

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

We have to start this newsletter with the sad news that Margaret Currie, our Treasurer of many years has passed away after a long illness.

Margaret started her career with BEA in 1960 and worked as a Supervisor in Engineering Finance and served for 35 years retiring in 1995. After retiring from British Airways she did not put her feet up but worked for the BA Benefit fund before joining Plane Savers. Finally Margaret then became Treasurer for the Retired Staff Association where she not only kept their finances in good order she also kept the committee in good order! Margaret did not suffer fools easily and was a stickler for doing everything by the book. Margaret continued to work for the RSA over the five years she was ill even whilst undergoing sometimes very painful treatment without complaint.

Her determination to carry on throughout her illness was amazing. Margaret will be sadly missed by all members of the Retired Staff Association.

We had a very successful break at Warner's Bembridge, Isle of Wight in November, followed by a Christmas Singalong at the Royal Festival Hall.

We had what we thought was our last Christmas lunch at the Runnymede Hotel in December. The Runnymede is to become a Warner's hotel and will be reopening some time in 2024. So many people members expressed disappointment that we were not going to continue with the Christmas lunch but we are now pleased to tell you that we have now booked the "**Holiday Inn at Shepperton**" for December 3rd. Further details nearer the date.

Unfortunately due to lack of interest our holiday to Shropshire has been cancelled, those who had booked have expressed their disappointment but we had no option.

Somerset Holiday 12/16 June 2023.

The itinerary is as follows :

Depart in the morning – exact time to be confirmed. A stop in Bath for free time and lunch break before going on to Weston Super Mare. Our hotel is Smith's Hotel,

Weston Super Mare, hotel website <https://smithshotel.uk.com> The hotel is on the seafront with a road to cross to the beach and around half a mile walk to the pier. The rooms have en suite bathrooms with walk in showers. There are a few rooms with baths so these will be on request.

We will be on a half board basis with portorage on arrival and departure. Welcome tea/coffee on arrival. A full cooked breakfast, dinner is a 3-course menu with 3 choices per course and vegetarian option, choice made at breakfast from second day. Jugs of water on the table for dinner, tea/coffee after dinner. The hotel does have a lift.

Live musical entertainments on three nights.

Day 2 – a guided tour of Wells Cathedral and time to explore Cheddar before returning to the hotel. Wells Cathedral is 850 years old and was built in the Gothic style After our visit there we will go to Cheddar which is famous for its caves.

Day 3 – At leisure in Weston Super Mare.

Day 4 – Journey one way on the West Somerset Railway from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead. We will then transfer by coach from Minehead to Dunster. The Mediaeval town of Dunster is set within the Exmoor National Park. Here you will be at leisure.

Day 5 – after checking out of our hotel we will stop for a lunch stop (not included) in Marlborough. Marlborough is the archetypical market town and is mentioned in the Domesday book.

We do use our own coach company which gives us a degree of flexibility.

If you would like to go ring the office on **0208 513 2525/2010** or e mail norma.rhys@ba.com for a booking form, complete the form and send with your deposit for **£100** per person. Total cost will be **£499** for members and **£510** for non-members. Single supplement **£60** for the duration unfortunately this is fixed by the hotel and beyond our control. Parking has been arranged at Bedfont Football Club,

Day Trips

We have arranged a **Country and Western matinee on the Tereza Joanne**. The Tereza Joanne was launched in 1997. The vessel started life as a crane barge built in Eastern Europe just after World War 11 and eventually found its way to the UK. Following a complete refurbishment it is now permanently moored on Albert Island East London offering a unique floating venue. It is a family business

We will leave Bedfont Football Club, Hatton Road, TW4 9QT, entrance opposite the Duke of Wellington at 0900. We have to leave early as the traffic is horrendous going through London now, speed limit in Central London is 20 miles per hour. The event starts at 1130. We should be back in Bedfont at approximately 1730/1800 depending on the traffic.

Whether you are a line dancer, or two stepper, or just like listening to live music, enjoy an afternoon with Pete George. Pete George is a talented singer and musician who plays keyboard, ukulele, banjo and guitar. All the old favourites are here, Willy Nelson, Kenny Rogers and Johnny Cash and more. Those of you brave enough to dress in country and western gear are encouraged.

Lunch will be corn fed chicken breast, creamy mashed potatoes, French beans and Chef's gravy, with a dessert of apple pie and custard, coffee/tea. There is a vegetarian/vegan choice of vegan pie, creamy mash and vegan gravy. If you choose the vegan there is a choice of fruit salad for a dessert this has to be ordered in advance. Tables sit 8 or 9 so if you wish to sit with friends please indicate this on your booking forms,

Ring 0208 513 2525/2010 or e mail norma.rhys@ba.com for a booking form. Price will be **£63.00** for members, **£64.00** for non-members to include coach, gratuities plus parking, a two course lunch and entertainment.

1130 Arrive at the Tereza Joanne
1200 Main course lunch is served
1300 First part of the show
1400 Dessert is served with tea/coffee
1445 Second part of the show
1530 Head for home

We have a special offer to see Oklahoma for the matinee performance to see this wonderful show on Wednesday 19 July at the Wyndham Theatre.

Those of us of a certain age will remember the film starring Gordon McCrae, Shirley Jones, Gene Nelson and Gloria Graham. Songs from this show include of course Oklahoma, People Will Say We're in Love, Oh What a Beautiful Morning, Surrey With

a Fringe on Top, and I Cain't Say No.

The seats we have obtained have a face value of **£88** and are in the stalls and we have them for **£49.50** plus coach.

We will depart from Bedfont Football Club at 1100, the show starts at 1400 and leaving early will enable you to get some lunch, or have a wander around Charing Cross Road. The show should finish around 1700 and we will leave to return straight to Bedfont Club. Bedfont Football Club is situated in Hatton Road TW14 9QT entrance opposite the Duke of Wellington Pub.

The price is **£69.00** for members to include coach to and from the theatre for members and **£70.00** for non-members.

If you would like to go phone the office on **0208 513 2525/2010** or email norma.rhys@ba.com

Our Association Days are at Bedfont Football Club the third Monday in the month from 1400 to approximately 1530. Catch up with old friends and enjoy a cup of tea and cake. In May we will be celebrating the King's Coronation at our Association Day, we will have music so if you live near come and join us.