

RETIREE NEWS

23rd November 2022

BOOK NOW

We have four events that you can book tickets for:

- Cezanne Exhibition at Tate Modern on Thursday 12th January 2023 at 11.30am
- Les Misérables at the Sondheim Theatre on Thursday 12th January 2023 at 2:30pm
- Mamma Mia at the Novello Theatre on Thursday 19th January 2023 at 3:00pm
- Phantom of the Opera at Her Majesty's Theatre on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 2:30pm

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS RETIREE NEWS?

An important reminder that membership of our new **London IBM Retirees Club** is **NOT automatic**:
If you have not already joined our new club, and wish to do so, please read our Chairman's letter.

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FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Member,

This will be the last letter I write to you as Chairman of the IBM Retired Employees' Club, London Branch, as this is our last edition of Retiree News from this Club.

As we advised you in our recent mailshot, our Extraordinary General Meeting took place today at 10:00am. The Constitution of the "**London IBM Retirees Club**" was approved and the committee elected by a majority of the members present. Our existing Club will continue to operate until 31st December 2022 and the new Club will then operate from 1st January 2023. IBM has agreed that any monies left over at that time from this Club will be transferred to the new Club.

If you wish to become a member of the new London IBM Retirees Club but have not yet confirmed this to us, please e-mail Peter Morley (our Membership Secretary, at retibmlon@outlook.com) with the message "I give my consent for you to transfer the subset of IBM's Database needed for the Club's operation and currently held by you to the new Database for the London IBM Retirees Club". Background information on this action can be found in our 'Important Notice' mailshot on the 21st October 2022. We have already received in excess of 600 requests to enrol into our new Club which shows the high level of interest in its continuation and many have kindly included messages of thanks and support to our committee members for their dedication and time, which is greatly appreciated.

Many of you enjoyed the visits this month to "Witness for the Prosecution" and "Christmas at Kew" and all tickets are sold for "A Christmas Carol" on 29th. However, we still have just a few tickets left for "Les Misérables", "Mamma Mia" and "Phantom of the Opera". Details of these three West End shows can be found on the following pages and on our web site. Our website (www.retireelondonclub.org) will go through some necessary changes in the next couple of months but you will continue to be able to view and book our events and activities through it. 69 people have booked our Potters Resort holiday in March 2023, including two long-standing members who went in September this year and liked it so much they are coming again with us! Also, be aware that Fred Olsen gives an extra 5% discount to our members when booking a cruise with them.

We are really encouraged at the positive response to our new Club from existing members and the number wishing to join us that had previously been members of both Retiree and Employee IBM Clubs that have been forced to close. A big welcome to you all and we hope that our membership number will remain high; that you will enjoy the events and activities we offer and that you will support and encourage your committee who continue to give so much of their time.

Finally, may I take this opportunity on behalf of your committee to wish you and yours a **Happy Christmas and a very Happy New Year**. We may be going through difficult times personally, nationally and globally at present but the more we stay together and support each other, the happier and healthier we will be. I look forward to meeting up with you soon.

David Sparrow

FEEDBACK FROM RECENT CLUB EVENTS

Theatre: Only Fools and Horses the Musical – Wednesday 21st September

Del Boy, Rodney, Grandad and the whole gang – a treat for Trotter fans.

Short Break: North Wales – 26th to 30th September

This trip incorporated many of the wonderful sites North Wales has to offer including the fascinating Portmeirion, a tourist village in Gwynedd, North Wales, and Bodnant Garden (NT), a real gem arranged with waterfalls and sweeping terraces. We expected the boat trip; taking in views of the Menai Bridge and Caernarfon Castle, to be chilly – and it was, but there was also bright sunshine. A lovely hotel, good food and company made for a perfect short break. Thank you to David (Sparrow) we all appreciate the hard and detailed arrangements that made this trip possible.

Thank you David for organising such a great trip to North Wales. You did us proud! From the hotel and its meals to the daily agenda of sightseeing, all was perfect. Please would you pass on our thanks to Jo who drove the coach so safely, delivering us to where we were going on time. She entered into the spirit of the trip. 'Thank you Jo'. I felt somewhat guilty as neither Philippa nor I said a proper 'thank you' as we left the coach in the rain! Christopher & Philippa Turner

The Speaker's House Tour - Tuesday 11th October (unfortunately this event had to be cancelled due to Parliament being recalled early). However read on:

Not the Speaker's House Tour: *"Having booked our travel tickets (by coach In case the trains were on strike) we decided to go up to 'The Smoke' anyway. This was our first visit since before the pandemic - and that was for the AGM in the city. The sun shone all day, the coach trips both ways were excellent, a visit to Peter Jones was a bit expensive, lunch at 45 Jermyn Street was to die for, and a walk along Piccadilly and up The Burlington Arcade was sad - half the shops in the Arcade closed. Then a cup of tea in Regent Street, a walk down the Haymarket and into Trafalgar Square, perusing the art work on the fourth plinth, a bus down Whitehall and past Westminster Cathedral to Victoria Coach station and so back to Southsea. Altogether a good substitute for the Speaker's House - perhaps next year...."* Chris and Glenys Luff

Theatre: To Kill a Mockingbird - Wednesday 26th October

Harper Lee's enduring story of racial injustice and childhood innocence.

'Witness for the Prosecution' at County Hall – Thursday 3rd November

Leonard Vole stands accused of murdering a widow in order to inherit her wealth, and the stakes are high: convince the jury and the audience of his innocence, or face the hangman's noose. That is, after he's survived the shocking witness testimony. Agatha Christie keeps us guessing.

A Special "Thank You" to Pete

Pete Wells took over the role from Ros Patrick at the beginning of this year, seeking out and obtaining theatre tickets for all the West End shows, just as Ros did for many years – what a great job he is doing for our Retirees' Club. On behalf of all our members, a very big **THANK YOU** to Pete.

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 be printed from our website and must be received by the sponsor before your application can be considered.

PLEASE NOTE: There are 4 options available when booking tickets for any of the events:

- 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

Cezanne Exhibition on Thursday 12th January at 11:30am

Tate Modern, 53 Bankside, London SE1 9TG

Nearest station – Blackfriars (Southeastern and Thameslink trains, plus Circle and District line underground trains). London Bridge (on the Northern and Jubilee underground lines) is a maximum of 10 minutes from Tate Modern. You can also walk up the South Bank from Waterloo – it is a longer walk, but a pleasant one. Other underground stations that are nearby include Southwark on the Jubilee Line (10 minutes) and St Pauls on the Central Line (15 minutes).

Paul Cezanne (1839–1906) is one of the most highly regarded and enigmatic artists of the late 19th century. This exhibition at Tate Modern follows his progression using wonderful landscapes, still-lives and portraits around his home in the south of France and then his move to Paris. It focuses on the many tensions and contradictions in Cezanne's work, seeking to understand the artist in his own context, as an ambitious young painter proudly from the Mediterranean South, yet eager to make it in metropolitan Paris. Featuring many works shown for the first time in the UK, the exhibition follows his struggle between seeking official recognition and joining the emerging impressionists before relentlessly pursuing his own unique language. You will witness an artist wrestling with what it means to be a modern painter while remaining deeply sceptical about the world he lived in, from political unrest to a continually accelerating way of life.

IMPORTANT NOTE: the tickets for this exhibition are valid only for people of pensionable age.

Your committee contact for this event is Simon Russell

Cost: £20 per person (retiree and guest £40)

If you want to use **Online Payment**, Simon 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](#)

The tickets will be posted to you, but please note that if you are using online booking and online payment, there is no need to send a stamped addressed envelope. If you are sending a booking form and/or a cheque in the post, a stamped addressed envelope (which should be a minimum of 9"x 4½" or 220mm x 110mm) would be helpful.

Cut off: WHEN ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD

Les Misérables on Thursday 12th January 2023 at 2:30pm

Sondheim Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 6BA

Nearest underground stations – Piccadilly Circus (on the Piccadilly and Bakerloo lines) and Leicester Square (on the Piccadilly and Northern lines)

Les Misérables has one of the most recognised soundtracks in theatre history including classics like At the End of the Day, I Dreamed a Dream, One Day More, On My Own, Empty Chairs at Empty Tables, Bring Him Home and many, many more. After nearly 20 years working on the chain gang Jean Valjean is finally released on parole only to find that the yellow ticket he is required by law to display marks him as an outcast, an undesirable not to be trusted. As Valjean struggles to make his way in his new life he encounters the Bishop of Digne who gives him a chance to start again. Police Inspector Javert cannot let this man slip away, he is determined to bring Valjean to justice. As Valjean leads a new life under a new name, Javert is constantly looming around the corner and in the meantime revolution is in the air of Paris. Les Misérables has touched countless hearts with its tale of justice, injustice, love, redemption and revolution for over 35 years and is as popular today as when it first opened in the West End in 1985.

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

Cost: £50 per person (retiree and guest £100)
Full Price £85

If you want to use **Online Payment**, Pete 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](#)

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).

Cut off: WHEN ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD

Mamma Mia on Thursday 19th January 2023 at 3:00pm
Novello Theatre, Aldwych, London WC2B 4LD

Nearest underground station – Covent Garden on the Piccadilly line

The world's sunniest, most exhilarating smash-hit musical *Mamma Mia!* has been entertaining audiences for several years at London's Novello Theatre. Packed full of ABBA classics, such as "Honey, Honey", "Super Trouper", "Voulez-Vous", "Does Your Mother Know", amongst many others! Set on a Greek island, young Sophie prepares for her wedding whilst looking to invite her estranged father to the ceremony. Although Sophie does not know who he is, she does find her mother's diary, which can point her towards three very different men! A fantastically fun tale of love, lust and passion, set to the soundtrack of one of the world's biggest bands. Since premiering in London's West End over 22 years ago, this ultimate feel-good show has thrilled over 65 million people around the world with the magic of ABBA's timeless songs. This worldwide phenomenon has now been turned into two record-breaking movies – "Mamma Mia! The Movie" and "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again".

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

Cost: £35 per person (retiree and guest £70)
Full Price £57.50

If you want to use **Online Payment**, Pete 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](#)

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).

Cut off: WHEN ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD

Phantom of the Opera on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 2:30pm
Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QL

Nearest stations – Piccadilly Circus (Piccadilly & Bakerloo underground lines) and Charing Cross (National Rail, Bakerloo & Northern underground lines)

Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* has returned to its home, Her Majesty's Theatre and is now celebrating its 35th anniversary in London's West End. Experience the thrill of the West End's most haunting love story, starring double Olivier Award nominee Killian Donnelly as The Phantom, Lucy St. Louis as Christine Daaé and Matt Blaker as Raoul.

The Phantom of the Opera is widely considered one of the most beautiful and spectacular productions in history, playing to over 145 million people in 41 countries and 183 cities in 17 languages. Andrew Lloyd Webber's romantic, haunting and soaring score includes *Music of the Night*, *All I Ask of You*, *Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again*, *Masquerade* and the iconic title song.

Your committee contact for this event is Pete Wells

Cost: £38 per person (retiree and guest £76)
Full Price £89.50

If you want to use **Online Payment**, Pete 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](#)

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).

Cut off: WHEN ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD

FROM THE LIPS OF CHILDREN

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary." The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" A little kid said, "Verge." Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?" The kid said, "Well, you know, they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime. She would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us from E-mail".

WISE QUOTES

"The only mystery in life is why the kamikaze pilots wore helmets."

"The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits."

"At every party there are two kinds of people – those who want to go home and those who don't. The trouble is, they are usually married to each other."

"My opinions may have changed, but not the fact that I'm right."

"Have you noticed that all the people in favour of birth control are already born?"

"The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us."

"As a child my family's menu consisted of two choices: take it or leave it."

"If you live to be one hundred, you've got it made. Very few people die past that age"

HISTORICAL NEWS

For this edition of Retiree News, we are featuring an article that appeared in one of the first **IBM UK News** publications in 1969. For many years, high water and flooding have been a constant problem for the residents of Venice. If you have visited this amazing city, you will know what a unique place it is. Various solutions to this problem have been investigated in the past and in 1969, IBM took part in a project that looked at the option of "land reclamation". As we all know, Venice is still being impacted by the effects of flooding and as we look to the future, the sad reality is that global warming could make the problem significantly worse.

Tides Threaten Venice

Venice, city of churches and gondolas, is steadily sinking into the sea. The city could be destroyed by high tides in 20 years, reports an Italian government commission. IBM Italy has therefore joined with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, UNESCO and Italy's National Research Council in a project to save the canal city.

Their first task will be to collect precise data on the problems involved. Researchers will study the watersheds flowing into the Venice Lagoon, the structural condition of the city's buildings, and the geology of its subsoil. Aiding them will be IBM's new scientific centre at Venice. Using mathematical models, IBM specialists will simulate actual lagoon conditions, predict future conditions, and determine where land reclamation is most urgently needed. The information they develop will be sent to experts around the world for use in creating possible solutions.



YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN THE 2020's WHEN ...

1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses
6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your mobile to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries
7. Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen
8. Leaving the house without your mobile, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it
10. You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee
11. You start tilting your head sideways to smile
12. You're reading this and nodding and laughing
13. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message
14. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list
15. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list

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	retibmlon@outlook.com	01932-241207
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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

NEXT RETIREE NEWS

This will be published on **Wednesday 25th January 2023**. At present, we are still identifying events that might be advertised in the next edition of the Retiree News.

FINAL RESTINGS

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 Retiree News. For this edition, we do though have one final resting to report, sent to us by their family:

Nigel Cotton who died on Monday 18th April 2022

Booking Forms for Events

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

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:
Simon Russell, 111 St Margaret's Road, Twickenham, Middx TW1 2LH

Cezanne Exhibition

Tate Modern, 53 Bankside, London SE1 9TG

Thursday 12th January at 11:30am

@ £20 per person (retiree and guest £40)

Name (please print):		Personnel Number:	
E-Mail Address:			
Postal Address:		Postcode:	
Number of Tickets:	Amount £	Phone Number:	

Please indicate your payment method:-

If **paying by cheque**, please enter the cheque number:
If **paying online**, please enter the letters BACS:

Cut off: WHEN ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD

If you are sending this booking form (with or without a cheque) in the post, if you are able to include a stamped addressed envelope (which should be a minimum of 9"x 4½" or 220mm x 110mm) for the tickets, it would be helpful

Please return to:
Peter Wells, 7 Wayfaring Court, Safflower Lane, Harold Wood, RM3 0LQ

Les Misérables

Sondheim Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 6BA

Thursday 12th January 2023 at 2:30pm

@ £50 per person (retiree and guest £100)

Name (please print):		Personnel Number:	
E-Mail Address:			
Postal Address:		Postcode:	
Number of Tickets:	Amount £	Phone Number:	

Please indicate your payment method:-

If **paying by cheque**, please enter the cheque number:
If **paying online**, please enter the letters BACS:

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When paying for events by cheque, please send a separate cheque for each event

Please return to:

Peter Wells, 7 Wayfaring Court, Safflower Lane, Harold Wood, RM3 0LQ

Mamma Mia

Novello Theatre, Aldwych, London WC2B 4LD

Thursday 19th January 2023 at 3:00pm

@ £35 per person (retiree and guest £70)

Name (please print):		Personnel Number:	
E-Mail Address:			
Postal Address:		Postcode:	
Number of Tickets:	Amount £	Phone Number:	

Please indicate your payment method:-

If **paying by cheque**, please enter the cheque number:

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Please return to:

Peter Wells, 7 Wayfaring Court, Safflower Lane, Harold Wood, RM3 0LQ

Phantom of the Opera

Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QL

Wednesday 22nd February 2023 at 2:30pm

@ £38 per person (retiree and guest £76)

Name (please print):		Personnel Number:	
E-Mail Address:			
Postal Address:		Postcode:	
Number of Tickets:	Amount £	Phone Number:	

Please indicate your payment method:-

If **paying by cheque**, please enter the cheque number:

If **paying online**, please enter the letters BACS:

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stamped addressed envelope (which should be a minimum of 9"x 4½" or 220mm x 110mm).**

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