the Red Cross. We were asked to take a lady with both legs in irons to New Zealand to see her children. We saved up for a year to pay our fare and they covered the rest. Unfortunately there was a bit of quarrelling in the lady's family so we took a 10-day tour of the whole country. Best money I've ever spent! It was Christmas so it was boiling hot. We got friendly with a couple that had terrific Canadian accents. It turned out they'd both originally come from Crawley! Since then, we've been to stay with them and they came to stay with us.

Years ago, I started to put up Virgin Atlantic air hostesses. Once, Richard Branson took a group out for a meal and they came into my kitchen after. So Richard Branson's been in my house. In 2012, Virgin hired a little launcher for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations on the Thames. They asked me to alter the curtains. It was a very rocky day so I sat on this bench trying hard not to be sick, altering all the curtains for the Queen.

I've had a very exciting life for a little girl from a little village. I got off my bottom and did something.

A FAREWELL TO DEAR FRIENDS

A sad goodbye to some of our guests.

We will remember and miss them all, and think of the happy times we had together.

Here they are in all their glory ❤️ ❤️ ❤️



Marina - also known as Rina to her friends, was our lovely Brian's lady friend - their meeting gave Brian a new lease of life. She was a warm and happy soul, who enjoyed dancing and socialising at The Club - Here she is with her beloved Brian - We will miss her immensely. ❤️



Joyce (left) Would come along with her sister Betty - She had many happy afternoons with us at The Posh Club, socialising and enjoying the many acts, with her table of friends.

We will miss you Joyce.



Doreen - Was such a lovely lady and would come along with her friends Margaret and Dot - they had such good times together - talking and laughing and enjoying being in each other's company - Doreen had many friends at Posh Club who will miss seeing the red headed, warm lady, with a great sense of humour. ❤️



Iris Faber - She was a tough but lovable cookie and this probably stems from her days in the forces! Whatever happened she was in charge - and everyone knew that and she would arrange afternoons of entertainment at the social housing where she lived - Often having popular acts from Posh Club - A real character - It won't be the same without you Iris. ❤️



Ann - She was a wonderful lady, who was absolutely devoted to her husband Jim, who has dementia - She looked after him single handedly, and would bring him along fortnightly without fail - they were always turned out impeccably, and always enjoyed their afternoons with us at The Posh Club, which gave Ann respite for a few hours, while they just both enjoyed the show. So sad that we lost you too soon. ❤️

HUNK OF THE MONTH

We thought we'd have a bit of fun and have a Hunk of the Month in our Posh Paper. Introducing Geoff Prior

Geoff is 72, a retired bus driver and when not isolating, he is the chief lugger and shaker for The Posh Club, Crawley.

Ladies, I'm sorry but Geoff is taken and married to the lovely Fran!

If you would like to nominate a Hunk of the Month for the next Posh Paper, please send them in to Annie - care of Broadfield Community Centre.



PAT'S HAIR

The Posh Club hostess Annie Bowden tells all about the local legend 'Pat's Hair'.

Pat's Hair - in all its resplendent glory and coiffured magnificence is the talk of The Posh Club, Crawley!

This is the story of Pat's Hair...When Pat first came to volunteer at The Posh Club, I'd compliment her hair because she always looked like she'd just stepped out of a stylist's chair. I also knew she'd lost her beloved husband a few months before so I hoped a compliment would boost her mood.

I showered her fabulous hair with compliments every week until, one day, Pat said, 'Annie, why do you keep talking about my hair?' She was worried I was making fun of her. I assured her I wasn't - she just always came in looking perfect! Since then, we all delight in Pat's Hair and it has passed into Posh Club legend - and now it's even featured in The Posh Paper! How wonderful is that?

PAT'S TOP TIPS

Pat shampoos her hair with Pantene Volume Shampoo and once a week conditions it with Pantene Pro V 3-minute Miracle Volume and Body. She then uses VO5 Rough It Up Putty (rubbing a pea-sized bit into her palms, then into her hair) and finishes it off with L'Oréal Elnett Shine Hairspray.

Here is a picture of Pat and her very lovely hair!



WE'LL MEET AGAIN

We will all meet again - I promise you that - but not just yet!

It will come though, and we'll be together again, as if we've never been apart - and I know that we all can't wait for that time.

I hope that you enjoyed your Posh Paper, because it was made especially for you

Until next time my Posh friends ... signing off for now!

Annie