

Chairman's Chat

I am pleased to report that we have recently received a new "Lloyds TSB Retirement Association Guidelines" informing us that we are a continuing link between the Bank and retired staff. The only alteration I can find to the previous "Guidelines" is that whereas the annual subsidy would be reviewed "Annually" in future it will be reviewed. We were also informed that the bank had agreed to increase the annual subsidy by 50p for eligible members (i.e. those who attend at least one event per annum) and we have just received a back dated payment of around £100. Your committee being a collection of old codgers (male & female) decided that this could be best spent on a lunch "down the pub". Unfortunately, it did not quite cover the cost of sending and invitation to all members!!!

I did enquire why this information was sent to the secretary and treasurer and not the chairman and was informed that generally the secretary did all the work.

With reference to my last newsletter chat I was very disappointed that no one sent me a list of Lloyds TSB pensioner's concessions. Surely there must be some?

Your support of the various organized events and lunches this year has been great. I am hoping for a record turn out at the AGM this year.

Bill

Secretary's Notes

Thank you once again for all your comments and correspondence they are always welcome. I read recently the Bank are transferring IT jobs to India and the day after the announcement the main system went down outside normal hours and they wondered why no workers were available to fix things. Will they ever learn and will it save money? I also read that the Bank has a secret manual for staff on how to deal with customer complaints. That never happened in our day – well not a lot!!!

I had another 3 letters from the Bank offering me a loan and now Heather has received one also. I wonder how many RSA members receive a monthly loan offer. I suppose Terri Dial has to earn her money although the alleged human cyclone seems more like a puff of wind. However as I also have to deal with other Banks in my various capacities Lloyds TSB compares pretty well. For example as I joined the lengthy queue in a Nat West branch a member of staff, with a walkie talkie assured us all that our best interests were being looked after. Almost immediately following a garbled message on her wt she informed us that there would be a three minute delay whilst the system was shut down and refreshed. Some six minutes later (according to my time keeper next in the queue) we were then informed that the system is now being shut down. My timekeeper then decided to keep all the queue, now twice the size, informed as to how long our wait was taking, four minutes, five minutes, six minutes, by which time I had had enough and decided that I was better off having a coffee and a Danish. As Bill mentioned we had a letter from Colin Grindle Head of Pensions and apart from the annual subsidy increase he also advised us that he is to retire shortly and that Stuart Stephen has been appointed Group Pensions Director. Stuart has been with Barclays & Sainsbury's previously. I notice that in Sainsbury they also ask me "is there anything else I can help you with". Is there a link because I read in the July issue of the Lloyds TSB staff magazine the Bank has 25 stores in key locations. There are numerous references to sponsoring 2012 Olympics but the Bank also sponsored Gay Pride so no marketing opportunity is missed. Incidentally Mick Butler has given me an old copy of "Open House" the TSB SE in house magazine to read. It's a far more interesting read than the current offering even though its over 30 years old and apart from the photo of Mick it contains a picture of the victorious Moss cup final cricket team which included yours truly, Mike Kendrick and none other than skipper Eric Austin. Eric who took 6 wickets that day for not a lot gave the ball to me for the last over with the opposition 99 for a lot with the comment 'if you let them get a 100 I will kick you up the ----'. The pages include many other well known faces of RSA members Brian Bailey, Mike Holden, Adrian Abberley, Derek Myers, John Axford, Ted Horton, Alan Pitts to name but a few and many others who I have probably missed.

Membership

I am delighted to report that Anne Griffiths had her knee operation and so far so good. Also Doug and Sylvia Little are improving following their illnesses. Not so good news is that Geoff Mills, Les Moreland and Derek Grimshaw are not too well at the moment and Dennis Elliott's wife and daughter are also under the weather. We wish them all well and perhaps you could keep them in your thoughts.

I regret to report that Doreen Rawlinson's husband Alan died recently and behalf of the RSA we offer our sincere condolences to Doreen and family.

I had a note from John McIntosh who is still in contact with retired TSB pensioners, Kevin Rosser, Bill Ross, Malcolm Day, Ron McCorkindale and George Ralston all from his golfing days. George at 70 is still playing off 6and lives up in Blairgowrie now. A member of Ayleth, Rosemount and Carnoustie. He shot 71 gross at Carnoustie last year. Like John he is still a member of London Lloyds TSB Retired Staff Association. It appears our Chairman Bill, John and the rest were all members of the "Dirty Dozen" who went on golf weekends AKA "Grab a Granny Weekends." He tells me Mike Holden and Alistair Boyd were also part of the Dirty Dozen. This admission explains a lot. Poor John is unable to play the game he clearly loves because of his knees. (Comments such as "he never could play" are not welcome).

Finally I am pleased to report that 9 of the original 11 RSA's are still going strong.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members: -

Mrs P R Skyrme Portsmouth
Mr D J P Brick Billericay

I regret to inform you that I have been advised that the following members have died and we offer our sincere condolences to their families;
John W Robson ex UDT Buckinghamshire

I will be grateful for any items and articles of interest to be included in the regular newsletters. The quarterly print dates are March, June, September, and December.

Tom Boshell

10 Eskdale Road, Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 5DL

Telephone: 020 8303 5419

Email: t.boshell @btopenworld.com

Summary of events

Sep 6 th	Guided tour Wellington Arch
Sep 6 th	Group 1 lunch Gillingham Golf Club
Sep 20 th	Group 5 lunch Hogs Lodge Clanfield
Sep 26 th	Group 4 lunch Kings Hotel Stokenchurch
Oct 3 rd	Theatre Outing "Joseph" Adelphi Theatre
Oct 4 th	Group 1 lunch Gillingham Golf Club
Oct 24 th	Group 3 lunch Barrow Boy & Banker London Bridge
Nov 1 st	Group 1 lunch Gillingham Golf Club
Nov 8 th	AGM Cricketers Blandford Street
Dec 6 st	Group 1 Christmas lunch Gillingham Golf Club
Dec 6 th	Group 4 Christmas lunch Kings Hotel Stokenchurch
Dec 6 th	Group 5 Christmas lunch Mountbatten Centre
Dec 12 th	Group 2 Christmas lunch Chelmsford College
Dec 13 th	Group 8 Christmas lunch Southgate College

Forthcoming Events

The 22nd Annual General Meeting will be held at the **Cricketers Club, Blandford Street, London, W1U 8AB on Thursday 8th November, 2007**. Please complete this application form and submit to the treasurer no later than 7th October to the treasurer if you wish to attend.

Mrs. M Hill
Treasurer TSBRSA London Region
75 Hamelin Road
Gillingham
Kent
ME7 3ER

Please reserve _____ places at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 8th November 2007 to be held at the Cricketers Club Blandford Street London W1U 8AB. The cost will be £15 per person. A Cheque for the sum of £ _____ is enclosed payable to **TSBRSA London Region**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Do you require a vegetarian meal?

Please note acknowledgements to the booking will be sent out after 15th October, 2007

NOMINATION FORM

I wish to nominate the following Honorary Officers:

Chairman: _____

Vice Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Group Reps: _____

Signed: _____

Members Name: _____

Please complete this form and return to the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer prior to the AGM

Unfortunately two of our planned events for the autumn have had to be postponed due to reasons beyond our control. The London Transport Museum was due to be reopened in September but the refurbishment work has been delayed and I am told it is nothing to do with Metronet (a likely tale). Fishmongers Hall delayed also because of personnel issues. (Blimey HR get everywhere). However our AGM is on schedule for 8th November and details are on page 3. Last years AGM in the new format was a great success and the “Cricketers” is an excellent venue. Hope to see you there! If any members have suggestions for events please do not hesitate to let one of the committee know. You should see the furrowed brows at meetings trying to select the ideal outing.

BRICK LANE MUSIC HALL

You may remember we had a very successful event last year and many members suggested another visit to this last paragon of variety. Brick Lane is the country's last traditional music hall, bringing a taste of the old East End into the 21st century, The Music Hall offers a variety of comedy, music and song showcasing established music hall artists as well as introducing talented newcomers and variety acts. The Brick Lane Music Hall offers entertainment at its very best and we have provisionally booked a matinee performance on Tuesday 5th February but we do need the numbers in order to make the event viable. The cost will be £17.50 the same as last year which includes a return coach trip from Charing Cross Embankment underground station and afternoon tea, with freshly prepared sandwiches and cakes. We can promise you a fun day and if you wish to sleep on the coach after the event alcohol is also available. If you would like to book your place for the Brick Lane Music Hall please complete the slip below or contact: Anne Alderton 12 Bramley Close London N14 N14 4HJ. Telephone:020 8449 4579. Please do not send cash at this stage.

To Anne Alderton re Brick Lane Music Hall Tuesday 5th February 2008

Please book _____ tickets

Name _____

Telephone Number _____

Events Gone By

“ WICKED” Apollo Theatre 6th June

This is an excellent show, the effects, scenery, singing and dancing, costumes are exciting to watch even if the story-line at times is far-fetched, it was follow-on of “The Wizard of Oz”

We see the two witches, one wicked who (of course) was born with green skin, she’s very smart, fiery and misunderstood, and the other is angelic, beautiful, ambitious and very popular. We follow their lives through their growing up, and the events that happen to them.

I loved “The Wizard of Oz”, so I was filled with the excitement of this show.

Dee Malyon

Anne Griffiths was unable to attend because of the pending operation on her knee and she appointed a young critic to give her view on Wicked the musical

It was fantastic; my favourite person was the ‘Green girl with platts’ and the girl who said ‘Tosh, Tosh’ when she shook her hair. It was a bit scary sometimes, with the people who wore masks, and it made me jump when it went dark. I really liked the dancing and I would not stop asking questions to everybody around me.

I had a lovely day in London

Millie Kelly (Age 7) a revue in her own words

Walk through Little Venice 20th June

A good crowd arrived at Westbourne Grove to see the delights of little Venice. We were split into two groups and once again the guides were excellent with amusing and interesting commentary except that our chap had a dodgy haircut. There are some fabulous properties needless to say all owned by multi millionaires, Bill Kenright to name just one. We also saw the house in which Lily Langtry entertained King George (allegedly). Then down to the canal to have a leisurely walk along the towpath. Amazing to realise that only a few hundred yards away is the A40 west way where because of the traffic you cannot even hear yourself think. There was a slight problem when one half of our group decided to take a comfort break and the remainder marched on. The walk finished right next to the canal boat café. Just as well because after two hours on your feet a cup of tea is just what is needed. On behalf of all the walkers, sore feet and all, a sincere thank you to Sheila Brundrett for organising this event.

Tour of Albert Hall 12th July

We all arrived in dribs and drabs to a welcoming cuppa and a bun. This allowed plenty of time for a chat and relaxation after the journey before we commenced the tour. We were split into three groups for our tour and the guides again were excellent except for Gaynor who was outstanding with her amusing commentary and anecdotes. A brief explanation as to how the Albert Hall was built and why it is just an amazing building. We all know that Prince Albert, Consort to Queen Victoria, had the vision for this Hall, having taken a leading role in the staging of “The Great Exhibition of Works and Industry of all Nations” in 1851 at the newly built Crystal Palace, an enormous international trade show, which was enjoyed by over six million people. Prince Albert wanted the monies from this “Great Exhibition” (which were £186,000, today that would be 10 million pounds.) invested in a permanent venue to celebrate the Arts, Industry, and Science. The Kensington Gore Estate was purchased in South Kensington, and over the next few years a group of cultural buildings were established, these were unique as they included Albert Hall, Victoria & Albert Museum, The Natural History Museum, and the Imperial Institute, the forerunner of Imperial College. It was explained the lengths that are taken to ensure royalty receives nothing but the best. Believe it or not there are seats which were sold before the place was built that are still owned by descendants of the same family. They were £100 in 1851 what a bargain! Almost anyone who is anyone wants to play the Albert Hall. Sadly Albert did not live to see the completion of his dream, having died of Typhoid in 1861. May be he didn't get the recognition he deserved (but then he was German). The Hall has changed very little over the period of its life, having electric lights installed in 1888. Recently the external glass dome has been restored, with large hanging “mushroom/shapes added to refine the acoustics, this major task were carried out in 1973-2003. Just one anecdote the 1935 painting on display showing George V and family and entourage and depicts just two people with there eyes facing out, Edward V111 (what happened to him) and Princess Elizabeth and we know what happened to her. We were then showed a short film which includes all the many and varied uses of the hall and the various statistics. This tour was an absolute delight. Thanks go to Sylvia Wynnck for organising this splendid outing. Dee, Ken et al

Houses of Parliament 9th August

Our party assembled at the Emily Pankhurst statue on a day when the sun shone for a change. The register was called and yet another 100% attendance so well done to everyone. Security has been tightened in and around the building and more work is being undertaken to make it even more secure. Once we had been frisked we made our way into the building. Because of the size of our party we were split into four groups and lined up to meet our guide. The quality of the guides (blue badge) once again was excellent even if one confused Lloyd George with Asquith. There is so much history attached that I could not begin to mention all and do any justice to this magnificent building except that it is not the original. This was destroyed by fire in 1834 and finally rebuilt in 1852. Prince Albert was again the prime mover behind the massive task. No wonder he died young. I would have liked a longer visit so a definite repeat requested. Many thanks to Sylvia Wynnck once again for organizing another superb tour

TSB RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION-LONDON REGION

Group Representatives

Group 1 – Kent

Lunches are normally the first Thursday of each month. Please let Anne know if you wish to attend except for regulars who only need advise when they are not attending.

Christmas lunch Thursday 6th December

Representative Mrs. Anne Griffiths, The Briars, Single Street, Berry Green, Westerham, Kent TN16 3AB Telephone 01959 572154

Group 2 – Essex

Please contact Ken for details of time and venue of lunches.

Christmas lunch is on 12th December at Chelmsford College

Representative Mr. Ken Clapham 119 Main Road Danbury Essex CM3 4DL

Telephone 01245 223068

Group 3 – South London (Inc Kent London Boroughs) Middx Surrey

Next lunch is on 24th October at the Barrow Boy & Banker London Bridge. Please let Sheila or Margaret know if you are attending.

Christmas lunch will be in January as usual

Representatives: Sheila Brundrett 020 8850 2304 Margaret Johnson 020 8319 1455

Group 4 - Berks Bucks and Oxon

Next lunch is Wednesday 26th September at Kings Hotel Stokenchurch.

Christmas Lunch Thursday 6th December at Kings Hotel, Stokenchurch

Representative: Bill Willis 2 Hazel Gardens Woodlands Road Sonning Common Reading RG4 9TF

Telephone 0118 9723708

Group 5 - Hants and Isle of Wight

Next lunch is on 20th September at Hogs Lodge Clanfield.

Christmas lunch Thursday 6th December at the Mountbatten Centre

Representative: Rose Robinson 70b Old Street Hillhead Fareham Hampshire PO14 3HN

Telephone 01329 662269

Group 6 – Sussex

Next lunch to be advised

Representative: Bill Steeds 30 Beacon Drive Seaford East Sussex BN25 2JX

Telephone 01323 893379

Lunch Secretary Dennis Elliot 10 Bishops Close Hurstpierpoint West Sussex BN6 9XU

Group 8 - North London Herts & Beds

Next lunch is on Thursday 18th October at Southgate College. **Please contact Anne**

Christmas lunch Thursday 13th December at Southgate College. **Please contact Sylvia**

Representatives: Sylvia Wynnck 114 Winchmore Hill Road London N14 6PY

Telephone 020 8882 5564. Anne Alderton: 12 Bramley Close London N14 4HJ.

Telephone: 020 8449 4579

Please note all lunches are 12 for 12.30pm unless otherwise stated.