



NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2023

Welcome to the second Newsletter of 2023. In contrast to the first Newsletter of the year when the weather was very cold, we hope you are managing to stay cool in the very hot weather we are currently experiencing.

AUTOMATED APPLICATION AND CLAIMS PROCESS

The website has been updated to allow sickness and discretionary claims to be submitted directly from the website. Please see further details below and attached guide

IMPROVING DIGITAL SERVICES – APPLICATION AND CLAIMS PROCESS

The focus over the last six months has been to simplify submitting membership applications and sickness/discretionary claims directly through the website. We are pleased to advise that the development and testing work has now concluded, enabling new membership applications and all claims to be submitted through the website by completing a simple online form. Please note that in order to submit a claim online, an email address must be registered. If you have an email address that has not yet been registered and would like to register this to enable you to make online claims, please contact the office.

If you prefer to download and print a form to send via email, post or hand into the office, this facility is still available by signing into the Claiming Benefits page of the website with your date of birth and membership number and scrolling to the bottom of the page.

The online claims submission prepopulates your personal details into the claims form fields and is taken from the member data held on the Society's database. Please check this information, provide details about the item or service you are claiming for and if required, upload your receipt.

A step-by-step guide has been produced and is attached to this Newsletter.

Automated acknowledgements will continue to be sent when an application/claim has been received and processed enabling you to be assured that your claim is being dealt with.

Now the new system is live, please log into the website and ensure you can access the claim forms. If you have any difficulty with this, please contact the office.

NEW DISCRETIONARY BENEFITS UPDATE

The Energy Efficiency Grant is proving to be very popular and we are pleased to provide assistance for this area. Grants have been awarded to support the purchase of new boilers, front doors,

radiators, loft insulation and solar panels. If you are considering how to improve the energy efficiency of your home, don't forget you can claim £200 every year from your annual benefit pot.

We have also been pleased to support members purchasing their first homes. Grants have been provided to help members cover the costs of getting on the property ladder in Kent and Essex in the first quarter.

It's particularly pleasing to support members who are studying. For members enrolling on a full or part-time course or apprenticeship that commences in September, please remember there is a 3-month window to submit your education grant claim from the date your course starts.

A breakdown of grants paid to the new categories introduced from 1 January 2023, as at 5 May 2023, is provided in the AGM Newsletter.

BONDS

The Society's Bond is due to be paid at the end of June and letters have been sent to members with a Bond policy. This forms part of the Board's strategy and has been communicated at AGMs and the half-yearly meetings. If you currently hold a Bond and have not received a letter, please contact the office.

2023 AGM

The AGM was held on Friday 5 May at Gravesend Masonic Hall. Thank you to everyone that attended. You can read the Newsletter about the AGM on the website under the News section, or by following this link <https://www.anglo-saxons.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NEWSLETTER-Half-Yearly-Meeting-October-2022-Final.pdf>

AS EXTRA

You may recall being asked to log onto the AS Extra site and submit your estimated annual spend into the savings calculator. We are now delighted to be able to share the results with you which show that if Anglo members take advantage of the money saving offers available, an **average saving of £807.36** can be made over the year. With the recent rise in interest rates to 5% and

inflation continuing to push up the price of goods, services and leisure, this figure is likely to increase over the next 12 months.



If you haven't visited the AS Extra site yet and submitted your information, it only takes a couple of minutes. The AS Extra benefit was as a direct response to member feedback, is free to use and should help members save money during these difficult times.



The most popular AS Extra benefit in the first quarter is the Vision Express discounted Eye Care for ASFS members.

ASFS members can access a range of benefits from [Vision Express](#). This provides you with a free eye test when you spend £50 or more, and save 30% when you spend £50 or more on glasses, prescription sunglasses & contact lenses.

[Click here for instructions on how to download your voucher](#)

Many members have taken advantage of the diary system. If your eye test is not due, you can register your details and a helpful email reminder will be sent with a link to download the free eye test and 30% off voucher.

We hope that the monthly offers from AS Extra, provided by Parliament Hill, together with discounts available from money off your weekly shopping to big discounts on holiday bookings, have enabled you to make savings. If you are one of the many members who claim for an optical grant and want to take advantage of the offer, please follow the link above.

*Terms and conditions apply to all benefits. See website for details. Offers subject to change without notice. **Savings Calculator** - This average member saving is based on a sample of 20 savings calculator entries since 21/03/2023 with repeated entries and the top 20% removed. The average saving figure is correct as of 22/06/2023. Potential savings generated from the calculator are not guaranteed and are based on you using specific benefits. ASFS Xtra Benefits is managed and run on behalf of ASFS by Parliament Hill Ltd.

MIMECAST

When following a link in this Newsletter or the AS Offer Newsletters, you may receive a message from Mimecast that requires you to enrol the device being used. Mimecast is an email security company, used by the Society's IT provider, that provides several services to protect email from threats such as spam, malware and phishing. It is a genuine message. Once your device has been registered, the message will no longer appear.

MEMBER-GET-MEMBER

The £50 MGM offer has been extended until further notice. This provides an opportunity for members to benefit from recommending family and friends to become a member of the Society. New members just need to reference your name on their application form and the reward will be paid following receipt of three months premiums. The member testimonials show how members value the Society and can be viewed on the Homepage of the Website.

GRAVESHAM 50+ FORUM

Paul Osborn, CEO, gave a presentation on the Society to the Gravesham 50+ Form in Gravesend on 7th June. This was kindly arranged by Lyn Milner, former Mayor and Anglo-Saxons member, and attended by over 100 people. Many attendees visited the ASFS stall to discuss becoming a member. Their feedback was positive about membership benefits, joining a friendly society and the property portfolio work planned to become more climate friendly.



Please let us know of any forthcoming events in the local community that we could attend. Connecting with the local community helps to spread the word of Anglo-Saxons Friendly Society and the benefits of becoming a member.

SOCIAL MEDIA



We are delighted to announce that ASFS is now active on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. The platforms were launched on 12 May and posts are issued daily. Please follow the Society and help to spread the word about Anglo-Saxons.

HERITAGE/MEMORABILIA

Following a visit from the Curator of The Forester's Heritage Trust to the old office, artefacts and memorabilia suitable for displaying at the museum were identified and have subsequently been delivered to the Heritage Trust's office in Stoke-on-Trent. Several items have been retained including the war memorial.

CONTACT US

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any help or have any suggestions for what you would like to be included in the Newsletter, using any of the following methods:

Post: The Old Rectory, Springhead Road, Northfleet, DA11 8HN

Telephone: 01474 567050

Email: info@anglo-saxons.co.uk