

V.I.S.O.R

EASTER NEWSLETTER  
2019



**CURRENT ELECTED OFFICERS  
AND TRUSTEES  
2018 - 2020**

**Pat McNamee – Chair**

**David Wood – Treasurer**

**Steve Rollings**

**Doug Smith**

**Josie Wood**

**Edward Price**

## **CHAIR'S WELCOME**

**Dear Members:**

**Welcome to our Easter newsletter which contains write ups about outings and details of events since our Christmas newsletter.**

**I hope as many of you as possible will join us at our AGM on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. The AGM gives us a chance to keep you up-to-date about the work we are doing and for you to join us for tea and a chat. Please ring the office to book you place if you have not already done so, which will help us to organise numbers for catering.**

**We have just taken delivery of the 2019 RNIB brochures which contain up-to-date information about their latest equipment. Please let us know in the office if you would like a copy.**

**A VISOR member has kindly donated a small CCTV on a workstation with wheels. If you think it may be useful to you and you would like to try it out, please ring the office.**

**I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Easter and look forward to seeing you soon.**

**Pat.**

## **BOOKINGS FOR VISOR TRIPS/EVENTS**

**I know we have mentioned this before but due to recent events we have to ask you to please ensure the following arrangements are adhered to when booking a place or an outing/event.**

**Please do not ask one of the Trustees if you can be booked on a trip/event when we are at the social or at another event. On these occasions we do not carry around the necessary paperwork for booking arrangements, so we cannot possibly know who has already booked a place and cannot say there and then whether a place is available. The paperwork is kept at the VISOR office.**

**When you receive notification of an event and you wish to book a place, please ring the office at any time (0208 487 5301) and just give your name, number and which trip you would like to go on. There is an answerphone. Alternatively, if you prefer, you can ring the VISOR office on a Monday and speak to Keith, our Events Organiser, or myself.**

**I know most of you already help us by following these arrangements, and thank you, but I'm afraid we can no longer accept bookings at events or at the social.**

**Thank you all for your cooperation.  
Pat, Chair, VISOR.**

## **VISOR Christmas Lunch 2018**

**A wintry chill was in the air on 13<sup>th</sup> December, when some thirty VISOR members enjoyed the warm ambience of The Crown restaurant for their annual Christmas lunch. As maybe expected at this seasonal time, the restaurant was buzzing with other people also partaking in celebratory dining.**

**Our members had pre-selected a three-course meal from five choices of starter, main course and dessert. Many members opted for the traditional Christmas lunch of roast turkey and Christmas pudding, but others enjoyed delicious beef bourguignon, pork belly, seabass or a vegetarian Wellington – all accompanied by fresh vegetables.**

**Between the courses, the sound of Christmas crackers being pulled reverberated across the tables, followed by jeers or laughter, dependent upon the quality of the crackers' jokes and novelties. Although extremely busy, the waiting staff provided a good service to our members.**

**Everyone appeared to have enjoyed their lunch and the time swiftly passed. It was approaching dusk before members removed their paper hats to don their warmer attire for their homeward journey. The general consensus was that a good time was had by all those attending.**

**Watch out for announcement of the 2019 Christmas lunch which will be made in early Autumn.**

**Josie.**

## **COMCAB – TAXICARD**

**To all our members who use Taxicard for their travel, please be aware of the fare you pay. Please ask the office when ordering, and again with the driver, the amount to be paid. We have been told of a member who paid £12.50 instead of her usual £2.50.**

**We are currently trying to get some clarification from Richmond Borough Council as to what is happening. We will keep you updated in due course.**

## **ANNUAL PANTOMIME**

**This year the traditional Richmond annual pantomime was Peter Pan starring Robert Lindsay as Captain Hook in his first ever Panto role.**

**The group of 10 of us met on 3<sup>rd</sup> January in the stalls bar before the performance, where Keith distributed the tickets and assisted those who required audio description to obtain the equipment at the service desk in the main lobby.**

**The theatre has changed its system for supplying players (technological advances!) and the members making use of the new devices had great difficulty in getting them to work correctly. This reduced to a great extent their ability to enjoy the production.**

**“Peter Pan” doesn’t have the traditional “Dame” and indeed in the modern age of “equality” the principal boy (Peter) usually played by a girl, was played by a boy (Harry Francis - grandson of Raymond Francis on our TV screens in the sixties as Detective Chief Superintendent Lockhart).**

**Robert Lindsay gave an admirable performance as Hook, even if a little too likeable in his asides to the audience (not a great deal of hissing and booing). The traditional “he’s behind you” were taken over by the extremely large well-presented**

**animatronic crocodile which came up behind Captain Hook.**

**His sidekick Smee played by Jon Clegg (Britain's got Talent finalist - impressionist) provided some really good impressions and related well with the younger members of the audience.**

**The flying scenes were well executed, the music and clever adaptations lyrically of songs from the musical "Oliver" were well done. Overall the production, scenery and costumes enhanced the theatre's reputation for presenting good seasonal entertainment.**

**Apart from the technical problems with the audio description devices, an enjoyable evening was had by all.**

**Edward.**



# **BRIAN ROLLINGS' MEMORIAL TEA PARTY**

**Held at the Vestry Hall, Richmond, Surrey  
on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**Approximately 35 VISOR members met at the Vestry Hall for afternoon tea, a quiz, bingo and a free raffle. This party was made possible by the kind donations from the Rollings family and the Kew Cricket Club, who donated funds to us from a cricket match in the summer in memory of Brian. He enjoyed social gatherings and therefore the family thought a tea party for our members would be appropriate.**

**Edward composed a quiz for us and this was followed by a short bingo session led by Keith.**

**After tea we held the raffle (each member was given a free ticket on arrival, which included kind donations from the Cabbage Patch, Trustees and members. Thank you all for donating and supporting. We ended up with about 18 prizes!**

**We would like to thank the Rollings family and the Kew Cricket Club for making this event possible and also the volunteers who helped serve the tea and cakes – Jill, Zorena, Josie and Pat.**

# **THE MAYOR'S TEA PARTY**

**Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019**

**This is the third time VISOR has been invited to tea at York House by the Mayor. This tea party is given to thank us for all the work we do in the community and to give our members a chance to have a nice afternoon tea in pleasant surroundings.**

**This year we were invited by the present Mayor, Councillor Ben Khosa, and approximately 38 members of VISOR, carers and volunteers joined him for tea in the Salon at York House.**

**The room was decorated in shades of mushroom, white and gold, and the chandeliers and drapes were spectacular. The catering was excellent with delicious sandwiches and bite-sized cakes. The Mayor's staff were very caring and helpful, and nothing was too much trouble for them.**

**Everyone agreed that it was such a treat to be looked after so well, and a letter has been sent to the Mayor and his staff extending our thanks for a lovely afternoon.**

**Pat.**

## **MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE 2019**

**Due to increasing difficulties in obtaining grants, general costs of sponsoring events and in supporting the charity, the Committee have agreed to a gradual increase in membership fees over the next three years.**

**These will be as follows:**

<b>May 2019 – April 2020</b>	<b>£12 per annum</b>
<b>May 2020 – April 2021</b>	<b>£14 per annum</b>
<b>May 2021 – April 2022</b>	<b>£15 per annum</b>

**We hope you realise that this still represents good value for money and trust that you will continue to support the charity and enjoy your membership.**

**David Wood  
Treasurer**

## **FREE RADIOS**

**Did you know about a national charity that provides free specially adapted radios for people who are blind or partially sighted.**

**The range includes digital radios, cassette and CD players, memory sticks and a tablet with a specially designed app built in. All equipment is delivered to your home and demonstrated to you.**

**To be eligible you need to be blind or partially sighted (registered or registerable) and receive a means-tested benefit.**

**The following two pages show the products available.**

**Note: These pages are NOT included in the e-Mail version!**

## **LUNCH AT MERRIT'S RESTAURANT**

**Twenty seven members attended a lunch at Merrit's Restaurant at the Richmond Adult College on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

**As most of you know, this restaurant is part of the Catering College run by a qualified Chef and Catering Manager who supervise the students who are studying catering and/or training to be chefs.**

**The room which was bright and airy, was taken over entirely by our party. The tables were laid out beautifully with white tablecloths and bright red napkins. We had three tables – two of ten people and one table of seven people.**

**The food (pre-booked) was attractively served and the staff were very attentive and helpful.**

**The main course choices were Coq au vin, roast belly of pork, haddock, or the vegetarian option was leek and vegetable tart. Choices of drinks were available at extra cost.**

**Everyone enjoyed the lunch and we thanked the staff for an excellent culinary experience.**

## **STEVIE'S STABLE TALK**

**Bagad Bihoue is recovering well from his back surgery and should be back in training soon.**

**Rainbow Rebel is also getting fitter by the week, and a final decision on his racing or retirement future will be made soon.**

**Rock Steady has been given a handicap rating of 120 which the trainer thinks is a bit high. His two runs this year have been disappointing, finishing 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, but his jumping has improved. The trainer is waiting for better ground before running him again.**

**Steve.**

## **KEW CRICKET CLUB**

**Kew Cricket Club have become a good supporter of VISOR. They have an advert on their website, on the club fixture card, and on a poster on the pavilion notice board, as well as a collecting can on the bar which last season raised £44.**

**They play home games in a very picturesque setting on Kew Green, overlooked at one end by St. Anne's Church, and about 100 yards from the main gate of Kew Gardens. They play league games every Saturday and "friendlies" on a Sunday throughout the summer.**

**We wish all their teams every success this summer.**

**Steve.**

## **CHARITY CRICKET**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Brian Rollings memorial match against Richmond Yorkers will take place on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019, at Kew Cricket Club on Kew Green.**

**If anybody would like to come along for the afternoon's game and evening of music, then please do so as you will be made welcome.**

**Again, we will be raising money for VISOR. Last year's game raised £390 and with your help and support, hopefully we can beat that.**

**Hope to see many of you there.**

**Steve.**



## **AN INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE SHORT STORIES TO VISOR NEWSLETTERS**

**All articles in this newsletter are written by Pat, Keith, Steve, Josie and Ed.**

**If other members would like to contribute with short stories about places they have visited, details of working careers they have had, sports played, etc. we would like to hear from you.**

## **THANK YOU**

**VISOR Trustees would like to thank the following for their continued help and support:**

- The Cabbage Patch Pub for the free use of a room for our Social nights**
- Cartier Graphics (Feltham) for their printing and photocopying help**
- Dave Jackson – photography and Steve's gopher**
- Kew Cricket Club for advertising us on their website.**

**Thank you to the following for allowing us to put VSOR collecting boxes in their premises:**

- Kew Cricket Club**
- Richmond Rehab Unit (Evelyn Road, Richmond)**
- The Cabbage Patch Pub, Twickenham**
- The Botanist, Kew Green**

**If any members know of anywhere locally that we could place our boxes, please let the VISOR office know.**

**VISOR Trustees.**

## **HOME TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**Anybody who has telephone numbers of other members or Trustees, please do not pass these around as it infringes on the Data Protection Act. However, it is ok to do so with the other person's permission.**

**All calls concerning VISOR should be made to the office and not to the home addresses or mobiles of staff.**

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

**Trustees.**

## **SOCIAL CALENDAR - 2019**

<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>Social Night</b>
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>AGM at Vestry Hall</b>
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Social Night</b>
<b>Monday, 2:00 p.m. 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Pre-holiday Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Bluebell Choo Choo</b>
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>Devon Holiday</b>
<b>Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June - cancelled</b>	<b>Social Night - cancelled</b>
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>Social Night</b>
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Social Night</b>

**Any other events organised will be advertised in due course.**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**VISUALLY IMPAIRED SOCIETY OF RICHMOND  
(V.I.S.O.R.)**

**Sheen Lane Centre  
74 Sheen Lane  
London SW14 8IP**

**Telephone: 020 8487 5301**

**VIP Lounge opening hours:  
Mondays 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Email: [visor.daac@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:visor.daac@yahoo.co.uk)**

**UK Registered Charity No. 1090135**