

LIRC News

26th January 2023

WELCOME to this first issue of LIRC News, the quarterly publication from our new
London IBM Retirees Club.

Although you will see similarities to the bi-monthly publication from our old club, Retiree News, we do hope you enjoy reading our new LIRC News. The regular advertising of future club events has been moved to our new monthly LIRC Events Bulletin as this will enable your club to meet shorter time frames when organising and advertising future events. It will be issued on the 6th of each month (or the first day after if the 6th falls on a weekend).

The LIRC News will be published on the last Thursday of the following months - January, April, July and October. You can keep up to date with everything the club is doing via our web site –

<https://www.retireelondonclub.org>

This is the same web site that we used for our old club, so there is no change in our web address.

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FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Member,

Welcome to our new Club! Almost 1,000 people have joined us so far and it's so encouraging to see you wanting to move forward with us into a new era, independent of IBM. Some of you are still employees; some are partners of retirees; whilst some are also members of other Clubs. No longer does the rule apply that you can only be a member of one Club associated with IBM. Every one of you is welcome and we look forward to seeing you sometime soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special "Thank you" to Peter Morley, our Membership Secretary, for completing a Herculean task in the successful transfer and addition of member data to our new Club. He has given so many hours of his time and exchanged hundreds of emails with people, without which we would not be up and running.

Your old committee of the IBM London Retired Employees' Club has volunteered to take us forward and continue to provide items of interest in our quarterly LIRC News as well as events that you might like to attend. We will be looking to make these varied and hope to offer things that appeal to you. However, even though our committee members have that enthusiasm and creativity, it also relies on you to provide us with suggestions to explore and offer, so please keep feeding us with ideas. You and they are important for our future success.

I know some of you have already enjoyed our early 2023 events. I am looking forward to catching up with around 70 of you at Potters Resorts in March that I haven't seen, in some cases, for about 3 years because of lockdown. I feel it's going to be a wonderful celebration of our friendships and a chance for us to meet new members too.

If you want to keep in touch and not attend events, we can just keep you on the email list for our quarterly LIRC News (which some of you have already requested). Equally, if you have chosen that option but decide at some point that you would also like to receive our monthly Events Bulletin, just let us know and we will add you to that list.

Here's to a successful 2023 for us all and the start of long-standing friendships in coming years.

David Sparrow

EVENTS UPDATE

There are two West End shows that we are currently selling tickets for, both of which were advertised in the January LIRC Events Bulletin and both still available for booking via our web site. If you would like details of them including the booking options, please use the following links:

For **Back to the Future** at the Adelphi Theatre on **Thursday 9th March** at 2:30pm, click [HERE](#)

For **Ain't Too Proud** at the Prince Edward Theatre on **Thursday 11th May** at 2:30pm, click [HERE](#)

On **16th November**, our visit to **Christmas at Kew** was a wet one! The magical Christmassy lights were though spectacular and no less so in the rain (of which there was plenty!) so one just had to stand and stare. Carols and Christmas music accompanied us along all of the two mile route through Kew gardens creating a wonderful atmosphere. Here are some photos of those magical lights - just a sample of what we saw at Christmas at Kew (with thanks to David Sparrow).

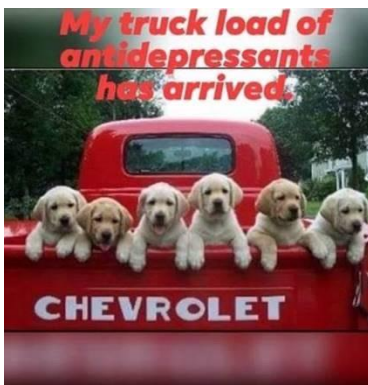


A VISIT TO THE DOCTOR

I said to the doctor, "I'm worried as whenever I go to visit my mother she gets my name wrong." He looked up at me sympathetically and asked, "Is it Alzheimer's?" I looked back at him in disgust and replied, "No, It's Simon."

FROM THE LIPS OF CHILDREN

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Dear, would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mummy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite these people to dinner?"



I just paid for a 12 month gym membership. My bank called to see if my credit card was stolen.

HISTORICAL NEWS

We hope you have enjoyed reading the historical articles that we included in the Retiree News last year. We have received lots of positive feedback relating to these articles and have therefore decided that with the introduction of the LIRC News, we will continue to include those articles that we feel our members would be interested in reading. For this first edition of LIRC News, we are featuring an article that appeared in the **30th July 1971** edition of **IBM UK News**.

Sudbury gets switched-on

On Wednesday June 30, John Kearley, DPCE director, switched on the System/370 Model 165 at Sudbury Towers and inaugurated the World Trade customer engineer training programme.

Mr Kearley was accompanied by Andre Barbier, World Trade plan and control manager, Guiseppe Menzio, DPCE training programme manager, both from EHQ, Ken Murray, UK DPCE services manager and John Durnford, UK DPCE education manager. Installation of the equipment had been completed ahead of schedule in twelve days of round the clock working by the European 370/165 installation team under the direction of manager Eric Hearnshaw.

Customer engineering students from Germany, Italy, Israel and Switzerland were present at the ceremony having arrived the previous Monday to commence the first course. Student training is aligned to the changing maintenance philosophy. Most machine faults are diagnosed 'off-line' while the system continues in normal customer use. Using a new device called a Fault Injector Box, designed and made by instructors at Sudbury Towers, intermittent faults can be simulated for the first time on a training programme.

During the next 18 months some 300 qualified customer engineers from many countries will pass through Sudbury during this massive training programme.



DPCE director John Kearley (right) looks on while customer engineering students and management representatives familiarise themselves with the Sudbury Towers Model 165

JOHN RIDGWAY'S ADVENTURE SCHOOL WAS CERTAINLY CHALLENGING

In July 2022, we reproduced an historical article from the 28th February 1971 IBM UK News about Captain John Ridgway and his Ridgway's Adventure School in Sutherland. John became famous when he and Chay Blyth rowed across the North Atlantic in 1966 (it took 92 days). His Adventure School ran a kind of mini SAS course that was intended to test leadership and initiative in coping with whatever challenges were thrown at the participants. One of those participants was John Moon who joined IBM in 1968. John has kindly written an article about the course and the benefits he derived from it. With the article he has included some photos taken during the course.

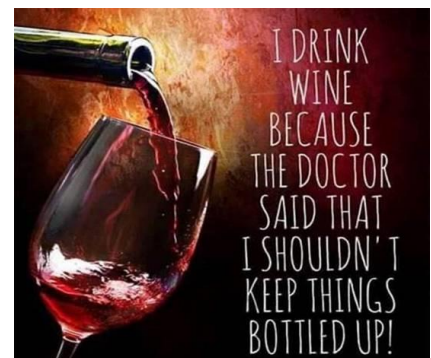
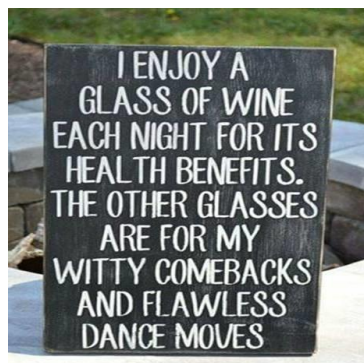
To read John's article, please click [HERE](#)

GOLF - THE TEN BEST CADDY RESPONSES

- Number 10 Golfer: "I think I'm going to drown myself in the lake."
Caddy: "Think you can keep your head down that long?"
- Number 9 Golfer: "I'd move heaven and earth to break 100 on this course."
Caddy: "Try heaven, you've already moved most of the earth."
- Number 8 Golfer: "Do you think my game is improving?"
Caddy: "Yes . . . You miss the ball much closer now."
- Number 7 Golfer: "Do you think I can get there with a 5 iron?"
Caddy: "Eventually."
- Number 6 Golfer: "You've got to be the worst caddy in the world."
Caddy: "I don't think so . . . That would be too much of a coincidence."
- Number 5 Golfer: "Please stop checking your watch all the time. It's too much of a distraction."
Caddy: "It's not a watch - it's a compass."
- Number 4 Golfer: "How do you like my game?"
Caddy: "It's very good - personally, I prefer golf."
- Number 3 Golfer: "Do you think it's a sin to play on Sunday?"
Caddy: "The way you play, it's a sin on any day."
- Number 2 Golfer: "This is the worst course I've ever played on."
Caddy: "This isn't the golf course. We left that an hour ago."
- ...and the Number 1, Best Caddy Comment:
Golfer: "That can't be my ball, it's too old."
Caddy: "It's been a long time since we teed off, sir."
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THE LIGHTER SIDE OF WINE

My doctor has given me three days to give up drinking. I've picked the 5th of June, July 17th and October 9th!!



Don't let them take the temperature on your forehead as you enter the supermarket – it's a government plot to erase your memory. I went for a bottle of milk and a loaf of bread and came home with a case of beer and 12 bottles of wine!

I have a pencil that used to be owned by William Shakespeare, but he chewed it a lot – now I can't tell if it's 2B or not 2B.

Before my surgery, the anaesthetist offered to knock me out with gas or a boat paddle – it was an either/or situation.

I never thought I would be the kind of person who would wake up early in the morning to exercise – I was right!

A priest asks the convicted murderer at the electric chair, "Do you have any last requests?" "Yes," replies the murderer, "Can you please hold my hand?"

AN INNOCENT QUESTION

A guy stuck his head into a barbershop and asked, "How long before I can get a haircut?" The barber looked around the shop full of customers and said, "About 2 hours." The guy left. A few days later, the same guy stuck his head in the door and asked, "How long before I can get a haircut?" The barber looked around at the shop and said, "About 3 hours." The guy left. A week later, the same guy stuck his head in the shop and asked, "How long before I can get a haircut?" The barber looked around the shop and said, "About an hour and a half." The guy left. The barber turned to his friend and said, "Hey, Bob, do me a favour, follow him and see where he goes. He keeps asking how long he has to wait for a haircut, but he never comes back." A little while later, Bob returned to the shop, laughing hysterically. The barber asked, "So, where does he go when he leaves?" Bob looked up, wiped the tears from his eyes and said, "Your house!"

OBSERVATIONS ON GROWING OLDER

"The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened. - Mark Twain

"Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get." – Robert Orben

"The years between 50 and 70 are the hardest. You are always being asked to do things, and yet you are not decrepit enough to turn them down." - T.S. Elliot

"At age 20, we worry about what others think of us... at age 40, we don't care what they think of us... at age 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all." - Ann Landers

"It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone." - Andy Rooney

"I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a lot more as they get older, and then it dawned on me - they're cramming for their final exam."- George Carlin

"There's one advantage to being 102, there's no peer pressure." - Dennis Wolfberg

"There are three stages of man; he believes in Santa Claus; he does not believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus." - Bob Phillips

"First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up, then you forget to pull your zipper down." – Leo Rosenberg

"You spend 90 percent of your adult life hoping for a long rest and the last 10 percent trying to convince the Lord that you're actually not that tired." – Robert Brault

"I'm at that age where my back goes out more than I do." – Phyllis Diller

"At my age 'getting lucky' means walking into a room and remembering what I came in for." - Unknown

"Everything slows down with age, except the time it takes cake and ice cream to reach your hips." - John Wagner

"The important thing to remember is that I'm probably going to forget." - Unknown

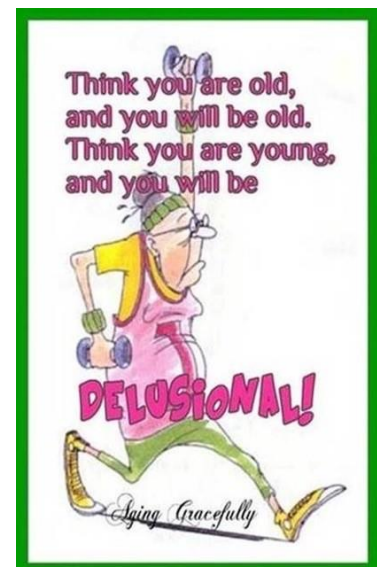
"You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks." - Joel Plaskett

"Time may be a great healer; but it's a lousy beautician."

"At my age, flowers scare me." - George Burns

"The older I get, the better I used to be." – Lee Trevino

FINALLY, GET YOUR WALK IN. IF YOU REST, YOU RUST.



ANNIVERSARIES, WEDDINGS and FINAL RESTINGS

Huge congratulations to **Ralph and Anthea Winterton** (see photo) on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 22nd December. For many years we regularly saw them both at our club events but sadly in recent years Ralph has been unwell and unable to join in.



IBM is no longer informing us of the names of club members who have passed away. Therefore, in future, we will be relying on surviving relatives or friends to advise us instead so that we can report on such cases in the LIRC News. For this edition, we do have a few final resting to report:

- Nigel Cotton who died on Monday 18th April 2022
- Michael Petch who died on Saturday 1st October 2022
- Liz Clark who died on Tuesday 27th December 2022

Also, **Doris Priestley** who died on Christmas Day

I first met Doris in 1971 when we both worked as agency temp typists in the Word Processing Dept (Typing Pool) at Rayners Lane. She was always full of fun and we had a lot of laughs. After a year I joined IBM as a secretary in the DCS Support Centre there and Doris stayed on a further year before leaving to work at Bovis. In 1978, when the new IBM location at Greenford Green opened, Doris joined IBM as a secretary in the Installation Support Centre and once again we worked together. Doris, whose mother was Italian, spoke fluent Italian, and was seconded to work with an incoming Italian assignee manager, who was delighted. She stayed in this post for a number of years before retiring from IBM in 1991 aged 63. *Helen Williams*

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

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