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QM FORMER STAFF ASSOCIATION

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Hon Treasurer and Social Secretary
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May 2016

Dear Member

As this is a retirement association it is inevitable that as time goes by we will lose members and so I have to report that Stan Bartels, who was a technician in Physics, passed away on 4th March and Lord (Professor) Peston of Mile End passed away on 23rd April. As is our usual practise, donations have been sent in their memories to the London College of Anatomy and the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Fund respectively, as suggested by their families, to whom our sincere condolences are extended.

I hope you made a note of the dates given in the February newsletter for proposed outings this summer, because I have booked us on a river trip from Westminster to Hampton Court on 15th June.

The boat leaves Westminster Bridge at 11 am and arrives at Hampton Court at approximately 2/2.30 pm, where (if you wish) you will be able to have a snack and a browse around before returning, at your leisure, to Waterloo by train. That journey is covered by your Freedom Pass, which I think most of you have. Tea and snacks are available on board but I suggest you bring your own refreshments just in case.

Please meet on the Embankment by the Thames Riverboat kiosk (nearest station is Westminster) no later than 10.45 am. Obviously the earlier we can board the better, so we can all choose our spots for the journey. The cost is just £5 per person.

Please complete the reply slip and return, together with remittance, to reach me no later than Thursday 9th June.

BERYL PAINE

BERYL RYAN WRITES: Visit to the Brick Lane Music Hall on Tuesday 12th April for an afternoon of Old Time entertainment: This London entertainment venue gives traditional music hall performances and usually includes afternoon tea, lunch or dinner. The show we

went to see included a very nice afternoon tea, served in the interval. The staff at the venue were really helpful and very friendly.

Its name comes from its original location in Brick Lane but it is now to be found in a beautifully converted Church in Silvertown in London's East End and quite close to City Airport. One must be prepared for the telling of some rather naughty jokes but that is how this quite old type of British Music Hall entertainment has always been. As most people who attend this sort of entertainment are of a certain age, when encouraged to join in the singing of the songs, the majority are able to do so.

One of our group won a prize on the raffle which is run to enable the company to visit homes for the elderly and those suffering from Alzheimer's in particular as, although they are not able to remember most everyday things we were told that they are usually able to remember the songs, enabling them to join in the singing.

It was a really great afternoon's entertainment and those present seemed to be enjoying themselves if the laughter was anything to go by.

Visit to Hever Castle on Wednesday, 4th May 2016: All members and guests met opposite the main entrance of the College to board our coach to take us to Hever Castle in Kent, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, 2nd wife of Henry VIII.

We were so lucky with the weather as it was the first really warm and lovely sunny day of this year. We had a very good journey, passing through lovely countryside where Spring had well and truly sprung with trees now almost in full leaf and plenty of lovely bluebells and fields of sheep to make us all feel in holiday mood after leaving behind all the traffic and noise of London.

On our arrival we made our way to the Restaurant where we were shown to our table for coffee and pastries. . The castle was our next port of call where we were given our audio guides telling us of the history of each of the beautiful rooms we went through.

When entering the Long Hall, one can see that Hever Castle, is deceptively a lot smaller than you think, which means that it is possible to see every room in about 1 hour, thus giving plenty of time to explore the beautiful gardens.

Before further exploration we made our way to the restaurant to have lunch which we were able to eat outside on such a lovely warm day.

The gardens were a real pleasure to explore, with beautifully manicured lawns and well stocked flower beds. There are the Italian gardens with a collection of Italian sculptures, a huge 38 acre lake, excavated and constructed by 800 men and taking several years to complete. If one had the time there is a walk around the lake or you can hire a boat to row around it. Unfortunately there wasn't really enough time for us to do this!

This really is a lovely place to visit with so much to do and see. One could even stay in the Astor Wing or the Anne Boleyn Wing overnight, or maybe a holiday cottage.

Thank you Beryl for arranging such a lovely day out.

BERYL RYAN

Yours sincerely

Beryl

Beryl Paine
Hon Treasurer/Social Secretary