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May 2014

Dear Member

As you know, our first outing for the summer is usually in May but unfortunately the plans I had were scuppered by the tube strikes – by the time the second proposed strike was cancelled, it was too late to make the necessary arrangements and get details out to you. Although more strikes are threatened I am hoping all will be normal for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June as I have booked us for a Thames River boat trip to Hampton Court.

The boat will leave Westminster Pier, Victoria Embankment (nearest station Westminster underground) at 11 am and arrive at Hampton Court at 3 pm. Hot and cold drinks and basic snacks are available on board but if you need something more substantial, you should take your own sandwiches. Upon arrival at Hampton Court you are able to get tea at the Palace Restaurant.

If you have a Freedom Pass you can return by train to Waterloo; if not I assume you will have a Travel Card. Cost for this 4-hour trip is £5 per person – guests welcome as always.

We will meet at the Thames River Boat Booth at 10.30 am, where I shall have collected the tickets for distribution. You should have your Freedom Pass/Travel Card handy to show, if need be, when boarding. Please complete the reply slip and return it to me, together with your remittance, to reach me no later than Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

**Beryl**

**BERYL RYAN WRITES: “Relative Values” by Noel Coward at The Harold Pinter Theatre on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014:** As the Association’s first outing of 2014, it was certainly a good start to the year, proving to be a really enjoyable experience as it was funny, light-hearted and had an extremely good cast consisting of Patricia Hodge in the role of the Countess to the manor born, Caroline Quentin playing the devoted lady’s maid, Moxie, and impressionist Rory Bremner making his theatrical debut as the butler.

The story tells of the young Earl who has just announced he is to marry a Hollywood star. The Dowager Countess takes it all in her aristocratic stride, but Moxie takes the news quite hard as

it turns out she is the older sister of the actress, who has neglected her family since finding fame.

The play was produced by Trevor Nunn, who makes very clever use of Movietone newsreels between scenes. This production is well worth seeing and I would happily recommend it to anyone.

**Beryl**

Yours sincerely

*Beryl*

**Treasurer/Social Secretary**