



NEWS LETTER

MAY 2020



**Rear Admiral John Gower CB OBE,
Chairman**

The Committee joins me in wishing you all the very best in these uncertain times. We are thinking of you wherever you are in the world and hope that you and your families are safe and well and remain so.

The Committee and I would like to reassure you that Lady Grover's Fund is continuing to operate during the COVID-19 lockdown. Our Actuary has assured us that we were solvent on 31 December before COVID-19 and we remain solvent today. Our administrators, the Officers' Association (OA), have successfully moved their team to working from home, so existing members can make claims and new people can join the Fund. You will find details of how to contact us over the page.

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

You will remember that we contacted you before Christmas proposing a tiered subscription system which would see three age bands based on the age of the oldest beneficiary. We subsequently held a Special General Meeting on 28 January which considered all your comments, the very large majority of which were in favour of our proposal. The Meeting passed the proposal and accordingly, we will be putting into place tiered subscriptions from 1 July this year.

Most of you pay your subscriptions on 1 January annually and that is when the new subscription will fall due for those members. If your renewal date is not 1 January, your new rate of subscription will be collected on the anniversary of your last payment. New members joining after 1 July 2020 will pay the new rates of subscription as shown below.

Age of Oldest Beneficiary of a Member	Basic rate of Subscription £pa	Gross Subscription incl 12% IPT £pa*
Under 50	44.64	50.00
50-69	53.57	60.00
70+	62.60	70.00

* any variation in IPT and/or CPI rate will change the gross subscription. The Committee decided not to apply a CPI raise before January 2021.

Before your next subscription falls due, we will remind you about it and let you know individually how much it is going to be.

DATE OF AGM

We are planning to hold our AGM on **Tuesday 16 June in Mountbarrow House at 2.00pm.**

It is likely that lockdown rules will prevent meeting face-to-face, so we plan to hold the meeting remotely using a teleconference system.

Members are encouraged to attend; if you wish to do so, please let the CEO know on **ceo@ladygrover.org.uk** by Monday 8 June, so that we have time to send you your joining instructions.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you have received this newsletter by post, we don't have your email address.

Particularly now, when we're all working from home, we prefer to contact you, and be contacted by you, by email.

Please let us know your email address by emailing **secretary@ladygrover.org.uk**

CONTACTING US

Our phone number is diverted to the OA team, so you will still be able to seek assistance and advice by phone. Please call or email us if you need advice or if you want to make a claim.

Please note that if you write to us, your claim or enquiry could well take longer than normal because mail is not being opened every day. If you are comfortable sending your personal information by email, this would make the claim process faster.

If you do choose this method, we strongly advise you to password protect your documents when you have scanned them and then email us the password separately. We will reply by email or phone where possible rather than by letter.

STANDING ORDERS

Some of you are still paying us by Standing Order, most of which are for less than the current subscription rate. Please check with your bank if you think you are paying by SO.

If you are, please contact us at **secretary@ladygrover.org.uk** and we will organise a Direct Debit with you.

You should be aware that if you are not paying the full current subscription, you won't be able to claim the current rates of benefit.

CHANGE OF CEO

After serving as CEO and Secretary since June 2010, Mike Vickery is retiring from the post after this year's AGM.

His successor will be Stuart Bell, who retired in 2018 from the post of CEO of the Metropolitan Police Friendly Society (MPFS). He has worked in insurance and with Friendly Societies since 1974 and for MPFS was responsible for actuarial work and introducing compliant systems of governance. He was closely involved in the Society's finances, risk management and investment strategy.

The Committee feels that his skills fit very well with Lady Grover's Fund's needs and that he will be invaluable in planning the Fund's future strategy.



GOODBYE FROM MIKE VICKERY



“Before I leave, I would like to tell you how much I have enjoyed looking after you all over the last 11 years. It's been a great pleasure and privilege to be able to help you through the wonderful medium of Lady Grover's Fund.

I retire in the knowledge that the Fund could not be in better hands as it moves forward into ever more challenging times.

Thank you for all the friendship and support you've given me during my time as CEO and Secretary. The farm in Wiltshire is calling...”

Mike

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