

Retired Staff Association

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

Lighter nights are on the way and the RSA have been busy putting together a programme of events for our members. We will be adding to events over the coming weeks so please look at our website.

We continue to meet at Bedfont Football Club, Hatton Road, TW14 9QT on the third Monday of the month 1400 to 1600 where you can meet old colleagues and enjoy a cup of tea and cake and maybe a quiz, or bingo and on occasions we have a Speaker. Everyone is welcome.

Unfortunately, our trips are getting more expensive – what isn't! Which is beyond our control, but we do try to get group rates where we can.

We had a successful Christmas lunch at the Holiday Inn Shepperton in December, with an excellent lunch and entertainment. We might be “getting on a bit” but the dance floor was full all afternoon. We have booked the Holiday Inn again for a Christmas lunch on Sunday 8th December. Full details later in the year,

We have booked “The Best of Broadway” at the Holiday Inn, Felix Lane, Shepperton, TW17 8NP on 16th May.

The programme is as follows:

- 1015 Doors open.
- 1030 Arrive for Tea/Coffee and Pastries
- 1100 Entertainers will lead the sing-along.
- 1130 Broadway Show Part 1 - The entertainment begins followed by a fun quiz.
- 1230 Enjoy a delicious three course set menu lunch (details as under)
- 1400 Charity raffle draw and a prize for the best dressed guest (not obligatory to dress up)
- 1415 On with the show Part 2 back to the dance floor or relax at your table for the second half of the show.
- 1500 Carriages

The menu for the lunch is:

- 1 Wild Mushroom and Caramelised Onion Tart with Roquette and Balsamic Glaze
- 2 Ham Hock and Pea Terrine, Ciabatta Crute Golden Piccalilli with Crunchy Mixed leaves

MAIN

- 1 French Trimmed Lemon Thyme Infused Pan Roasted Chicken Breast, Fondant Potato, Spinach and Asparagus Spears

- 2 Butternut Squash Wellington, Fondant Potato, Spinach and Asparagus Spears finished with Wild Mushroom Jus

DESSERT

- 1 Chocolate Coconut Slice with Raspberry Sorbet
- 2 Zesty Lemon Tart with Raspberry Coulis and Rich Clotted Cream

The cost of the afternoon entertainment plus lunch will be **£46.00** per person. The Holiday Inn is cashless so you will need your debit card to pay for drinks.

If you would like to go you can download a booking form from our website or ring the office on Thursday morning on **0208 513 2525/2010**

The next event is on 20 June on board the Tereza Joanne moored at the Royal Docks in London

Billed as a 50's 60's and 70's Golden Oldies afternoon.

We will leave Bedfont Football Club at 0930 to make our way to King George V Dock for 1130. We have to allow quite a long time to get through London with the 20 mile an hour limit plus London traffic.

	Arrive 1130 for Noon
1200	Main course lunch is served.
1300	First half of 50's 60's 70's show
1400	Dessert and Coffee/Tea is served.
1445	Second half of the show
1530	Head for home.

The entertainment is provided by Pete George who knows how to bring a party. A great singer, keyboard man and guitarist this is a fun afternoon exploring the best music ever.

The menu for lunch is:

French trimmed Free Range and Corn Fed Chicken Breast. Creamy Mashed Potato, Green Beans Chef's Gravy.

Dessert is Raspberry and White Chocolate Cheesecake with Cream.
Fresh fruit salad with cream for gluten free dessert (pre ordered)

Vegetarian and gluten main meals are available but must be pre booked. We are waiting to hear what this option is. Tea and coffee

Tables are round for 8 or 9 people so if you wish to sit with anyone in particular, please put this on your booking form

If you would like to go you can download a booking form from our website or phone the office on Thursday on 0208 513 2525/2010. **Price is £64 for members and £65 for non-members** which includes coach to and from the venue, entertainment, lunch, plus gratuities.

A holiday to West Wales has been organised 8/12 September.

We will depart from Bedfont Football Club at around 0900 (exact time to be confirmed) to make our way to our hotel in West Wales.

Our hotel is the Ivy Bush Royal Hotel, Carmarthen, website www.lvybushroyal.co.uk. On arrival we will have a welcome tea/coffee whilst our cases are taken to our room. We are on a half board basis with full cooked breakfast, 3 course menu with 3 choices per course, plus a vegetarian option Choice made at dinner. Tables are 4 and 6 in the main restaurant. If you wish to sit with anyone, please note this on the booking form. Tea/coffee after dinner. Entertainment will be on 2 nights. The Ivy Bush Hotel was a favourite retreat for Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton. The hotel is on three floors and has a lift to every floor.

The hotel only has 3 rooms with walk in showers and this is on request. Please state this on the booking form but with only 3 available we cannot guarantee.

On our way to Carmarthen, we will have a lunch stop in Cardiff.

- Monday we will visit the Gower Peninsular. The Gower Peninsular was the UK's first Area of Outstanding Beauty 67 years ago. Mumbles marks the beginning of the Gower Peninsular and is a well-loved area of Swansea. There is a lighthouse built in 1794 and a Victorian Pier. It really is a beautiful area.
- Tuesday we will go on a return journey on the Gwili Steam Railway. Gwili Railway is one of the most picturesque, preserved lines set in beautiful countryside with abundant wildlife and follows the Gwili River on a steady uphill journey. In the afternoon you will be free in Aberystwyth.
- Wednesday we will have a day tour to Tenby which will include a boat ride to Caldey Island. Caldey Island lies cradled in the magnificent South Pembrokeshire coastline and is one of Britain's Holy Islands. The Cistercian monks of Caldey continue a tradition which began in Celtic times. More than a thousand years of prayer and quiet living has made this remote and beautiful island a haven of tranquillity and peace. The monks and islanders are pleased to welcome visitors.

If you do not wish to go on any of the excursions, you can spend the day in Carmarthen. Carmarthen is the county town of Carmarthenshire lying on the river Towy 8 miles from its estuary in Carmarthen Bay. There is an indoor market, and the hotel is within walking distance of the shopping centre.

- Thursday after checking out of the hotel we will have a lunch stop in Laycock a beautiful National Trust Village in the Cotswolds before making our way back to Bedfont Football Club. We should arrive back there early evening.

The cost will be **£499 for members and £509 non-members**.

There are 4 true single rooms without a supplement, we also have 5 double rooms for sole use of a single person which has a supplement of **£116** per room. This figure is beyond our control and is fixed by the hotel. As we always state if you can find someone to share with this will give you a better chance of getting on the trip. Single rooms are always at a premium. The price does include all gratuities except anything you would like to leave for the staff who make up your room.

You can download a booking form from our website or ring the office on Thursday on **0208 513 2525/2010**.

Don't forget to check our website for additional events.