

Bournemouth HND reunion – 40 years on

In 1974, I was one of 27 young Barclays employees from districts as far apart as Darlington and Penzance who met at Bournemouth College of Technology to start a HND course in business studies (banking) that lasted two years. We were featured at the time in *The Spread Eagle* magazine.

At the end of the course, we agreed that we would meet up regularly for a reunion. Our first reunion was held in Birmingham in early 1977.

Ten of us made the trip to London for our 38th reunion in October. Our activity this year was a jet boat ride on the Thames to Greenwich, from where we went on to climb over the O2 (a bit like going over the Sydney Harbour Bridge). The weather wasn't kind to us – it rained on the ascent and descent, but cleared briefly when we were at the summit, enough for us to see across the river to 1 Churchill Place.

Next year, we are meeting in Harrogate, but the Saturday activity is a closely-guarded secret until the day.

Now that we are all in or approaching our 60s, most of us have retired from Barclays but we all have one thing in common – the course and a friendship that has lasted 40 years. I wonder if there any other groups that can beat that.

Steve Lamb, Northallerton, North Yorkshire

The HND course friends recently at the O2 climb...



...and as they were 40 years ago, when featured in *The Spread Eagle* magazine