# RETIREE NEWS

28<sup>th</sup> July 2022

# **BOOK NOW**

We have three events that you can book places/tickets for:

- "South Pacific" at the Sadler's Wells Theatre on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022
- Eltham Palace and Gardens on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022
- "Only Fools and Horses" at the Theatre Royal Haymarket on Wednesday 21st September 2022

# WHAT'S INSIDE THIS RETIREE NEWS?

Although IBM has stopped funding our Club, we plan to continue operating under a new constitution: Your Chairman's letter (see below) contains important information about our Club's future.

# FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Member,

As you know, IBM ceased funding to all IBM Clubs worldwide from June end 2022. Many of the Local Clubs and at least one Retiree Club are closing but some will continue to operate until their funds run out. However, the IBM Retired Employees' Club, London Branch, has decided that there is sufficient interest and demand for us to carry on.

We are being restricted from continuing under the same name as one thing that IBM wishes to prevent is the suggestion that our Club name might be construed to be 'owned' or 'the responsibility of' IBM. This means we may just need to reposition IBM in the title and we have told them of our preference to operate as "London IBM Retirees Club" but this is not yet agreed. We have already drafted a new Constitution that has been approved by your committee and that, along with appropriate new Operating Guidelines that we are also drafting, will be put to all existing Club members and those who have requested to join us at an Extraordinary General Meeting in the Autumn. Once approved, we will look forward to a new future with a good range of events and the opportunity for both retirees and employees to join together in their enjoyment. We have already sent invitations to the members of some Clubs that are closing offering them the opportunity to join us, with retirees joining immediately and employees receiving provisional acceptance until such time approval for them to join is given at the EGM. The restriction by IBM that people could only be a member of one IBM Club has now gone and I am delighted at the high level of response to our invitation. Our numbers are swelling and Peter Morley, our Membership Secretary, is working flat out to communicate with those interested people and welcome them. Those who have received such a letter will be on this mailing and I take this opportunity to welcome you and look forward to meeting you in due course.

Our planned activities for 2022 will go ahead and Pete Wells has been working hard to get us deals on many shows as the theatres reopen. However, as we now have to cover our costs with certainty, we will be changing the way we advertise and will seek prompt payment with each booking you make. We cannot afford to be left with unsold tickets or places because people change their minds.

It has been wonderful to get out and about again and our recent visits to theatres, places of interest and events have been thoroughly enjoyed. Our holiday to North Wales in September is fully booked. My thanks go to all our committee members who continue to give so much of their time voluntarily for the benefit of us all.

We will keep you informed as matters progress and I hope that our new Club, when formalised, will offer enjoyment and friendship to everyone. There is life after IBM – let's show them how much we can enjoy it!

Best wishes,

#### David Sparrow

# FEEDBACK FROM RECENT CLUB EVENTS

#### Treasure Hunt in Richmond: Tuesday 17th May

It was a perfectly lovely warm, sunny day just right for a walk whilst exploring Richmond town and riverside. Easy to be distracted, but most clues were solved before reaching our Pub destination to compare notes and enjoy refreshments.

"Another really interesting walk around such lovely places - and in the most splendid sunshine. And the sandwiches we both had in the pub afterwards, were delicious." Dyllis Wretham

#### My Fair Lady at the London Coliseum: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June

The London Coliseum Orchestra played all the beautiful tunes that we know so well and the players sang the songs to perfection. The marvellous stage sets also played a part in bringing magic to the appreciative audience.

### QUEEN HONOURS JENNY STEDMON – THE SPEAKER AT OUR FEB 2019 AGM

If you attended our AGM that was held in the Chalfont St Giles Memorial Hall in February 2019, you may remember Jenny, who gave a graphic presentation on her International Red Cross adventures in far flung places like Nepal (Earthquake disaster), Sierra Leone (Ebola), Cambodia, etc. In the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List announcement in Australia, Jenny was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in recognition of her career in public health anaesthetics, her volunteerism for the International Red Cross, for the Australian & New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, as chair of the International Humanitarian Law Committee, Western Australia, and for years of mentoring countless awesome young doctors and other colleagues. The following website includes details of her award: https://www.anzca.edu.au/news/fellowship-news/2022-gueen-s-birthday-honours

## DEFINITIONS

BEAUTY PARLOUR A place where women curl up and dye.

DUST Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF Cold Storage.

INFLATION Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN A grape with a sunburn.

SECRET Something you tell to one person at a time.

TOOTHACHE The pain that drives you to extraction.

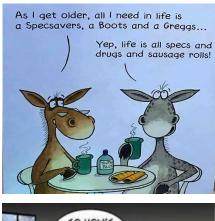
YAWN An honest opinion openly expressed.

TOMORROW One of the greatest labour saving devices of today.

WRINKLES Something other people have, similar to my character lines.

ADULT A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

CHICKENS One of the few animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.





# NEW EVENTS

#### Details of the new events are shown on the following pages.

Please note that a **Booking Form** for each event can be found at the end of Retiree News. These can also be downloaded and printed from our website and must be received by the sponsor <u>before</u> your application can be considered.

#### South Pacific on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August at 2.30pm

#### The Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4TN

**Nearest underground station** – Angel on the Northern line (250 metres from Sadler's Wells Theatre)

Chichester Festival Theatre's critically acclaimed, landmark production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific* has transferred to Sadler's Wells this summer for a strictly limited season. Set during World War II, the Tony award-winning musical follows a variety of characters on an island in the South Pacific as they wait for the battle to reach their shores. At its heart is a powerful romance that interrogates the lines between fear, prejudice and love.

Boasting a full orchestra accompanying songs which include "Some Enchanted Evening" and "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair", this show has one of the most memorable scores in musical theatre - *South Pacific* is a crowd-pleasing classic from Rodgers & Hammerstein (*Oklahoma!; Carousel*). This epic new five-star production is brought thrillingly to life by Chichester Theatre's Artistic Director Daniel Evans (*Me and My Girl* and *Fiddler on the Roof*). A sensational cast of over thirty is led by the leads from the Chichester Festival Theatre production, including Julian Ovenden, Gina Beck, Rob Houchen, Joanna Ampil and Sera Maehara. With designs by Peter McKintosh and choreography by Ann Yee, this ravishing musical is set to be the must-see theatrical event of the year.

#### Your committee contact for this event is Pete Wells

Cost: £64 per person (retiree and guest £128) Full Price £87

#### Booking options available for this event:-

- Use Online Booking (to make your booking) and pay online using Online Payment
- Use Online Booking (to make your booking) and send a cheque in the post
- Send a paper booking form in the post and pay online using Online Payment
- Send a paper booking form and cheque in the post

If you want to use **Online Payment**, Pete Wells will send you an email with instructions, our bank details and what reference to use (after he has received your online booking or printed booking form). Payment is required within 72 hours of this email being sent to you.

If you want to use **Online Booking**, to display and complete the booking form, click <u>HERE</u>

# The tickets can be sent to you by email (as an attachment to the email) together with confirmation of your booking.

Alternatively, if you do not use email and/or prefer to receive this by post, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope (which should be a minimum of  $9"x 4\frac{1}{2}"$  or 220mm x 110mm).

#### BOOKINGS MUST BE RECEIVED AND PAID IN FULL BY 10th AUGUST

#### Eltham Palace and Gardens on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 11.30am

#### Eltham Palace, Court Yard, Eltham, Greenwich, London SE9 5QE

**Nearest railway station** – Mottingham on South Eastern Trains

Once a medieval palace, Eltham Palace is now one of the finest Art Deco mansions open to the public. It is a unique marriage between a medieval and Tudor palace and a 1930s millionaire's mansion. From the 14th to the 16th century it was an important royal palace, where monarchs often stayed and hunted in the surrounding parks. Henry VIII passed much of his boyhood at Eltham, and was the last monarch to spend substantial amounts of money or time there. After centuries of neglect, Eltham was leased to Stephen and Virginia Courtauld in 1933, who built an up-to-the-minute house that incorporated the Great Hall. The result was a masterpiece of 20th-century design.

English Heritage assumed responsibility for the Great Hall in 1984, and in 1995 took over the management of the entire site. Since then it has been systematically restoring the principal interiors of the 20th-century house to their appearance in the time of the Courtaulds, and the gardens to conserve surviving features from the Courtauld era and maintain the integrity of a 1930s garden. Our visit will include a 90-minute guided tour of the house with the first tour beginning at midday. You will have plenty of time to explore the gardens surrounding the palace and during your visit you may wish to visit the excellent café where they serve refreshments and lunch.

**NOTE:** If you have limited mobility, please speak to Derrick before booking your place on this visit. Also, if you are an English Heritage member, please bring your membership cards with you.

#### Your committee contact for this event is Derrick Daines

There are **two** prices for this event:

£6.50 per person (retiree and guest £13) for members of English Heritage

£21 per person (retiree and guest £42) if you are NOT members of English Heritage

#### Booking options available for this event:-

- Use Online Booking (to make your booking) and pay online using Online Payment
- Use **Online Booking** (to make your booking) and send a cheque in the post
- Send a paper booking form in the post and pay online using **Online Payment**
- Send a paper booking form and cheque in the post

If you want to use **Online Payment**, Derrick Daines will send you an email with instructions, our bank details and what reference to use (after he has received your online booking or printed booking form). Payment is required within 72 hours of this email being sent to you.

If you want to use **Online Booking**, to display and complete the booking form, click HERE

Confirmation of your booking plus further information about this event will be sent to you via email. If you do not have an email address, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that this information can be sent to you in the post.

#### Cut off: WHEN ALL PLACES ARE TAKEN

#### Only Fools and Horses on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 2.30pm

#### Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1Y 4HT

**Nearest underground stations** – Piccadilly Circus on the Piccadilly and Bakerloo lines and Charing Cross on the Northern Line

This stage adaptation of the classic British sitcom *Only Fools and Horses* has returned to London's West End. First broadcast on the BBC in 1981, this landmark, record-breaking television series was the quintessential British comedy show, starring David Jason as South London market trader Derek 'Del Boy' Trotter and Nicholas Lyndhurst as his younger brother Rodney. The Peckham brothers spent their lives trying to get rich quick with a number of schemes devised through their company, Trotters Independent Trading Co.

This new musical, co-written by comedian Paul Whitehouse and son of show's creator, John Sullivan, puts these legendary characters onto the West End stage for the very first time, bringing this classic comedy back to life once more through an ingenious and hilarious original score. The story revolves around Del Boy looking for love, Rodney preparing for his marriage to Cassandra, and Grandad taking stock of his life. *Only Fools and Horses* stars Andy Mace as the much loved Grandad, Tom Bennett as the loveable rogue Del Boy and Ryan Hutton as his hapless brother Rodney. It also has songs by Whitehouse and Jim Sullivan, with additional music by John Sullivan and Chas Hodges (of Chas & Dave, who wrote the original theme tune). *Only Fools and Horses the Musical* is the critically acclaimed feel-good, family celebration of traditional, working class London life and the aspirations we all share.

#### Your committee contact for this event is Pete Wells

Cost: £57 per person (retiree and guest £114) Full Price £81

#### Booking options available for this event:-

- Use Online Booking (to make your booking) and pay online using Online Payment
- Use Online Booking (to make your booking) and send a cheque in the post
- Send a paper booking form in the post and pay online using Online Payment
- Send a paper booking form and cheque in the post

If you want to use **Online Payment**, Pete Wells will send you an email with instructions, our bank details and what reference to use (after he has received your online booking or printed booking form). Payment is required within 72 hours of this email being sent to you.

If you want to use **Online Booking**, to display and complete the booking form, click <u>HERE</u>

# The tickets can be sent to you by email (as an attachment to the email) together with confirmation of your booking.

Alternatively, if you do not use email and/or prefer to receive this by post, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope (which should be a minimum of 9"x 41/2" or 220mm x 110mm).

#### Cut off: WHEN ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD

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# A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RONNIE CORBETT

A concrete mixer and a prison van were involved in a collision on the Kingston By-Pass. Police are looking for 16 hardened criminals.

We heard of an out of work contortionist who can no longer make ends meet.

It has just been reported that in the English Channel a ship carrying red paint has collided with a ship carrying purple paint. It is believed that both crews have been marooned.

A juggernaut carrying a full load of onions has shed its load all over the M1 motorway. Motorists are advised to find a hard shoulder to cry on.

After a series of crimes in the Glasgow area, Chief Inspector McTavish has announced that he is looking for a man with one eye. If he doesn't find him, he's going to use both eyes.

There was a fire at the main Inland Revenue office in London today, but it was put out before any serious good was done.

It was revealed in a government survey published today that the Prime Minister is doing the work of two men: Laurel and Hardy.

Police have warned residents in West London to be on the lookout for a cross eyed burglar. If you see him looking in your window, please tell your next door neighbour.

# **HISTORICAL NEWS**

During the 1970's, some of our retirees might remember attending courses that were run at Ridgway's Adventure School in Sutherland by Captain John Ridgway. John Ridgway became famous when he and Chay Blyth rowed across the North Atlantic in 1966 (it took 92 days). These courses were a kind of mini SAS course, intended to test leadership and initiative in coping with whatever challenges were thrown at the participants. In this edition of Retiree News, we have included a historical article about John Ridgway, taken from the IBM UK News that was published on **28<sup>th</sup> February 1971.** The article includes details of an expedition he led to Peru and the River Amazon.

# **Amazon Adventurer Returns to Chiswick**

Captain John Ridgway, of transatlantic rowing fame, recently visited DPCE Director, John Kearley, at Chiswick. Mr Kearley first met Captain Ridgway when he took part in a week long executives course at Ridgeway's Adventure School in Sutherland. Impressed by this programme, Mr Kearley subsequently arranged for one of his managers and five customer engineers to participate in a two week intercompany development programme. This was run as a combined exercise by the companies involved together with Captain Ridgway and his instructors.

Captain Ridgway's visit to Chiswick was to discuss the possibility of future company participation in similar programmes. This visit took place only a matter of days after his return from his latest adventure which had taken him to Peru and then down the River Amazon a distance of some 4,300 miles. The trip which lasted about four months was sponsored by "The People" newspaper.

The special Amazon postcard reproduced above was sent by Captain Ridgway to Mr Kearley.



"By foot, mule, raft and canoe we have searched for IBM-no sign yet. Another 2,300 miles to go though and still the river is only 2½ miles wide, so there is hope yet."-Captain Ridgway.



John Kearley, DPCE Director (left) discusses a point with Captain Ridgway (centre) and DPCE personnel operations manager John Stanley.

### THE RESUME OF SOMEONE WHO FOUND THE WORKPLACE CHALLENGING

- 1. My first job was working in an Orange Juice factory, but I got canned. Couldn't concentrate.
- 2. Then I worked in the woods as a Lumberjack, but just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe.

3. After that, I tried being a Tailor, but wasn't suited for it -- mainly because it was a sew-sew job, and people liked to hem and haw about the price.

- 4. I became a Professional Fisherman, but discovered I couldn't live on my net income.
- 5. Then, tried being a Chef figured it would add a little spice to my life, but just didn't have the thyme.
- 6. Next, I attempted being a Deli Worker, but any way I sliced it.... couldn't cut the mustard.
- 7. My best job was a Musician, but eventually found I wasn't noteworthy.
- 8. I studied a long time to become a Doctor, but didn't have any patience.
- 9. Next, was a job in a shoe factory tried hard but just didn't fit in.

10. Managed to get a good job working for a Pool Maintenance Company, but the work was just too draining.

11. After many years of trying to find steady work, I finally got a job as a Historian - until I realized there was no future in it.

12. My last job was working in Starbucks, but had to quit because it was the same old grind.

13. SO, I TRIED RETIREMENT AND I FOUND I'M PERFECT FOR THE JOB - LOVE IT

### JUST FOR RETIREES

- **Q:** As people age, do they sleep more soundly?
- A: Yes, but usually in the afternoon.
- Q: How can you avoid that terrible curse of the elderly wrinkles?
- A: Take off your glasses.
- **Q**: What is the most common remark made by 70-plus year olds when they enter antique stores?
- A: "Gosh, I remember these!"

### THE DISCOVERIES YOU MAKE WHEN YOU'RE OLDER:

I finally got my head together, and now my body is falling apart.

It was a whole lot easier to get older, than to get wiser.

It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.

The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter . . . I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm "here after".

I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.

#### **GOVERNMENT NOTICE!**

To help save the economy, the Government will announce next month that the Immigration Department will start deporting seniors (instead of illegals) in order to lower Social Security and Medicare costs.

Older people are easier to catch and will not remember how to get back home. Be sure to send this notice to your relatives and friends, so they'll know what happened to you.

I started to cry when I thought of you.

Then it dawned on me; I'll see you on the bus.



# YOUR 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	ibmretiree@gmail.com	020-8440-5871 07711-627788
Harvey Schonfeld	Treasurer	harvey.schonfeld@waitrose.com	01276-453205
Pauline Schurer	Secretary	paulschurer@virginmedia.com	01494-871993
Keith Andrews	Minutes Secretary	andreka@hotmail.co.uk	01932-765100
Peter Morley	Database Coordinator	retibmIon@outlook.com	01932-241207
Tony Shortman	Retiree News Editor	shortmantm@gmail.com	01844-350014
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Simon Russell	Retiree News Production Team	j.campanini@btopenworld.com	020-8892-8806
Nigel Bartlett	Website Administration	nigelvbartlett@hotmail.com	07516-291298
Chris Nickless	Event Organiser	chris.nickless.rcl@gmail.com	01268-771793
Sue Andrews	Event Organiser	suekeeler@hotmail.co.uk	01932-765100
Derrick Daines	Event Organiser	ukfreelander@netscape.net	07758-491359
Pete Wells	Event Organiser	petecwells@gmail.com	07540-984074

# ANNIVERSARIES, WEDDINGS and FINAL RESTINGS

We are sorry to report the passing to final rest of our colleagues:

- Alexander Urquhart who died on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Andrew Daly who died on Tuesday 15th March 2022
- Robert Day who died on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022
- Sylvia McDermott who died on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- Ian Gregory who died on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- David Linegar who died on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- Sarah Hogg who died on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022
- Anthony Baker who died on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022
- Tony Marland who died on Thursday 28th April 2022
- Ben Travers who died on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- Gareth Coates who died on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- Marjorie Stoner who died on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

#### Marjorie Stoner, who came on many Club holidays, has sadly passed

Marjorie and Alan's many friends will remember her for her warmth, kindness and support to others, along with her love of colour and of collecting things that she could then give to others. Those who attended her lovely memorial service were handed a special gift from her along with a bookmark that Alan had designed in her memory. Marjorie was always wonderful company on our Club holidays and will be greatly missed. *David Sparrow* 

#### Gareth Coates Memorial Page

Gareth joined IBM from Sequent and soon became one of the specialists in the Bedfont Customer Centre and Advanced Technical Support. A Memorial Page website has been created for him which includes tributes from many of his friends. As some of our retirees will have known him, we have included the link to that website (where you can leave your own tribute): <u>https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/CurY9kL7</u>



Marjorie and Alan Stoner

# A HOLY GAME OF GOLF

Jesus, Moses, and an old man were playing golf one day. They had to hit their tee shot over a lake and on to the green. Jesus played first and he hit his shot into the lake. Disappointed, he walked across the water of the lake, levitated the ball, and pitched up onto the green. Moses played second and he too hit the ball into the lake. He strolled down to the lakes edge, parted the water so that he could walk across the bed of the lake, to pitch up to the green. The old man was next, and his shot was heading for the water too, but before the ball disappeared into the depths, a fish jumped out of the lake and caught the ball in its mouth. Then from the skies an eagle caught the fish and started to fly off with it. The eagle flew over the green and the ball dropped out of the mouth of the fish, onto the green, into the hole. Jesus looked at the old man and said, "C'mon Dad, play fair".

## NEXT RETIREE NEWS

This will be published on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022.** At present, we are still identifying events that might be advertised in the next edition of the Retiree News.

# **Booking Forms for Events**

Please remember that booking forms can also be printed from our website <u>www.retireelondonclub.org</u>

Cheques should be made payable to IBM Retired Employees' Club (London) or you can abbreviate to IBM Ret Emp Club

When you include a stamped addressed envelope, please ensure it is large enough to accommodate tickets plus any further information. The S.A.E. size we usually require is approximately 9"x 4½" (or 220mm x 110mm).

Please return to: Peter Wells, 7 Wayfaring Court, Safflower Lane, Harold Wood, RM3 0LQ							
South Pacific							
The Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4TN							
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> August at 2.30pm							
@ £64 per person (retiree and guest £128)							
Name (please print):		Personnel Number:					
E-Mail Address:							
Number of Tickets:	Amount £	Ph	Phone Number:				
Please indicate your payment method:-							
If <b>paying by cheque</b> , please enter the cheque number:							
If paying online, please enter the letters BACS:							
BOOKINGS MUST BE RECEIVED AND PAID IN FULL BY 10 <sup>th</sup> AUGUST The tickets can be sent to you by email (as an attachment to the email) together with confirmation of your booking. Alternatively, if you do not use email and/or prefer to receive this by post, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope (which should be a minimum of 9"x 4½" or 220mm x 110mm).							

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Eltham Palace and Gardens						
Eltham Palace, Court Yard, Eltham, Greenwich, London SE9 5QE						
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September at 11.30am						
@ £6	@ £6.50 per person (retiree and guest £13) for members of English Heritage					
@ £21 per person (retiree and guest £42) if you are <b>NOT</b> members of English Heritage						
Name (please print):	: Personnel Nur	nber:				
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	If paying by cheque, please enter the cheque number:					
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	Cut off: WHEN ALL PLACES ARE TAKEN					
Confirmation of your booking plus further information about this event will be sent to you via email. If you do not have an email address, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that this information can be sent to you in the post.						
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Fett						
	Only Fools and Horses	T				
	Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1Y 4 Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September at 2.30pm					
	@ £57 per person (retiree and guest £114)					
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When paying	g for events by cheque, please send a separate ch	neque for each event				