

LIRC News

18th April 2024

WELCOME to this quarterly publication from the **London IBM Retirees Club**

The next LIRC News will be published on Thursday 25th July 2024

WHAT'S INSIDE

In the January LIRC News we included an article on the evolution of data storage technology.

Thanks for all your feedback, especially from Geoff Henderson who sent us the article on page 2. The LIRC News will in future include an update on the events taking place in the coming months.

For further details on this, please check the article and the events list on page 6.

THE LIRC EVENTS BULLETIN

The Club runs a variety of events for its members throughout the year, the majority of which take place in London and the South East. Details of each event, with their booking options, is provided via our monthly **Events Bulletin** mailshot (which is sent to Club members via email). We send it on the 6th day of each month, unless the 6th occurs at a weekend, when it is sent on the following Monday. Once an event has been announced in the Events Bulletin, full details together with the booking options can be found on our web site - <https://www.retireelondonclub.org>. If you do not currently receive our monthly Events Bulletin mailshot, we can easily include you on the mailing list. If you would like us to do that, just send an email to Peter Morley at retibmlon@outlook.com

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FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Member,

Firstly, thank you to those who joined our online AGM, contributed to it on the day and have offered suggestions since. We are delighted that Alan Jarvis has volunteered to join the committee for the coming year. Many of you will know him and I'm sure he will be a huge help to us with organising our events programme. Welcome, Alan!

I hope you enjoyed Easter and that, like me, you are looking forward to longer periods of daylight and warmer weather – well, we can but hope!

If you received our Events Bulletin that was issued last week, you will have seen that we are now offering more events that get you out and about in the coming months. If you didn't, then have a look at page 6 to see what we have in plan. There are some to book now and more exciting ones to come in future Events Bulletins.

We hope you will enjoy these events and that you get to meet and catch up with other members that you may not have seen during the Winter months. Some events may seem a way off but to obtain tickets at the best prices, we have to buy and pay for them early. One example is **Battle Proms** where we have to buy the quantity of tickets we anticipate will be needed before the end of this month, even though the event isn't until late In July, so please, as ever, book early!

My thanks go to all our committee members who work so hard and give up so much of their time to keep you interested and involved. I hope you continue to support what we do so that it makes all our efforts worthwhile.

Keep a Spring in your step and let's hope we will have a good Summer.

David Sparrow

EVENTS FEEDBACK

Cirque du Soleil: Alegria in a New Light at the Royal Albert Hall - Friday 16th February

This amazing 40-year-old Canadian circus company gave us a truly memorable afternoon with mesmerising acrobatic displays combined with excellent musical accompaniment. These astonishing athletes have really crafted their performances so that they were never too scary but very daring! We were also entertained by some very playful and humorous clowns, all performed in mime (the whole show is designed for an international audience). The Royal Albert Hall was the perfect venue, especially for the finale – an amazing high wire acrobatic display. Tony and Mavis Shortman



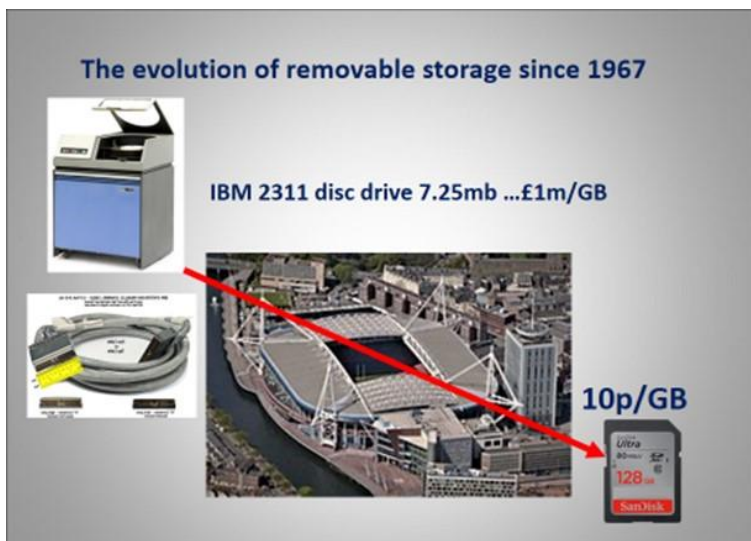
Just For One Day at the Old Vic – Wednesday 6th March

Wow, what a fantastic show - the music, singing, choreography, storyline and amazing dancing were all brilliant. Every one of the performers gave it their all with such professional performances that we felt we were really there!! The whole musical is a recreation of that mega Live Aid fundraising day in 1985 when some of the biggest names in popular music came together for “just for one day” to entertain the world. We so enjoyed the show and feel it was certainly one of the best we have seen. Pauline and Paul Schurer



MEMBERS FEEDACK ON THE EVOLUTION OF DATA STORAGE

In the January LIRC News, we included an article entitled The Evolution of Data Storage Technology. We have since received a range of feedback on this topic from our members, one of which was from Geoff Henderson. Geoff forwarded to us an extract from a report he had written for Swansea University which illustrates really well the huge evolution that has taken place since 1967.

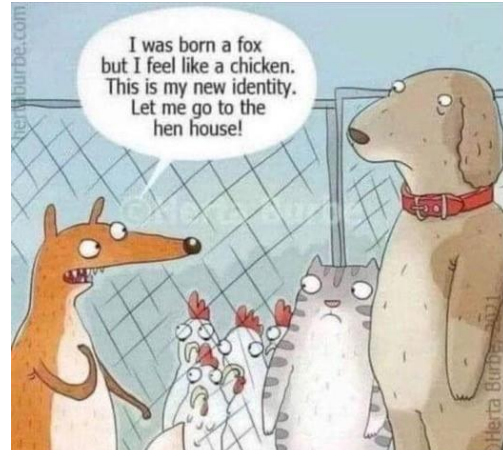


Geoff sent us this chart and included the following text with his chart.

Physically, to get anywhere near 128GB would have required thousands of 2311's which would occupy a space of the order of the Principality Stadium in Cardiff. The 2311 connected to its controller, and thence to the S/360 via heavy multi-core cables. The total weight of the cables required was substantial, probably around 200 tons in this example, and the power required would likely render the city a little darker.

NEW DEFINITIONS FOR THE MEDICAL DICTIONARY

Bacteria – Back door to cafeteria
Barium – What doctors do when patients die
Caesarean Section – A neighbourhood in Rome
Catscan – Searching for Kitty
Cauterize – Made eye contact with her
Colic – A sheep dog
Coma – A punctuation mark
Dilate – To live long
Fester – Quicker than someone else
Fibula – A small lie
Impotent – Distinguished, well known
Labour Pain – Getting hurt at work
Morbid – A higher offer
Nitrates – Cheaper than day rates
Outpatient – A person who has fainted
Pelvis – Second cousin to Elvis
Post Operative – A letter carrier
Recovery Room – Place to do upholstery
Rectum – Nearly killed him
Secretion – Hiding something
Seizure – Roman emperor
Tablet – A small table
Terminal Illness – Getting sick at the airport
Tumour – One plus one more
Urine – Opposite of you're out



Too many people spend money they haven't earned, to buy things they don't want, to impress people they don't like.

The longer I live, the more convinced I am that this planet is used by other planets as a lunatic asylum.

- GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

PATIENT NOTES TYPED BY NHS MEDICAL SECRETARIES

The patient had no previous history of suicides.
Patient has left her white blood cells at another hospital.
Patient has chest pains if she lies on her left side for over a year.
On the second day the knee was better, but on the third day it disappeared.
Healthy appearing decrepit 69-year old male mentally alert, but forgetful.
While she was in ER she was examined and X-rated and sent home.
Patient was alert and unresponsive.
Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormality.
Examination of genitalia reveals she is circus sized.
The lab test indicated abnormal lover function.
She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life until she got divorced.
Patient was seen in consultation by Dr. Smith, who felt we should sit on the abdomen and I agree.

WHEN A FIAT 600 IS TOWED BY A MERCEDES

Early last Sunday morning, I was travelling on route 11 from Corrientes to Formosa and, as I'd feared, my poor deranged Fiat 600 broke down. I jumped out and sat on the hard shoulder waiting for someone to stop and assist me. After 10 minutes, an impressive Mercedes Benz Kompressor appeared in the distance at around 190 km/h - and passed right in front of me. He braked hard and reverses back to me. Right then and there, he offered to tow my poor Fiat - and I immediately accepted, but asked him not to drive too fast, otherwise my Fiat and I would be in trouble. We agreed that if he started going too fast, I'd flash my headlights.

So, the Mercedes started towing me, and whenever he forgets and starts to speed up, I would flash my headlight (I put it in the singular, because for a change, one of them wasn't working). Anyway, a black Porsche Carrera GT 2 comes up alongside the Mercedes and gives him the finger. The Merc is one of those guys who doesn't let it go, and increases speed..... 120, 130, 150, 190, 210, 240, 260 km/h! I was getting desperate – flashing my headlight and sounding the horn like crazy!

As we're speeding along, we passed a Caminera del Chaco police station, but I didn't even see the radar, which recorded an impressive 270 km/h. The police then radio the next Gendarmerie post in Tatane: "Attention! Attention! ... two males, one in a Mercedes grey Plata Kompressor and one in a Porsche Carrera GT 2 black racing at over 270 km/h on the highway, and..... lads..... I swear on my old lady .. my grandma... on my children and Diego, Dalma and Giannina, behind them, tucked into the slipstream of the Mercedes, comes a Fiat 600 flashing his lights to let him PASS!"

HISTORICAL NEWS

The volcanic Ireland of Iceland has featured many times recently in the news bulletins due to the exceptional eruptions that are taking place, especially near the capitol of Reykjavik. 50 years ago, Iceland was experiencing volcanic eruptions on the Westman islands, located south of Iceland. A team from IBM stepped in to offer help because of the wide impact that this was having on the population of the islands. The following historical article, which appeared in the 20 June 1973 edition of **IBM UK News** describes the assistance that IBM gave to the local Red Cross during this volcanic emergency.

Volcano register aids Icelanders

Volcanic eruptions on the Westman Islands brought thousands of desperate Icelanders to the mainland looking for medical help and temporary accommodation.

The administrative task of looking after almost 5,000 people, often separated families, arriving in small groups, and then keeping a record of where they were staying, provided a massive headache for the Icelandic Red Cross. The morning after the disaster, a team from IBM Iceland arrived at the Red Cross headquarters offering to process the data on the islanders' whereabouts. The offer was immediately accepted. Arrangements were made for information on cards filled in by the displaced islanders to be transferred to punch cards by various offices in Reykjavik in a day and night operation.

By the next morning a register in three versions containing all necessary information was available. The first version was alphabetical, the second was by previous addresses on the Westman Island, and the third by current addresses on the mainland. Eggert Asgeirsson, secretary general of the Icelandic Red Cross, said: "These reports provided the sole basis for an information service allowing families to be reunited with friends and relatives. "They were also extremely useful in providing financial aid to these people as well as to the various community authorities and in distributing salvaged household goods to their owners." In a letter to Mr O A Miichelsen, general manager of IBM Iceland, Mr Asgeirsson also thanked the company for help with an accommodation survey and for establishing an office for an employment service to help the victims.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

I had my patience tested. I'm negative.

If only vegetables smelled as good as bacon.

"Your call is very important to us.

Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo".

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators.
We haven't met yet.

When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.

I too was once a male trapped in a female body...but then my mother gave birth.

Still trying to get my head around the fact that 'Take Out' can mean food, dating, or murder.

I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.

Last night the internet stopped working so I spent a few hours with my family. They seem like good people.

When I lost the fingers on my right hand in a freak accident, I asked the doctor if I would still be able to write with it. He said, "Probably, but I wouldn't count on it."

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

I went on a date last night and during conversation, I told my date I worked with animals every day. She said, "Oh, how sweet. What do you do?" I said, "I'm a butcher."

I asked a pretty, young, homeless woman if I could take her home, and she said yes with a big smile. The look on her face soon changed when I walked off with her cardboard box.

At least, we are all getting stronger. Twenty years ago, it took two adults to carry £50 worth of groceries. Today, a 5-year-old can carry them.

I went into a shop the other day and asked if I could pay by card. The shopkeeper said "Of course. Which card do you have?" I answered "The 6 of spades".

It was mealtime during an airline flight and the flight attendant asked passenger John, "Would you like dinner?" "What are my choices?" John asked. "Yes or no," she replied.

For those of you that don't want Alexa listening in on your conversation they are making a male version ... it doesn't listen to anything.

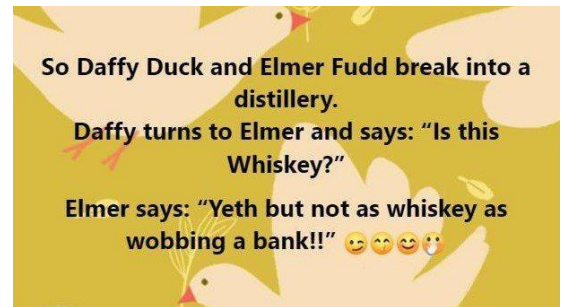
Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.

Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.

I miss times when I was working at the zoo. My boss fired me just because I left the lions gate open. I mean, who would steal a lion?

I was in a cab today and the cab driver said, "I love my job, I'm my own boss and nobody tells me what to do." Then I said, "Turn left".

I tried a pair of shoes on in the shoe shop the other day. I said to the assistant "These feel a bit tight". He said "Try with the tongue out". So I said "They shtill theel therry thight".



A SIMPLE MISTAKE!

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car - NOW!" The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad. The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then she realized why. It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee, and two 12-packs of beer in the front seat.

A few minutes later, she found her own car, parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into her own car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The Sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing! He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a carjacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun. No charges were filed.

EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE COMING MONTHS

Each quarterly publication of the LIRC News will in future include an update on the events that will be taking place in the coming months. It will include the date of each event and the date when you can start booking tickets/places (the Events Bulletin date). In addition to the events listed below, there may be other events that are in the planning stage but which do not yet have a confirmed date.

We therefore recommend that you always check the events being announced in each Events Bulletin. The list of future events below is in two sections. The first includes those that have already been announced and the second lists those that will be announced in future Events Bulletins.

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Events Bulletin Date</u>
Monday 22 nd April	National Portrait Gallery	Nigel Bartlett	6 th March 2024
Thu 25 th to Mon 29 th April	Short Break to Wells, Bristol and Bath	David Sparrow	7 th August 2023
Wednesday 8 th May	Standing at the Sky's Edge at the Gillian Lynne Theatre	Pete Wells	6 th March 2024
Tuesday 14 th May	National Portrait Gallery	Nigel Bartlett	6 th March 2024
Thursday 16 th May	Hamilton at the Victoria Palace Theatre	Pete Wells	8 th January 2024
Tuesday 21 st May	Whitchurch Silk Mill	Pauline Schurer	6 th March 2024
Tuesday 4 th June	Treasure Hunt (in St Paul's area of London)	Simon Russell	8 th April 2024
Thursday 27 th June	Kiss Me Kate at the Barbican	Pete Wells	8 th April 2024
Saturday 29 th June	Epping & Ongar Heritage Railway	Chris Nickless	8 th April 2024
Wednesday 3 rd July	Fawlty Towers The Play at the Apollo Theatre	Pete Wells	6 th March 2024
Tuesday 16 th July	Operation Mincemeat at the Fortune Theatre	Pete Wells	6 th February 2024
<i>Saturday 20th July</i>	<i>Battle Proms at Hatfield House</i>	<i>David Sparrow</i>	<i>6th March 2024</i>
<i>Thursday 8th August</i>	<i>Fiddler on the Roof at Regents Park Open Air Theatre</i>	<i>Pete Wells</i>	<i>8th April 2024</i>
Thursday 12 th September	Moulin Rouge at the Piccadilly Theatre	Pete Wells	6 th February 2024
Wed 20 th November	The Devil Wears Prada at the Dominion Theatre	Pete Wells	6 th December 2023

PLEASE NOTE: Tickets are still available for two of the above events (*those in italics*).

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Events Bulletin Date</u>
Thursday 4 th July	Thames River trip (from Runnymede)	Tony Shortman	7 th May 2024
Thursday 11 th July	Syon House and Gardens	Simon Russell	7 th May 2024
Wednesday 7 th August	London Walk – Historic Holland Park	Keith Andrews	7 th May 2024
Sunday 11 th August	Shuttleworth Family Air Show	Derrick Daines	6 th June 2024
Thursday 22 nd August	Lunch in Style at the Guards Polo Club	Sue Andrews	6 th June 2024

YOUR LIRC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

If you have questions for your committee, please contact one of those listed below.

PLEASE NOTE: COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL ACCEPT TELEPHONE CALLS BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9.30 AND 19.00 MONDAY TO FRIDAY ONLY

David Sparrow	Chairman	LIRCnews@gmail.com	020-8440-5871 07711-627788
Harvey Schonfeld	Treasurer	harvey.schonfeld@gmail.com	01276-453205
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Peter Morley	Membership Secretary	retibmlon@outlook.com	01932-241207
Simon & Joan Russell	LIRC News Production Team	j.campanini@btopenworld.com	07790-734672
Tony Shortman	LIRC News Editor	shortmantm@gmail.com	01844-350014

OBSERVATIONS ON GETTING OLDER

Today's 3-year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favourite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.

When I get a headache, I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like the bottle says.

Now, I'm wondering . . . did I send this to you, did you send it to me or have I only sent one copy?

I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim" I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning. Old age is coming at a really bad time.

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say CLOSE ENOUGH.

Weight loss goal: To be able to clip my toenails and breathe at the same time.

I woke up this morning determined to drink less, eat right, and exercise. But that was four hours ago when I was younger and full of hope.

Some of my friends exercise every day. Meanwhile I am watching a show I don't like because the remote fell on the floor.

I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support guy is asleep. He's 5 and it's past his bedtime.

I'm not a complete idiot - some parts are just missing.

Being "over the hill" is much better than being under it!

It's weird being the same age as old people.

Happiness is not having to set the alarm clock.

And consider the following: your kids are becoming you, and

going out is good; coming home is better!

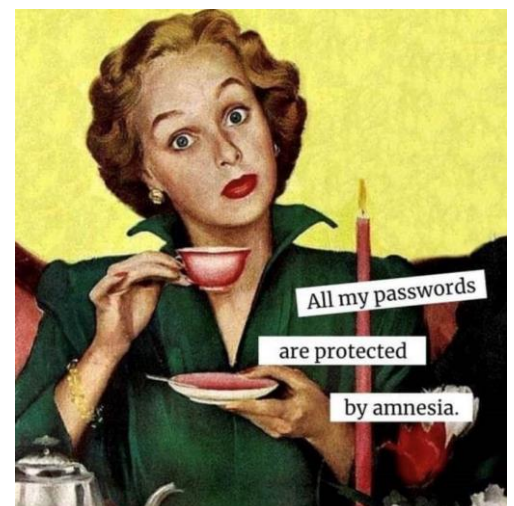
you realize you're never going to be really good at anything

you tend to use more 4 letter words, such as "what?", "when?", "where?"

now that you can afford expensive jewellery, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

everybody whispers.

An elderly man thinking his wife was losing her hearing went about 20' behind her and asked "Can you hear me sweetheart?" No reply. Moved to 10' and inquired again. No reply. 5' and not a word. A few inches behind ear, he asked "Can you hear me now honey"? His wife said "For the fourth time, yes."



ANNIVERSARIES, WEDDINGS and FINAL RESTINGS

Sadly, we have to report the passing to final rest of our colleagues:

- Maureen Tutton who died on Tuesday 12th December 2023
- Sybil Cardwell who died on Sunday 24th December 2023
- Kay Murphy who died on Tuesday 16th January 2024
- Phil Rumsey who died on Wednesday 17th January 2024
- June Shirley who died on Wednesday 31st January 2024
- Peter Mortimore who died on Monday 5th February 2024
- Wendy Gibbons who died on Tuesday 20th February 2024

Many of our colleagues who have recently passed away have been active members of our Club. Friends and relatives of them have been kind enough to send us some excellent photos and obituaries which we would like to share with you.

Sybil Cardwell

I cannot pretend to comment on Sybil's IBM career - she and I only became acquainted long after we were both retired. I knew her simply as a highly companionable, and competent, bridge player. Having suffered for a couple of years from dementia her death came as a consequence of a most unfortunate fall. Sybil was an active member of the retirees club and attended many of the club events together with her husband, Bob. Bob Cardwell, another IBM veteran, whom I knew less well, passed away a year or so before Sybil. Her passing is much regretted at our local bridge club and I'm sure will be similarly mourned by those who knew her at IBM. *Richard Ackland*

June Shirley

I met June when I joined the organising committee of the retirees club, so did not know her during her IBM career. She served on the committee for many years, organising and running numerous club events. She was a delightful person to work with on the committee, always very positive with excellent organisational skills and I am sure that all of us who attended her events really enjoyed them. June's funeral took place on Wednesday 28th February and Jessica, one of June's great-grandchildren, spoke at the funeral service about the close relationship that she enjoyed with her great grandmother.

Tony Shortman



Kay Murphy

There can't be many people who went to IBM Rayners Lane, who don't remember Kay. Smiling, cheerful, welcoming, with a wonderful sense of humour, helpful and always immaculate. To most people Kay WAS Rayners Lane! She was loyal and conscientious, and a pleasure to work with. Married to Jim for over 62 years, she was a devoted wife. Kay was part of a large family and her funeral in February saw many members come and pay their respects from around the world. Rest in peace Kay.

Richard Jackman



Wendy Gibbons

I am sorry to report the passing on the 20th February 2024 of Wendy Gibbons (previously Wendy Russell), IBM Systems Engineer in London and Basingstoke, who suffered from dementia in the latter part of her life. *Pete Russell*