

LIRC News

30th April 2026

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

The next LIRC News will be published on Thursday 30th July 2026.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Each month, your committee publishes an Events Bulletin advertising tickets for events and shows. Some club members are unsure as to which day in the month the Events Bulletin is published (listing these events and shows) – please check the article about this on page 3.

Your committee regularly investigates possible venues and events that may be of interest to members. Information about two more interesting venues that are not currently being advertised as club events can be found on page 4.

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Member,

Your committee re-elected me as Chairman for the coming year, so I'm afraid you'll have to bear with my thoughts for a bit longer! However, I do want to emphasise that your committee is actually a good hard-working team and things only happen because we all pull together. It's therefore a pleasure for me to lead them.

I do have a concern though and that is a lack of members putting their name forward to join our team. No-one volunteered at our AGM and it is disappointing that out of around 1,300 members, we can't find one or two who will help to ensure your Club continues to thrive. We are all ageing and have other commitments too, so please see if you can help. Get in touch with one of our team for a chat.

We are now trying to put in place a varied events programme for the coming months, but we do still need your suggestions for places to visit, please. If you don't come up with some ideas for us to explore, there is a risk of us not offering things that appeal. We do re-visit some venues as newer members may not have attended before, whilst some older members like to go again; the visit to Tower Bridge and HMS Belfast being an upcoming example, but new experiences are always welcome and enjoyable.

Recent events have been well attended and our upcoming holidays will, as always, bring many of us together to catch-up and make new friends.

The weather is warming; the daylight is lengthening; the shorts and summer clothes are emerging to reveal our sheltered bodies - all those things help us to re-energise and want to get out and about again. I hope we will therefore soon meet up somewhere.

In the meantime, let us take a moment to remember several lovely members that are no longer with us and recall the many happy times we shared with them and their loved ones, to whom we send our condolences and loving thoughts.

David Sparrow

EVENTS FEEDBACK

Turner & Constable Guided Tour at Tate Britain - Wed 11th February 2026

Thank you very much for organizing such an excellent and informative visit to the Tate Britain yesterday. We thoroughly enjoyed the Turner and Constable tour and thought the guide was fantastic. We appreciate all your efforts in putting this trip together. Good luck with the next tour. Michael Butcher

A big thank you for arranging the Turner and Constable tour. It was quite wonderful to see so many of their fabulous paintings all together. And wasn't our guide Claudia terrific too? An excellent tour - more please! Joan and Simon Russell



Secrets of the Magic Circle – Saturday 28th February 2026

Founded in 1905, the purpose of The Magic Circle is to promote and advance the art of magic. Magicians have to prove their skill to gain entry and give their word to abide by their motto (Indocillis privata loqui) which translates as “not apt to disclose secrets”. While The Magic Circle keeps secrets, they are not a secret society. Far from it; their wonderful headquarters near Euston opens to the public for shows, visits and talks and the building has recently been named the UK's Most Iconic Magic Venue.

During our visit we met some of the magicians as well as having a chance to explore the building. From intimate sleight-of-hand in the clubroom to a spectacular magical finale in the theatre, we witnessed every facet of this mysterious art form.

It was with great skill and showmanship that a number of magicians entertained our group at the Euston headquarters of the Magic Circle. Whilst performing "close-up" magic, these magicians continuously encouraged interaction and participation with us, their audience. Tricks, old favourites and new, seamlessly appeared to defy logic and both delighted and mystified. A hugely fun afternoon. Ann Cannon



Foundling Museum Guided Tour - Tuesday 21st April 2026

In 1739, the philanthropist Thomas Coram was granted a Royal Charter by King George II, to set up the Foundling Hospital, UK's first children's charity in Bloomsbury. By the early 1920s, the hospital was no longer removed from the pollution of the city, therefore the trustees relocated operations to a modern purpose-built facility in Berkhamsted. Between 1935 and 1937 the Thomas Coram Foundation built a new headquarters at 40 Brunswick Square. This new building incorporates architectural features and Rococo interiors from the original Foundling Hospital building and includes many works of art by some of Britain's most prominent artists.

The tour gave us a fascinating glimpse at social history from 1739 to 1954 viewed through the lens of the Foundling Hospital. The institution was established to take babies into care when their mothers were unable to support them. It was supported by William Hogarth, Thomas Gainsborough and George Frederic Handel among many others. Our guide was engaging, knowledgeable and entertaining. Nigel Bartlett



LIRC EVENTS BULLETIN – NOTE THE DATES

Our website is a great source of information for all our members, especially regarding the future events that the club will be running. Those events are initially advertised in the monthly *Events Bulletin* which you receive via email from us. There has though been confusion as to which day in the month we send out the *Events Bulletin*, so we would like to clarify this for you. Those club members who are in receipt of an IBM pension will know that the monthly pension arrives in our bank account on the sixth day of the month, but if that sixth day is a weekend or bank holiday, it will arrive on the first working day after the sixth. The same methodology is used for selecting the *Events Bulletin* dates, whenever possible, but there can be exceptions. If you wish to know the future dates for 2026 and 2027, they can be found on the website at [Events Bulletin – London IBM Retirees Club](#)

You may wish to note these dates in your diary, especially if you like to be informed at the earliest opportunity which events, shows etc. the club will be offering tickets for. Many are advertised well in advance, especially when the club has been offered a substantial discount for advance purchase of the tickets. Listed below are the future events that the club will be running and shows that the club has tickets for, most of which have already been announced in an *Events Bulletin*.

<u>Event Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Thursday 14 th May	Kinky Boots at The London Coliseum	Pete Wells
Sunday 17 th May	Bowls and Pipes at Amersham Bowls Club	Alan Jarvis
Wednesday 20 th May	Tower Bridge and HMS Belfast Tours	Pat Smith
Thursday 21 st May	Paddington the Musical at the Savoy Theatre	Pete Wells
Sunday 24 th May	Vitality Blast Crickets at Lords	Tony Shortman
Saturday 30 th May	Abba Voyage at the Abba Arena	Pete Wells
Tuesday 16 th June	Lunch on the Thames	Harvey Schonfeld
Monday 22 nd June to Friday 26 th June	Short Break at Warner’s Heythrop Park	David Sparrow
Tuesday 30 th June	High Society at the Barbican Theatre	Yvonne Raisin
Wednesday 8 th July	London Walk - Pepys, Plague and Fire	Pat Smith
Wednesday 15 th July	Cyrano de Bergerac at the Noel Coward Theatre	Yvonne Raisin
Saturday 18 th July	Battle Proms at Hatfield House	David Sparrow
Thursday 6 th August	Jesus Christ Superstar at the London Palladium	Pete Wells
Thursday 3 rd September	Cats at Regents Park Open Air Theatre	Pete Wells
Thursday 8 th October	Burlesque the Musical at The Arts at Marble Arch	Yvonne Raisin
Thursday 19 th November to Thursday 26 th November	Autumn Break in Paphos, Cyprus	David Sparrow

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MEETING IN THE PARK

Sam and Morris met in the park every day to feed the pigeons, watch the squirrels and discuss world problems. One day Morris didn't show up. Sam didn't think much about it and figured maybe he had a cold or something, but after Morris hadn't shown up for a week or so, Sam really got worried. However, since the only time they ever got together was at the park, Sam didn't know where Morris lived, so he was unable to find out what had happened to him. A month had passed, and Sam figured he had seen the last of Morris, but one day, Sam approached the park and there sat Morris! Sam was very excited and happy to see him and told him so. Then he said, "For crying out loud Morris, what in the world happened to you?". Morris replied, "I have been in jail." "Jail! cried Sam, what in the world for?". "Well" Morris said, "you know Sue, that cute little blonde waitress at the coffee shop where I sometimes go?". "Yes" said Sam, "I remember her. What about her?". "Well, one day, she found out that I had money, and she filed rape charges against me; and, at 89 years old, I was so proud that when I got into court, I pleaded Guilty". "The damn judge gave me 30 days for perjury".

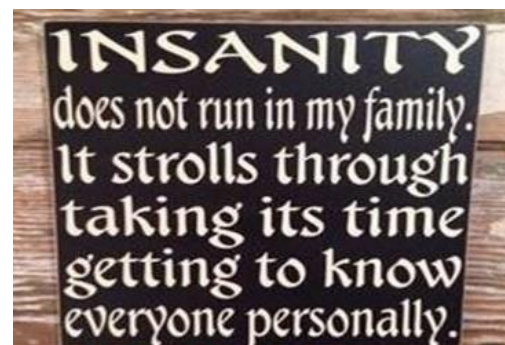
INTERESTING VENUES AND EVENTS

We have recently been including in the LIRC News information about Interesting venues and events that are not currently being advertised as club events. Details of two further examples is included below.

The first one is the **Ragged School Museum**, London's largest Victorian Ragged School, opened by Dr Barnardo in 1877. For 30 years the school, located next to Mile End Park on the towpath of the Regent's Canal, served some of the poorest children in the Victorian East End. It is housed in a group of three canal-side buildings which once formed the largest "ragged" or free school in London. When Thomas Barnardo came to London in 1866, intending to train as a doctor, he was confronted by a city where disease was rife, poverty and overcrowding endemic and educational opportunities for the poor non-existent. He gave up his medical training and in 1867 opened his first "ragged school" where children could gain a free basic education. It closed in 1908 and the buildings went through various uses until, in the early 1980s, they were threatened with demolition. Local people joined together to save them and reclaim their unique heritage. The Ragged School Museum Trust was set up and the museum opened in 1990. These former warehouses have recently undergone major refurbishment funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. For more information, visit their website - Home - Ragged School Museum. The museum's address is 46-50 Copperfield Road, London E3 4RR and it is open from Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm. Admission charges are very reasonable at £2.50 for concessions and £5.00 for adults. The nearest tube station is Mile End (Central, District and Hammersmith & City lines).



The second one is the **London Museum of Water & Steam**, located in the historic buildings of the former Kew Bridge Waterworks in Brentford, and home to the world's largest collection of stationary steam engines. It is an independent museum founded in 1975 as the Kew Bridge Steam Museum and rebranded in early 2014 following a major investment project. It celebrates the power that shaped London and is more than just a museum, it is a living, breathing piece of industrial history, housed in a Grade I listed pumping station. It tells the story of how clean water and steam power helped London grow into the city it is today. Built in 1838 by the Grand Junction Water Works Company, the site played a crucial role during a time of rapid industrial and population expansion. Further information about the museum can be found at its website - Homepage - London Museum of Water and Steam. It is open four days each week, from Thursday to Sunday, from 10am to 4pm, and tickets can be booked online at their website.



YOUR LIRC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We have included below a selection of the current members of your LIRC committee. If you have questions for your committee, please use the contact information below.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL ACCEPT TELEPHONE CALLS FROM YOU, BUT PLEASE TRY AND CALL ONLY DURING SOCIALABLE HOURS.

David Sparrow	Chairman	LIRCnews@gmail.com	020-8440-5871 07711-627788
Harvey Schonfeld	Treasurer	harvey.schonfeld@gmail.com	01276-453205
Alan Jarvis	Club Secretary & Minutes Secretary	alanjarvis029@gmail.com	07586-354341
Peter Morley	Membership Secretary	retibmlon@outlook.com	07779-102015
Tony Shortman	LIRC News Editor	shortmantm@gmail.com	01844-350014

SOMETHING A LITTLE LIGHTER

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

Did you know that the white-tailed deer can jump higher than the average house? That's because of its powerful hind legs and the fact that the average house can't jump!

If the black box flight recorder is never damaged during a plane crash, why isn't the whole aeroplane made of that stuff?

'Bipartisan' usually means that a larger-than-usual deception is being carried out.

Some people have no idea what they're doing, and a lot of them are really good at it.

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

I have as much authority as the Pope. I just don't have as many people who believe it.

My car wouldn't start this morning. I looked under the bonnet and saw a bat sitting on the engine block. He said: "Good day to you Sir, and might I remark how splendidly handsome you look today?" I knew the problem straight away: Bat flattery.

Procrastination is totally a good thing. You always have something to do tomorrow, plus you have nothing to do today.

THERE IS AN ANCIENT LEGEND THAT SAYS IF YOU CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT IT IS BECAUSE YOU ARE AWAKE.



I think I may need professional help... A chef, a butler and a maid should do it.

Apparently exercise helps you with decision making. It's true. I went for a run this morning and decided I'm never going again.

A TEST FOR OUR LITTLE GREY CELLS

1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?
2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop, he is five feet ten inches tall and he wears size 13 shoes. What does he weigh?
3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
4. How much dirt is there in a hole... that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
5. What word in the English Language is always spelled incorrectly?
6. Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?
7. In California, you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?
8. If you were running a race, and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?
9. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?
10. If a farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in another field?

Here are the Answers: (No peeking!)

1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?
Answer: Johnny, of course.
2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop, he is five feet ten inches tall, and he wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?
Answer: Meat.
3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
Answer: Mt. Everest; it just wasn't discovered yet!
4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
Answer: There is no dirt in a hole.
5. What word in the English Language is always spelled incorrectly?
Answer: Incorrectly.
6. Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?
Answer: Billy lives in the Southern Hemisphere.
7. In California, you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?
Answer: You can't take pictures with a wooden leg. You need a camera to take pictures.
8. If you were running a race, and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?
Answer: You would be in 2nd. Well, you passed the person in second place, not first.
9. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?
Answer: Neither, the yolk of the egg is yellow.
10. If a farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in another field?
Answer: One. If he combines all of his haystacks, they all become one big one.

DID THEY REALLY GIVE THAT ANSWER?

The following are actual quotes from UK radio and TV programmes

BEG, BORROW OR STEAL (BBC2) Jamie Theakston:

Where do you think Cambridge University is? Contestant: Geography isn't my strong point. Jamie Theakston: There's a clue in the title. Contestant: Leicester.

BEACON RADIO (WOLVERHAMPTON) DJ Mark:

What is the nationality of the Pope? Ruth from Rowley Regis: I think I know that one. Is it Jewish?

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE Bamber Gascoyne:

What was Gandhi's first name? Contestant: Goosey?

GWR FM (Bristol) Presenter:

What happened in Dallas on November 22, 1963? Contestant: I don't know, I wasn't watching it then.

PHIL WOOD SHOW (BBC RADIO? MANCHESTER) Phil:

What's 11 squared? Contestant: I don't know. Phil: I'll give you a clue. It's two ones with a two in the middle. Contestant: Is it five?

RICHARD AND JUDY Richard:

Which American actor is married to Nicole Kidman? Contestant: Forrest Gump.

RICHARD AND JUDY Richard:

On which street did Sherlock Holmes live? Contestant: Er...Richard: He makes bread ... Contestant: Er... Richard: He makes cakes... Contestant: Kipling Street?

LINCS FM PHONE-IN Presenter:

Which is the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world? Contestant: Barcelona.

Presenter: I was really after the name of a country. Contestant: I'm sorry, I don't know the names of any countries in Spain.

ROCK FM (PRESTON) Presenter:

Name a film starring Bob Hoskins that is also the name of a famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci.

Contestant: Who Framed Roger Rabbit?

THE BIGGEST GAME IN TOWN (ITV) Steve Le Fevre:

What was signed, to bring World War I to an end in 1918? Contestant: Magna Carta?

JAMES O'BRIEN SHOW (LBC) James O'Brien:

How many kings of England have been called Henry? Contestant: Er, well, I know there was a Henry the Eighth ... ER. ER ... Three?

CHRIS SEARLE SHOW (BBC RADIO BRISTOL) Chris Searle:

In which European country is Mount Etna? Caller: Japan. Chris Searle: I did say which European country, so in case you didn't hear that, I can let you try again. Caller: Er...Mexico?

PAUL WAPPAT (BBC RADIO NEWCASTLE) Paul Wappat:

How long did the Six-Day War between Egypt and Israel last? Contestant (long pause): Fourteen days.

DARYL DENHAM'S DRIVETIME (VIRGIN RADIO) Daryl Denham:

In which country would you spend shekels? Contestant: Holland? Daryl Denham: Try the next letter of the alphabet. Contestant: Iceland? Ireland? Daryl Denham: (helpfully) It's a bad line. Did you say Israel? Contestant: No.

STEVE WRIGHT IN THE AFTERNOON (BBC RADIO 2) Steve Wright:

Johnny Weissmuller died on this day. Which jungle-swinging character clad only in a loin cloth did he play? Contestant: Jesus.

ANNIVERSARIES, WEDDINGS and FINAL RESTINGS

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

- Richard Kitson who died on Thursday 1st January 2026
- Stuart Lloyd who died on Friday 9th January 2026
- Paul Kearney who died on Saturday 31st January 2026
- Mike Harrison who died on Monday 9th February 2026
- Ken Mahoney who died on Saturday 21st February 2026
- Mike Davis who died on Saturday 21st February 2026
- John Carr who died on Wednesday 25th February 2026
- Rona Barford who died on Wednesday 25th February 2026
- Clive Berrecloth who died on Thursday 9th March 2026
- Noel Rees who died on Thursday 16th April 2026

Ken Mahoney, who died on 21st February at the age of 93

Ken was a very active member of the club, not only attending many events but also as the editor of the club's newsletter from 1999 until 2011. He joined IBM UK as a Customer Engineer in the Electric Typewriter Division in November 1957. After completing his training, he was based at the London City branch. In 1963 he gained promotion to Senior Engineer and entered the Field Service Group in Rayners Lane. Following this he became an instructor on the basic Electronics course, Dictating Machines, Typebar Typewriters, etc. enabling him to become well known in the IBM CE community. Ken returned back to the "field" as a supervisor in the London Central branch and two years later was involved in the announcement of the Photo Copier, installing the first one in the UK. He held various positions in the following years and in 1989, after 32 years service, he retired from IBM and joined the retirees club.

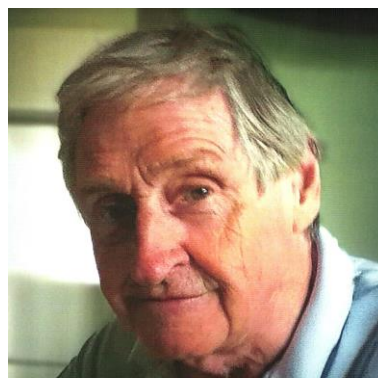


Audrey and Ken enjoyed attending the club events and after about five years became more involved by contributing articles for the club's newsletter. In 1999 Ken became editor and continued in this role until 2011. These newsletters were a popular publication, greatly enjoyed by our members. Audrey and Ken continued to take part in the club's events and meeting other members. If there was a trophy for the longest-married IBM retiree couple, they would surely have won it by some margin! Ken will be greatly missed by his family and the many club members who knew him.

John Carr, who died on 25th February at the age of 89

Another club member who recently died was given a very unusual funeral. Our committee member, Derrick Daines, attended his funeral and shared the following with us.

John Carr's funeral yesterday was a most enjoyable event, starting off with his coffin being towed to Croydon Crematorium by an Only Fools and Horses Regal Reliant (see photo). This was chosen because during his life he had dabbled in buying and selling



antiques via car boot sales etc. On retiring he did it more or less full time. When I first met John he was a manager in the Basinghall Street OPCE city office and he did my second interview to start my IBM career. Derrick Daines