

# **LIRC** News

25<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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

The next LIRC News will be published on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## **WHAT'S INSIDE**

We have been reproducing articles that originally appeared in the **IBM UK News** over 50 years ago and the article this time is about IBM expanding its business in the Soviet Union.

How times have changed - you can read this interesting article on page 4.

We have included a reminder of the events the Club will be running in the coming months and which have been publicised in the monthly Events Bulletin.

This list of events, from August 2024 to January 2025, can be found on page 5.

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## **FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN**

Dear Member,

As I sit here on a mid-July evening looking out at dark skies, torrential rain, thunder and lightning, it perhaps explains why there seems to be a little reluctance to book on some upcoming events, particularly those outdoors, like the Battle Proms this Saturday – I wonder, should we take our sun hats or umbrellas! We will enjoy it, whatever!

In reality, many of you continue to support what we organise and the Thames Cruise earlier this month, organised by Tony Shortman, was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed in sunshine!

We also have plenty of bookings for Syon House, our London Walk and the Guards Polo Club Lunch, plus a good number for our events further from home; the Shuttleworth Family Day, the Black Country Living Museum and the Morgan Cars Experience. This is encouraging, as we are trying to increase the variety of things we can offer, including some which are further away from London than was usual in the past. If you haven't yet booked for these, don't delay or you may miss out.

Meeting up with old colleagues and making new friends is the main focus of what we do, so the more you support what we offer, the better for us all.

We continue to sadly see old colleagues passing to other realms but are also encouraged to see more new members each month. I hope that those of you who have joined recently are finding you made a great choice. Peter Morley, our Membership Secretary, will always be ready to welcome even more, so let other colleagues, family and friends know what we do.

Your committee continues to work hard and I really appreciate how much time they give, especially as a few have been unwell of late yet have still battled through to ensure your enjoyment is unspoilt. I wish them, in particular, a speedy return to good health.

I hope we will eventually see summer but, whatever the weather, let's enjoy it together and give life our very best shot!

**David Sparrow**

## EVENTS FEEDBACK

### Whitchurch Silk Mill - Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024

*Do you know your warp from your weft? This was one of the fascinating things we learnt when we visited Whitchurch Silk Mill, a charming mill on the river Test in Hampshire. Our visit started with coffee and biscuits and in two groups we set off taking very great care walking across the uneven beam floor of this ancient silk mill. The mill was built in the early part of the 19th century and after several changes of ownership remained in one family until the 1980s when it became a charitable trust. It is still a working silk mill producing exquisite designs for television and film productions. In fact, one of the many highlights of the visit was seeing fashion designer Zandra Rhodes meeting with the silk weaver (see photo). I say the silk weaver as it is a dying craft and there are only 5 fully qualified silk weavers in the country. We learnt that the silkworm is one of the hungriest creatures on the planet devouring a shedload of mulberry leaves everyday producing 12 miles of silk thread from its cocoon. From this beginning the silk thread is spun and dyed and then woven into exclusive fabrics. There was so much to take in and everyone had a wonderful day. Even the rain held back until we were on our way home. A big thank-you to Pauline for organising this interesting and fascinating visit. Anne Daines*



### Treasure Hunt Walk “St Paul’s and Secret City” – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

We had a really interesting walk in the St Paul’s area of central London searching out the answers to the various questions that we had been given for this Treasure Hunt. Some were not too difficult – “Who originated the Penny Post?” was answered by the statue of Rowland Hill that we were standing next to. Others were a little more challenging – “At the Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese (see photo), how many kings have there been since the pub originally opened?”. Using the date that was on the sign over the pub, we had to work out how many kings we have had since it was built!

*Thank you so much for organising such an interesting and enjoyable Treasure Hunt and lunch for us all yesterday. You organised it so well that despite our occasional best efforts to get lost, we didn’t do so! I know my friend, Jean, enjoyed the event immensely too. Sue Yeomans*

*Thank you both for organising yesterday’s splendid walk around all those hidden gems - so interesting. And the pub lunch was really good too - even the awful weather behaved! Dyllis Wretham*



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## A SENIOR’S VERSION OF FACEBOOK

For those of the older generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists, I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them “thumbs up” and tell them I “like” them. It all works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF WALKING AND EXERCISE**

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

I joined a health club last year, spent about £400 and have not lost a pound. Apparently, you have to go there.

Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years,.....just getting over the hill.

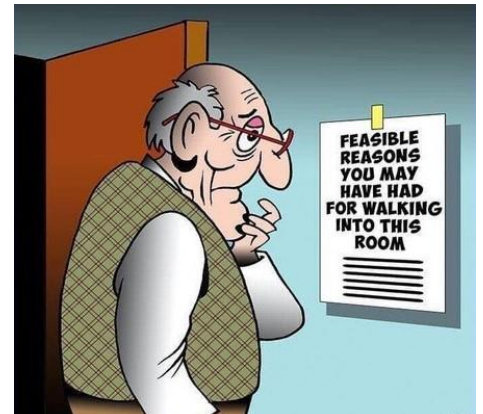
We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at £7000 per month.

Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a Happy Hour, and by the time I leave, I look just fine.

My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we don't know where he is.

The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll say, 'Well, she looks good doesn't she.'



## **ON A LIGHTER NOTE**

You cannot turn back the clock, but you can wind it up again.

What did our parents do to kill boredom before the internet?  
I asked my 26 brothers and sisters and they didn't know either.

Not in jail, not in a mental hospital, not in a grave.  
I'd say I'm having a good day.

I grew up with Steve Jobs, Johnny Cash and Bob Hope.  
Now there's no jobs, no cash, and no hope.  
Please don't let anything happen to Kevin Bacon.

Shout-out to everyone who can still remember their childhood phone number but can't remember the password they created yesterday. You are my people.

Think you are old and you will be old.  
Think you are young, and you will be delusional.

Life is for the old to enjoy and the young to look forward to.

Today, I melted an ice cube with my mind just by staring at it.  
It took a lot longer than I thought it would.

I tried donating blood today. Never again! Too many stupid questions:  
Whose blood is it? Where did you get it from? Why is it in a bucket?

There's nothing scarier than that split second when you lose your balance in the shower and you think, "They are going to find me naked."

**Last night I ordered a glass of wine with my dinner and the waiter asked for my ID. I replied do I look that young and the waiter said "No. I just wanted to see if you qualified for the Senior Citizen discount."**

**Men don't have babies because God saw the way they handle a cold and knew the species would never survive.**



## **HISTORICAL NEWS**

In the April 2024 edition of the LIRC News, we included an article about the volcanic island of Iceland which appeared in the 20 June 1973 edition of **IBM UK News**. We have found another article in the same edition which we hope you will also enjoy reading, especially as it relates to the good relationship that IBM and the USA had with the Soviet Union in the 1970's (which is in stark contrast to the relationship that the UK and USA have today with Russia).

### **Soviet delegates visit IBM**

A Soviet delegation of eight leading government officials, computer, and science experts visited America recently, spending seven days at IBM facilities as part of a larger, 23-day tour of US computer manufacturers the Soviets had arranged for themselves. Their mission was to build some bridges of understanding that will cement trading links between the two countries. US computer manufacturers including IBM, displayed their computer and office equipment wares at a 12-day Leningrad Fair last October. The Soviets expressed great interest in virtually every item on the floor. One product ordered by the Soviets for use in the Ministry of Chemistry - an IBM System 360 Model 50 - has now been approved for sale by the US Government after a lengthy review procedure. Final approval of the order was given recently by COCOM, NATO's coordinating committee. It marks IBM's official entry into the expanding and competitive USSR data processing market.

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## **GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED**

If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.

No matter how hard you try, you can't baptise cats.

When your mum is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair.

Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.

You can't trust dogs to watch your food.

Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.

You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.

## **GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED**

Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.

Wrinkles don't hurt.

Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.

Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.

Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.

Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre, not the toy.

## **POINTS TO PONDER**

Do Lipton Tea employees take 'coffee breaks?'

Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety-one or oneteen?

Why do croutons come in airtight packages - aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a racing car is not called a racist?

I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks, so I wondered what do Chinese mothers use, toothpicks?

If it is true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?



### **GOVERNMENT NOTICE**

To help save the economy in this economic crisis, the government will announce - next week - that the Home Office and Immigration Department will start deporting Pensioners instead of asylum seekers, to lower welfare benefits and NHS costs.

Older people are easier to catch, and will not remember how to get back home.

Be sure to send this notice to all your relatives and friends, so they'll know what happened to you.

See you on the bus!

## **WHEN A SENIOR TRIES TO RESET THEIR PASSWORD**

WINDOWS: Please enter your new password.

USER: cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters.

USER: boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character.

USER: 1 boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.

USER: 50boiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character.

USER: 50BOILEDcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively.

USER: 50boiledCabbagesShovedUpYourxxxifYouDon'tGiveMeAccessNow!

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

USER: ReallyPissedOff50BoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourxxxIfYouDontGiveMeAccessNow

WINDOWS: Sorry, that password is already in use.

## **THE PROFESSORS AND THEIR STUDENTS**

A group of professors were called and sat on a plane. When the doors closed and the plane is about to take off, all the professors were informed that this plane was made by their students. Then all the professors rush toward the plane doors, trying to escape and survive on their own with the exception of one professor who remains seated with so much confidence and calmness. Someone's asked him why you're not escaping from the plane. The professor answered him with confidence; they are our students. Then someone asked him another question; are you sure that you taught them well? The professor replied quietly: I'm sure it won't fly.

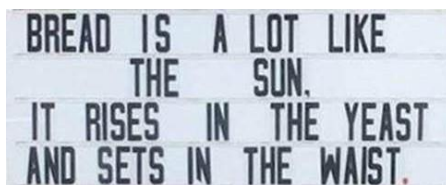
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## **EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE COMING MONTHS**

| <b><u>Event Date</u></b>  | <b><u>Event</u></b>                                   | <b><u>Sponsor</u></b> |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Wednesday 7 August        | London Walk - Historic Holland Park                   | Keith Andrews         |
| Thursday 8 August         | Fiddler on the Roof at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre | Pete Wells            |
| Sunday 11 August          | Shuttleworth Family Day Including Air Show            | Derrick Daines        |
| Thursday 22 August        | Lunch in Style at the Guards Polo Club, Windsor       | Sue Andrews           |
| Monday 9 September        | Black Country Living Museum                           | David Sparrow         |
| Tuesday 10 September      | Morgan Experience Centre                              | Sue Andrews           |
| Thursday 12 September     | Moulin Rouge at the Piccadilly Theatre                | Pete Wells            |
| Thursday 7 November       | MJ the Musical at Prince Edward Theatre               | Pete Wells            |
| Wednesday 20 November     | The Devil Wears Prada at the Dominion Theatre         | Pete Wells            |
| Thursday 5 December       | Dr Strangelove at the Noël Coward Theatre             | Pete Wells            |
| Saturday 7 December       | Carols for Christmas at St Martins-in-the-Fields      | Pete Wells            |
| Wednesday 18 December     | Nutcracker at the London Coliseum                     | Pete Wells            |
| Wednesday 10 January 2025 | Mean Girls at the Savoy Theatre                       | Pete Wells            |
| Tuesday 16 January 2025   | Oliver! at the Gielgud Theatre                        | Pete Wells            |

## **IT SMELLS LIKE WHISKY**

Two mechanics at a USA airport are tasked with re-fuelling a jet plane. As it's a new type, they are provided instructions on properly doing so. One admonition is 'Don't drink the jet fuel!' Puzzled, they check the jet fuel. It smells like whisky! Curious, they try a drop. It smells, tastes, is exactly like whisky! Heck, it IS whisky! So, they have a pint each, return to re-fuelling the plane. A few hours later, one of the men is at home. Suddenly, he feels a wind build-up in his intestines. Then, he gets a phone call from the other man. "Are you feeling like you have to pass gas?" he asks. "Yeah" says the other man. "I guess now we know why not to drink that fuel!" "Well" says the caller, "let it out real slow, I'm calling from Australia!"



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

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.

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## **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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| Pete Wells           | Event Organiser           | petecwells@gmail.com         | 07540-984074                  |
| Alan Jarvis          | Event Organiser           | alanjarvis029@gmail.com      | 07586-354341                  |

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## **ANNIVERSARIES, WEDDINGS and FINAL RESTINGS**

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

- Jean di Rienzo who died on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022
- David Lattimore who died on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- Mike Clark who died on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- James 'Jim' Roberts who died on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023
- Arthur Parker who died on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- Pamela England who died on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024