

# RETIREE NEWS

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

## **BOOK NOW**

We have four events that you can book tickets for:

- To Kill A Mockingbird at the Gielgud Theatre on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October
- Witness For The Prosecution at London County Hall on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November
- Christmas at Kew on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November
- A Christmas Carol at The Old Vic Theatre on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November

## **WHAT'S INSIDE THIS RETIREE NEWS?**

We recently advertised a short break to Potters New Resort in March 2023:

A few places are still available for this short break – details can be found on pages 8 and 9

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## **FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN**

Dear Member,

We express our sincerest condolences on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and our thoughts are with the Royal Family at this time of national mourning. For many of us, HM The Queen was the only Head of State we have ever known. She was the constant in our lives when around us there was so much change. In some ways she represented values and ideals that have become unpopular - that sense of duty to others, selflessness and putting one's own desires to one side. Yet, through the way she lived her life, she earned the highest respect of so many millions of people in the UK and around the world, whether or not they be monarchists.

Many of those values and ideals will be remembered as being similar to those IBM espoused in our working years. Sadly, many of these no longer seem to be recognised and our need to now operate as a Club independent of IBM is a reflection of this. But we will survive and move forward with your support in the same way that I'm sure we will see a new era evolve under the reign of King Charles III.

Since I last wrote on the future of our Club, IBM has ceased communicating with us, so we are proceeding with the intention of renaming ourselves "London IBM Retirees Club", although our bank account titles will for the moment remain unchanged. Having already drafted a new Constitution, we are now working on writing new Operating Guidelines and, once complete, we will arrange an Extraordinary General Meeting to which you will all be invited and approvals sought for our new Club's operation. We are already booking events for the rest of this year and next and you will see some of those advertised in this Retiree News. You can keep updated on our future planned activities by visiting our website ([www.retireelondonclub.org](http://www.retireelondonclub.org)) and looking at 'Latest Events'. However, you will note that those we announced recently are already heavily booked and quickly oversubscribed, so our message is **"Keep Alert!" and when event offers are announced, if they interest you, "Book Quickly!" or you will be disappointed.** As an example, our Short Break to Potters Five Lakes Resort in March 2023 was oversubscribed within 15 hours of the mailshot issue. 59 people have booked but we have managed to obtain some extra rooms and those are advertised in this Retiree News. **We will send separate mailshots for new events when opportunities arise, so please watch out for those in your in-boxes and keep an eye on your 'spam' or 'junk' folders too.**

My thanks go to all our committee members who continue to give so much of their time voluntarily for the benefit of us all and I hope you will continue to support us and enrol onto our new Club's database when the time comes for you to be invited to do so.

We are entering a new reign and a new Club with old and new friends - let's enjoy them!

Best wishes,

**David Sparrow**

## **FEEDBACK FROM RECENT CLUB EVENTS**

### **The London Walk: “Monasteries, Martyrs, Meat and Medicine” - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

It is always enjoyable to have someone explain historical facts especially when they are so knowledgeable and enthusiastic about their subject as were our guides. We also learnt of little known 'secrets' that would otherwise have been missed.

*“A big thank you to Keith and Sue (Andrews) for arranging such a lovely day. We thoroughly enjoyed the tour and always good to meet up with old colleagues. Our guide Julian was excellent and made the tour so interesting; he was also good fun. We certainly learnt a lot about that part of the City which we didn't know before”. Janet and Ian Moore*

*“As always, our guide was excellent, imparting so much knowledge, including many interesting or amusing anecdotes about the well-known people associated with the locality. I don't know how you managed it, but you picked a perfect day for a walking tour. We are very grateful for all the hard work you and the rest of the IBM Social Club put in arranging so many varied and enjoyable trips for us”. Afroza and Ash Ghanie*

### **Theatre: Life of Pi – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

It won't come as a surprise to learn that this show has won many, well deserved awards. Yann Martel's book, adapted for the theatre, was gripping and exciting. The combination of the fantastic special effects and animal magic (can't refer to them as just puppets!) was spellbinding.

### **Theatre: South Pacific – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August**

This production of the fabulous Broadway musical, “South Pacific” had all the classic songs we know so well. The talented cast brought it all to life - from the cheeky ‘There Is Nothin’ Like a Dame’ to the wonderful ‘Some Enchanted Evening’.

### **Eltham Palace Tour - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

Our splendid guide, Paul, gave us a detailed talk and tour of Eltham Palace and imparted much knowledge of its history. The original palace was given to Edward II in 1305 and Henry VIII spent part of his childhood there. In 1933, Stephen Courtauld and his wife Virginia obtained a 99-year lease on the palace site and they created a modern home which was internally decorated in the Art Deco style.

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## **NEW PROCESS FOR ADVERTISING THEATRE TICKETS**

With the removal of funding from IBM, the availability of funds to procure theatre tickets in advance will be severely restricted in the future. In addition, the possibility of being left with unsold tickets is a risk the club can no longer accept. Therefore, a new process for advertising theatre and exhibition tickets to our club members has been developed which removes the burden on club funds and mitigates the risk of being left with unsold tickets.

The club has always had sufficient funds to make advanced bulk purchases of theatre tickets and then advertise them in the bi-monthly Retiree News. When we submit an order to a ticket agency for the bulk purchase of tickets, the agency expects us to pay for the tickets within approximately three weeks, therefore we would normally have to complete the purchase of tickets **before** they were advertised to our members. In future, as soon as the club has placed an order with the ticket agency, a mailshot will be sent out via email advertising the tickets. Our members will be given three weeks in which to respond and order their tickets. If the club receives insufficient requests for tickets, it will cancel the order with the ticket agency (and inform our members). If the club receives more requests than the number of tickets ordered, it will ask the agency if they can supply additional tickets at the same price.

One of the benefits of this new process is that the club can offer tickets for a wider range of shows, musicals, plays etc. to our members without the risk of unsold tickets. In the past, your committee have been cautious about buying tickets for some of the more unusual shows/plays, but this new process removes that concern.

## 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 before your application can be considered.

### To Kill A Mockingbird on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 2:00pm

**Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 6AR**

**Nearest underground stations** – Piccadilly Circus (Piccadilly and Bakerloo lines), Leicester Square (Piccadilly and Northern lines) or Charing Cross (National Rail, Bakerloo and Northern lines)

This new adaptation of the classic novel was initially performed on Broadway in December 2018 and was an instant success, earning an impressive 9 Tony Award nominations. It has now made the journey to the West End opening this year at the Gielgud Theatre. Harper Lee's Pulitzer-winning novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* was on the top of the banned book list for many years and tells the story of a young Scout and her father Atticus Finch, a lawyer tasked with defending a local, Tom Robinson, who is accused of rape. The novel explores justice and racial tension in a small Southern town in the USA, and is one of the best-selling novels of all-time.

The book has been adapted for the stage by Aaron Sorkin and Harper Lee's story of racial injustice has sold 45 million copies worldwide, with 2020 marking the 60th anniversary of its publication. The cast for the West End production includes *Richard Cole* in the lead role of Atticus Finch, *Gwyneth Keyworth* as Scout Finch and *Harry Redding* as Jem Finch.

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

Cost: £59 per person (retiree and guest £118)  
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 [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**

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### Witness For The Prosecution on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 2:30pm

**London County Hall, Belvedere Street, London SE1 7PB**

**Nearest stations** – Waterloo (National Rail and Bakerloo, Jubilee & Northern lines) or Westminster (District and Circle lines with a walk across Westminster Bridge)

Step inside the magnificent surroundings of London County Hall (located on London's South Bank) and experience the intensity and drama of Agatha Christie's gripping story of justice, passion and betrayal in a unique courtroom setting. This new production of *Witness for the Prosecution* is directed by Lucy Bailey and will place the audience in the centre of the action within the courtroom where we are summoned for jury service at a trial in which Leonard Vole is accused of murdering a widow, Emily French, a wealthy older woman, to inherit her wealth. The stakes are high – will Leonard survive the shocking witness testimony, will he be able to convince the jury and you of his innocence and escape the hangman's noose?

Unaware that he was a married man, Miss French had made him her principal heir, casting suspicion on Leonard. When his wife, Romaine, agrees to testify, she does so not in Leonard's defence but as a witness for the prosecution. Romaine's decision is part of a complicated plan to free her husband. She first gives the prosecution its strongest evidence, then fabricates new evidence that discredits her testimony, believing, correctly as it turns out, that her impeachment as an unfaithful wife would improve Leonard's chances of acquittal far more than her testimony for the defence. According to her autobiography, this was one of Agatha Christie's favourites of all her works, stating: "One night at the theatre stands out in my memory especially; the first night of *Witness for the Prosecution*."

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

Cost: £43 per person (retiree and guest £86)  
Full Price £57.50

**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 [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 4 1/2" or 220mm x 110mm).**

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

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**Christmas at Kew on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 5.40pm**

**Kew Gardens, Kew, Richmond TW9 3AE**

**Nearest stations** – Kew Gardens station served by the District line and London Overground;  
Richmond station served by the District line and South West trains

Kew's botanical gardens are a Unesco World Heritage site located next to the river Thames. Although we have previously organised club visits to see the amazing gardens, this year we thought you might like to enjoy "Christmas at Kew". Kew's magical winter trail will light up the evening sky in the gardens, where you will be able to enjoy the after-dark festivities as you discover sparkling tunnels of light, dancing lakeside reflections and trees drenched in jewel-like colour.

You will be able to enjoy a journey through the mesmerising flickering flames in the fire garden and spot larger-than-life illuminations. Along the route, delicious independent street food vendors will offer tasty festive delights, from hot food and sweet treats to spiced winter warmers and hot chocolate.

On arrival at Kew Gardens, you can enter at Victoria Gate (the recommended gate), Brentford Gate or Elizabeth Gate. The various options for travelling there are described below.

**Travelling to Kew Gardens on public transport:**

From Kew Gardens station, it is a 500m walk to Victoria Gate. From Richmond station, take the 65 bus from opposite the station to Victoria Gate.

**Travelling to Kew Gardens by car:**

The postcode for each of the 3 gates are as follows - Victoria Gate is TW9 3JR, Elizabeth Gate is TW9 3AB, and Brentford Gate is TW9 3AF. The nearest car park is the Kew Ferry Lane car park which is located close to Brentford Gate and is a Pay & Display car park (if you wish to use this car park, you may want to buy in advance of your visit a reserved parking ticket for £10). An alternative option is the Old Deer Car Park (TW9 2AZ) in Richmond on the A316 Chertsey Road (but you will then need to walk to Richmond station and take the 65 bus to Victoria Gate). For further information about parking options, go to: <https://www.kewgardentickets.co.uk/kew-gardens-parking>

**Your committee contact for this event is Simon Russell**

Cost: £19.50 per person (retiree and guest £39)

**Booking and payment options available for this event:-**

- Use **Online Payment** and send your booking form and stamped addressed envelope by post
- Send your booking form, cheque and stamped addressed envelope by post

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

**For this event we have paper tickets, therefore please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your booking form**

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

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**A Christmas Carol on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 1:00pm**

**The Old Vic Theatre, The Cut, London SE1 8NB**

**Nearest stations** – Waterloo (National Rail and Bakerloo, Jubilee & Northern lines) or Southwark (Jubilee line)

Matthew Warchus' big-hearted, smash hit production of Charles Dickens' immortal classic *A Christmas Carol* returns to The Old Vic for a limited festive season, joyously adapted for the stage by Jack Thorne, who wrote the stage adaption of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. The play follows Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas Eve. He is visited by three ghosts, in turn showing him either scenes from his past, a view of the present or a peek into the future. Consequently, he's forced to re-evaluate his priorities. Can Scrooge do this and take stock of his life in time for Christmas morning? In the story, the Cratchits make the most of the little they have while Scrooge is confronted by his misery and lonely life of greed. After he is visited by his otherworldly visitors, we hope that change does not come too late.

Jack Thorne's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* is now a London institution. It premiered at the Old Vic in 2017, starring Rhys Ifans as Ebenezer Scrooge and immediately became a must-see piece of festive theatre. *A Christmas Carol* has returned to the Old Vic every year since and is a seasonal story of redemption which is known and loved around the world.

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

Cost: £56.50 per person (retiree and guest £113)  
Full Price £67.50

**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 [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 would be helpful.**

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

**WHOSE THE INTELLIGENT ONE?**

Two engineers are standing at the base of a flagpole, looking puzzled, when a young woman walks past and asks what they are doing. "We're supposed to find the height of this flagpole, but don't have a ladder," one explains. The woman takes a spanner out of her handbag, loosens the bolts securing the pole, lays it on the ground and measures it as 21ft. "Typical woman," says one of the engineers as she walks away. "We ask for the height and she gives us the length!"

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ACROSS THE POND**

**NOT THE SHARPEST TOOL IN THE SHED!** In Modesto, CA, Steven Richard King was arrested for trying to hold up a Bank of America branch without a weapon. King used a thumb and a finger to simulate a gun. Unfortunately, he failed to keep his hand in his pocket.

**DID I SAY THAT?** Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a line-up. When detectives asked each man in the line-up to repeat the words: 'Give me all your money or I'll shoot', the man shouted, 'that's not what I said!'

**WHAT A REWARD!** AT&T fired President John Walter after nine months, saying he lacked intellectual leadership. He received a \$26 million severance package. Perhaps it's not Walter who's lacking intelligence.



## HISTORICAL NEWS

For the past year, we have been including historical articles in the Retiree News that give us a stark reminder of how technology has changed during that time. The article we are including in this Retiree News was from the IBM UK News that was published on **21<sup>st</sup> May 1971**, and it is an excellent example of this. Do you remember the “Pager” (also called a message receiver), which IBM Customer Engineers carried with them while at work. IBM was one of the first companies to use them and as the years progressed, CE’s were issued with two-way radios and more advanced Pagers. Today we have the mobile phone, a world away from the technology of just 50 years ago. I hope you enjoy reading the following article entitled **Radio Link Speeds CE Service**.

### **Service calls from customers can be flashed to engineers in the London area in seconds following the installation of a radio network linking DPCE district head quarters at Basinghall Street with the field.**

The unique ‘one way’ link, manufactured by Motorola, is the first of its kind to be installed in the UK. The 200 or so CEs in London District are on a moment’s call. wherever they are linked by pocket radio receiver to the call despatch centre. The ‘station’ transmits from high up on the 14th Floor of the Basinghall Street building and is responsible for passing on all messages to CEs in the field. Station controller is John Morton. the call despatch supervisor.

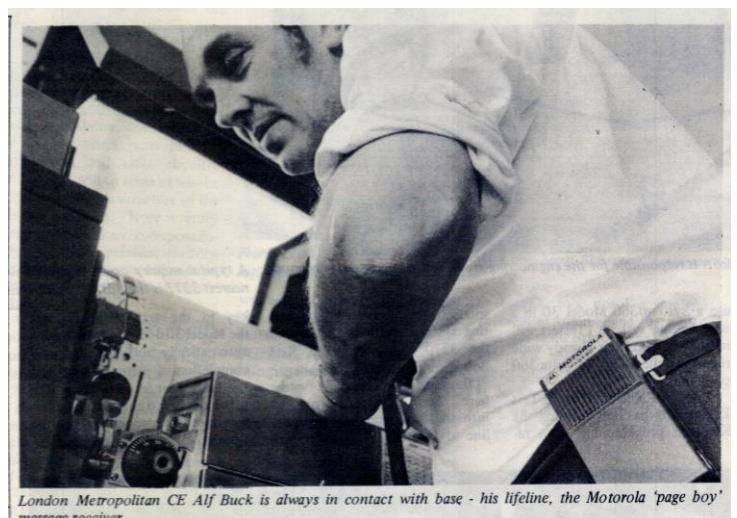
It’s planned that the system will replace the telephone as the main message passing medium for the eight call despatchers in London district, who handle up to 4000 customer calls a month. Each call has to be relayed to one of the CEs working in the City of London or West End areas. "In the past, we sometimes had trouble tracing an engineer by phone. If he was in a large location he could be in any one of many places. If he had left that location we might have to wait some time before he arrived at his next scheduled stop," said John. "In an emergency this could prove very inconvenient."

Now each CE, field manager and branch manager carries a message receiver at all times. The call despatcher is able to ‘page’ each person individually with a warning tone followed by the message. The CE is not able to return the message, having no transmitter. “The one way system keeps communication time to a minimum” added John, “and frees the CE from continually phoning in his movements.” The one way procedure was a headache to begin with. “It was always a worry to know whether the CE had got the message,” explained call despatcher Jim Mc-Guigan. However experience has shown that the system has been almost 100 percent successful.

“We still maintain scheduled telephone contacts with CEs, but we are no longer dependant on them” said Jim. The Basinghall Street network primarily serves the London area, backed up by an unmanned relay transmitter on the roof of the Royal Lancaster Hotel, Bayswater. But it is capable of transmitting up to 20 miles and can be picked up in the car or deep in an installation. DPCE services manager Peter Deal, who is responsible for the project, can pick up a signal at his Brentwood, Essex home.

“The system has only been on the air for two months, but has already proved its worth,” said Peter. “It was invaluable during the decimalisation changeover, when CEs were really on the go.”

The radio network generated much interest from other district organisations, who are evaluating the idea of contacting their CEs over the ether rather than by the telegraph.



London Metropolitan CE Alf Buck is always in contact with base - his lifeline, the Motorola 'page boy' message receiver.

## Short Break to Potters New Resort at Five Lakes in Essex

Monday 20<sup>th</sup>- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (4 nights)

Potters Resorts is a family-run concern. It has been operating very successfully from its base in Hopton-on-Sea for several years and has a very good reputation. Their Five Lakes resort in Essex is newly opened and we have an opportunity for 4 nights (5 days) visit in March. All meals and most drinks are included in the package. Although we have considered going to Potters before as an alternative to Warners we chose not to as they seemed a little too remote, being near Great Yarmouth. However, they have now opened a new resort near Colchester and Mersea in Essex and are giving us an opportunity to experience it at lower than normal rates early in 2023. The week on offer also includes a free-to-enter bowls competition on their lovely indoor rinks. Their website is [Potters Five Lakes Resort](#) and [this](#) is their latest promotional video.

The offer we have for you is detailed below and we hope it will appeal. We reserved 50 places but these were all taken within 15 hours of our recent mailshot. However, we have managed to secure a few more rooms and bookings for these will be taken on a first-come-first-served basis, with deposits of **£50 per person required by 6th October 2022** latest. The main difference from Warners is that this is full board and drinks inclusive (see below for details) with the opportunity to take a packed lunch out with you if you choose to go exploring on any day.

The offer includes:

- 5 days (4 nights) from Monday 20th March 2023
- Full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus late supper, if you can make it!)
- Drinks inclusive, as described below
- Numerous activities, quizzes, etc
- 9- and 18-hole golf courses (18-hole course is an extra charge as it is run by the local Golf Club)
- A free-to-enter bowls competition
- Lovely spa
- Nightly entertainment

With **Drinks Inclusive**, you get the majority of well-known wines, beers, spirits, soft drinks, coffee, tea, etc, with certain higher-rated brands also available on a Premier list at extra charge.

**Accommodation and Prices** - Most rooms that we had reserved have now been taken and the remaining rooms are in the village which is adjacent to the hotel. Those rooms are Standard Premier Rooms with zip & link bed, configurable as either double or twin and with walk-in shower at £459 per person. Two of these rooms can be booked for single occupancy which incurs a supplementary cost of £100 (usually £200).

The price of £459 includes a £5 per person Cancellation Protection Cover for each guest as outlined in Potters Groups Terms and Conditions. It is a requirement that the whole group takes out Cancellation Protection at this price. This allows name changes without charge. Where a cancellation is made due to illness, bereavement or redundancy and a valid claim form is received, Potters Resorts will refund all monies paid, retaining just £5 per person; deposit payments are therefore also covered. These prices are around £100 pp less than Potters' normal charges for a 5-day, full board, drinks inclusive break.

For those trying to compare this offer with a similar Warners holiday at the same time, the rate per person is around £40-£50 higher but provides full-board instead of half-board, drinks inclusive and has many activities available too, so we think it's a great opportunity to experience something similar yet also very different! If you want to join us, please send us your booking plus your deposit (at £50 per person) by 6th October 2022 at the latest.

Completed paper booking forms (and cheque, if you are paying your deposit by cheque) should be posted to: **David Sparrow, 62 Eton Avenue, East Barnet, Herts. EN4 8TY.**



**Booking options available for this short break:-**

- 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

We recommend you use **Online Booking** - to display and complete the booking form, click [HERE](#)  
If you wish to use a paper booking form, this can be found on page 13.

If you want to use **Online Payment**, David Sparrow 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.

**Cut off date: THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

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**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**

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

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**IS IT TIME TO CONFESS?**

A new priest, born and raised in Newfoundland, comes to serve in an Ontario city parish and is nervous about hearing confessions, so he asks the older priest to sit in on his sessions. The new priest hears a couple of confessions, then the old priest asks him to step out of the confessional for a few suggestions.

The old priest suggests, "Cross your arms over your chest, and rub your chin with one hand and try saying things like 'yes, I see,' and 'yes, go on,' and 'I understand.'" The new priest crosses his arms, rubs his chin with one hand and repeats all the suggested remarks to the old priest. The old priest says, "Now, don't you think that's a little better than slapping your knee and saying, "Wow, what happened next?"

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**NEXT RETIREE NEWS**

This will be published on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**. At present, we are still identifying events that might be advertised in the next edition of the Retiree News.

## VAGARIES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Wonder why the word "Funeral" starts with FUN?  
How come Lipstick doesn't do what it says?  
How do you get off a non-stop flight?  
How come Noses run and Feet smell?  
Why do they call it a TV 'set' when there is only one?  
What are you vacating when you go on a "Vacation"?  
If a Vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a Humanitarian eat?  
Why is it called "Rush Hour" when traffic moves at its slowest then?  
Why do we put cups in the "Dishwasher" and the dishes in the "Cupboard"?  
Why are goods sent by \*Ship\* called CARGO, and those sent by \*Truck\* SHIPMENT?



## LIFE GOT IN THE WAY!

Life is meant for living, that's what people say,  
But sometimes things go pear-shaped and life gets in the way.  
So many calls I meant to make, such a lot to say,  
But things just seemed to happen - and life got in the way.  
All the cakes I meant to bake, the letters still to write,  
The endless lists of things to do were buried out of sight.  
And all my good intentions were for another day  
It's really so frustrating - but life got in the way!!

So if you're on my list of those still waiting for a letter,  
I promise in the future I'll try to do much better.  
I'll answer all my emails, I'll catch up with the texts.  
I'm sorry if you're angry, annoyed or feeling vexed.  
I don't mean to offend you – you may have to wait a while  
But one day I'll get round to it, so in the meantime - smile!  
And think of me still struggling and living day to day  
It's the same old problem - life just gets in the way!



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## FINAL RESTINGS

IBM is not currently informing us of members who have passed away, therefore we are unable to report any in this Retiree News.

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## Booking Forms for Events

Please remember that booking forms can also be printed from our website  
[www.retireelondonclub.org](http://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).***

<i>Please return to:</i> <b>Peter Wells, 7 Wayfaring Court, Safflower Lane, Harold Wood, RM3 0LQ</b>			
<b>To Kill A Mockingbird</b> <b>Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 6AR</b> <b>Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 2:00pm</b> @ £59 per person (retiree and guest £118)			
Name (please print):		Personnel Number:	
E-Mail Address:			
Number of Tickets:	Amount £	Phone Number:	
<b>Please indicate your payment method:-</b> If <b>paying by cheque</b> , please enter the cheque number: If <b>paying online</b> , please enter the letters BACS:			
<b>Cut off: WHEN ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD</b> 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).			

<i>Please return to:</i> <b>Peter Wells, 7 Wayfaring Court, Safflower Lane, Harold Wood, RM3 0LQ</b>			
<b>Witness For The Prosecution</b> <b>London County Hall, Belvedere Street, London SE1 7PB</b> <b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 2:30pm</b> @ £43 per person (retiree and guest £86)			
Name (please print):		Personnel Number:	
E-Mail Address:			
Number of Tickets:	Amount £	Phone Number:	
<b>Please indicate your payment method:-</b> If <b>paying by cheque</b> , please enter the cheque number: If <b>paying online</b> , please enter the letters BACS:			
<b>Cut off: WHEN ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD</b> 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).			

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

<i>Please return to:</i> <b>Simon Russell, 111 St Margaret's Road, Twickenham, Middx TW1 2LH</b>			
<b>Christmas at Kew</b> <b>Kew Gardens, Kew, Richmond TW9 3AE</b> <b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 5.40pm</b> @ £19.50 per person (retiree and guest £39)			
Name (please print):		Personnel Number:	
E-Mail Address:			
Number of Places:	Amount £	Phone Number:	
<b>Please indicate your payment method:-</b> If <b>paying by cheque</b> , please enter the cheque number: If <b>paying online</b> , please enter the letters BACS:			
<b>Cut off: WHEN ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD</b> For this event we have paper tickets, therefore please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your booking form			

<i>Please return to:</i> <b>Peter Wells, 7 Wayfaring Court, Safflower Lane, Harold Wood, RM3 0LQ</b>			
<b>A Christmas Carol</b> <b>The Old Vic Theatre, The Cut, London SE1 8NB</b> <b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 1:00pm</b> @ £56.50 per person (retiree and guest £113)			
Name (please print):		Personnel Number:	
E-Mail Address:			
Number of Tickets:	Amount £	Phone Number:	
<b>Please indicate your payment method:-</b> If <b>paying by cheque</b> , please enter the cheque number: If <b>paying online</b> , please enter the letters BACS:			
<b>Cut off: WHEN ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD</b> 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 would be helpful (which should be a minimum of 9"x 4½" or 220mm x 110mm).			

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

**Booking Form**  
**Short Break to Potters New Resort at Five Lakes in Essex**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (4 nights)**  
**Please complete ALL PARTS**

Your Name (title, first name, surname)

.....  
Guest's Name (title, first name, surname)

.....  
Your address

.....  
E-mail Address .....

Contact Telephone Number .....

**If you have friends who wish to join us, please print and complete an additional booking form**

Who can we contact in emergency whilst you are away?

Name..... Phone Number.....

Do you have any special dietary requirements?

.....  
Do you have any mobility issues? .....

Would you like to enter the Potters free-to-enter bowls competition – YES / NO

**Could you give a lift to others living in your area? YES / NO**

**Accommodation** - Most rooms that we had reserved have now been taken and the remaining rooms are in the village which is adjacent to the hotel. Those rooms are **Standard Premier Rooms** with zip & link bed, configurable as either double or twin and with walk-in shower at **£459 per person**. Please indicate how you would like the bed configured – DOUBLE / TWIN

Two of these rooms can be booked for single occupancy which incurs a supplementary cost of £100 (usually £200) – would you like one of these rooms – YES / NO

Payment of your deposit can be by cheque or by online banking (our preference is for online payment rather than by cheque). For **Online Payment**, David 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 wish to use **Online Payment** (at £50 pp), please indicate: YES / NO

Alternatively enclose your cheque number ..... as your deposit for ..... people @ £50.00 pp, payable to **IBM Retired Employees' Club (London)**, or you can abbreviate to **IBM Ret Emp Club**.

Please send your completed booking form (and cheque, if you are paying your deposit by cheque) to:  
**David Sparrow, 62 Eton Avenue, East Barnet, Herts. EN4 8TY**

**Cut off date: THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022**